

Abstract

The thesis deals with the attitude of the French Communist Party (PCF) to the colonial issue in the era of inter-war France. It tries to map the development of this attitude and factors which influenced it. It also aims to make a periodization of the development and determine landmarks which divided its stages. The French Communist Party was the only political party in inter-war France which contested the right of the powers to own colonies and it called for their immediate independence. The thesis analyses whether this opinion stemmed from the inner conviction, whether the Party really advocated it throughout the whole period of interest and whether it actively promoted it in practise or it was rather just a rhetoric. The thesis is divided chronologically into three chapters delimited by events which were crucial for the shape of PCF's colonial policy. The first chapter begins with the foundation of the Party in 1920 and it studies the way communist colonial policy was formed. The second part deals with period 1924–1935 when the Party increased its activity due to the colonial conflict in Morocco. The third chapter aims to describe the evolution of the attitude of the PFC towards the colonies while the international tension was rising. It starts in 1935 when the Popular Front was created in France which consisted of left-wing parties including the communists and it ends before the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.