

This master's thesis intends to capture the image of Japan in Czech society, which was formed in the second half of 19th century. Japan, a country previously almost unknown for European people, had transformed itself from a faraway, mysterious Far Eastern country into a world power during fifty years, which naturally resulted in change of its image in Europe.

Reconstruction of historical image in certain society is dependent on sources, which had the greatest influence on view of the world of people of that time. In this thesis, those sources are divided into two categories, "image-creating" and "image-forming". The first one is historical school textbooks of geography, which had the most significant impact on students' way of creating image of the world in their mind. In the second category, there are newspapers, magazines, caricatures and encyclopedias, which helped those students form images in their adult life.

In the first part of this thesis, I compare the image of Japan and that of China. In order to highlight Japan's uniqueness and specificity, how much it was emancipated from traditional image of Asia, and how much the image was supported by facts.

In the second part, I try to analyze four most important aspects of image of Japan in the Czech society at that time. First one is based on questions, whether Japan was considered "Orient", and in which position of antagonistic poles "West vs. East" Japan was situated. The second and third issues are the influence of Japanese-Sino War (1894 - 1895) and Japanese-Russian War (1904 - 1905) on the image of Japan, and how the specific attitude of Czech society appeared. As the fourth point, I deal with the influence of phenomena "the Yellow Peril" on the image of Japan.

Attachment of this thesis is consisted of pictures and caricatures from secondary materials, and epigrams from comic magazines.