

The bachelor thesis focuses on the emphasis Rousseau put on human nature. It represents for him the solution of moral depravity and deformed social conditions, which were caused by the abandonment of the state of nature and the entering of the social state. While man in the state of nature satisfies all his needs by himself and his own powers, this equilibrium is in the social state disturbed. Continually growing interests and resulting needs breed human interdependency. The originally independent, strong and free man became a dependent and weak slave. This progress caused that man lost the contact with nature and began justifying his conduct on fallacious, false and mendacious grounds. Because Rousseau believed that the social and technical progress was part of the moral distortion he could not accept the traditional solution of the Enlightenment consisting in the growth of the human knowledge and improvement of reason. His solution lied rather in the recovery of contact with nature. This very effort to overcome the moral depravity and base our conduct again on the original naturalness was to make our conduct moral. Rousseau came with two solutions. The first involved the society governed by the general will, the second involved the individual education of an individual undisturbed by moral depravity. At the present time Rousseau's ideas form the basis for the thoughts of Charles Taylor about modern autonomy and authenticity. Following the intellectual progress of the last two centuries, Taylor does not lay stress on nature but on the cultural background of man. This very factor gives our conduct sense and constitutes the fundamental framework from which arises human identity.