Codification of law in France under the First Empire

The purpose of my thesis is to analyze genesis of preparation of six codes in France, to explain all influences and to show importance of this codification for the rest of the world. The scope of my thesis research is wider than just a description of codification works between years 1804-1815. The first part of this work explores the basis for codification. Sources of law, roman law, natural law, age of enlightenment, Declaration of the Rights and of the Citizens and legislative procedure under the First empire.

The second part is composed of five chapters. Chapter one describes French Civil code promulgated in 1804. This chapter is composed of following subchapters: genesis of codification between years 1789-1804, the major figures of codification, systematics, related laws, selected paragraphs of Civil code and language quality. Chapter two is about Code of civil procedure (Code de procedure civile, 1806). It is composed of three subchapters: genesis, systematic and characteristics of this code. Chapter three describes Commercial Code (Code de commerce, 1807). This chapter includes genesis of commercial law from 16th century. The rest subchapters analyze genesis, systematic and characteristics of this codification. Chapter four is composed of description of two codes: Criminal code (Code penal, 1808) and Code of criminal procedure (Code d'instruction criminelle, 1808). The reason is that penal codes were prepared by the same commission. This chapter is consist of following subchapters: genesis of penal in France from 16th century, genesis of penal codification under the First empire, characteristics of of Criminal code, characteristics of Code of criminal procedure and selected paragraphs of Criminal code. The next chapter reports on draft of Rural code (Code rural). The commission for preparing of Rural code was named 1802, but the works on draft was not finished until the end of First empire.

The last part is concerned with influence of these codes on codification in other countries. It contains the scope of influence, the method of acceptation of French law and the list of countries with codes affected by French codification.

Key words: Codification, France, Napoleon, Code civil