

Abstract

The dissertation deals with the evolution of Czech-French relations after 1989 in the context of European integration. The first part sets the historical background in which the relations between the two countries are embedded and focuses on their renewal in the aftermath of the fall of the Iron Curtain. The second part deals with their development before and after the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union and stresses the growing conflicting standpoints, interests and approaches to various European and foreign policy issues. Through the analysis of foreign policy discourse, the thesis shows how the bilateral and European levels influence and penetrate each other. It stresses furthermore that although bilateral relations remain an important part of the foreign policy, with Europeanization they became structurally weaker. The dissertation shows that Francophilia does not assume any major function and remains only on a symbolic level. The development of Czech French discourse also tells us not only about the view of one country with regard to the other but also about the geostrategic vision of both countries in Europe.