

Abstract

The topic of this bachelor thesis is the television series *Holocaust* and its reflection in the selected German press in the period from January 15 to February 5, 1979, when *Holocaust* was introduced on German television for the very first time. Because of the fact that the series confronted German viewers with a sensitive and serious topic from the near past, and was processed in a very commercial way, it caused commotion all over the world and the series became the main subject of controversial public debates. On the occasion of the premiere in Germany, local periodicals widely contributed to the discussions and published an unexpectedly large number of articles in which they described both general information on the storyline, the course of broadcasting or the growing viewership, and opened more serious topics about the greater meaning of the series and its effect on the public. It should be noted that in the late 1970s, when the television product was introduced, Germany was divided into two separate states: the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). This thesis analyzes exclusively the reflection in the West German press, which is represented here by the weeklies *Der Spiegel*, *Stern* and *Die Zeit*, and aims to analyze in detail the main issues that the three media have dealt with in connection with *Holocaust*. Among the four most discussed topics were the commerciality of the series, the combination of facts, fiction and erroneous details, collective consciousness and responsibility, and also the space for the processing of the Nazi past. The analysis will show what opinions could be heard, whether they agreed or differed considerably, and how the criticism or sympathy were expressed. It will also focus on the content transformation according to the date of publication.