

ABSTRACT

The aim of this diploma thesis is to enrich the political imagination in terms of the ability to think about alternative socioeconomic arrangement of the human society. Its topic is a comparison of three chosen concepts of socioeconomic alternatives according to the following criteria: (1) the degree of economic democracy in terms of the employees' control of enterprises and in terms of the citizens' control of economy, (2) their political systems and (3) the means of remuneration. The chosen concepts of alternative socioeconomic arrangement present concepts of market socialism of David Schweickart, cybersocialism of Allin Cottrell and W. Paul Cockshott and the participatory economics of Michael Albert. The aim of this diploma thesis was realized through the analysis and description of the chosen concepts of socioeconomic alternatives and their subsequent comparison by virtue of the mentioned criteria. Besides the method of analysis and comparison there were also used the methods of induction, deduction, analogy and abstraction.

By virtue of the comparison of the chosen socioeconomic alternatives according to the criteria we found out that large measure of economic democracy in employee's control of enterprises, as in the case of market socialism, decreases the degree of influence of citizens on the management of economy as a whole. On the contrary, big influence of citizens on the economy limits the enterprise's self-government, which can be seen in cybersocialism. The balance between these two principles is presented by the participatory economics.

The least suitable system in the comparison of the political systems of the given alternatives was the participatory economics system. It showed the biggest degree of democratic deficit due to the system of indirect elections into its political organs. The most idealistic political system was considered the system of cybersocialism which combines principles of direct democracy and representative democracy in which the representatives of the society are chosen by drawing lots.

Within the comparison of the means of remuneration we have found out that all the concepts of alternatives try to use the rule of giving everyone as much as they deserve but not consistently. This principle is endangered in the market socialism by the market itself, in cybersocialism it is endangered by not taking into consideration the differently demanding working conditions. The most consistent was the principle of participatory economics which remunerates people by virtue of their working efforts and sacrifice.

The ends of this thesis provide the possibility to be acquainted with the concepts of the chosen alternatives of the arrangement of the society which might be inspiring in terms of the political,

economic and philosophical thinking. What's more, some of their features might present possible solutions of several current socioeconomic problems.