

Abstract

The relations between Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire went through many changes and crisis in the years 1896–1914. Their development influenced considerably the international position of the Habsburg Monarchy. The main goal of this thesis was an analysis of the particular stages of this process and to determine how the mutual relations influenced the policy of both states in general and to assess its significance. Pursuing this objective the author of this thesis undertook extensive research of documents in Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv in Vienna and other institutions in the Czech Republic, which funds gave him a considerable amount of archival sources for reaching relevant conclusions. He also used an amount of published sources and literature. Thanks to this research he made a complete view of the problematic, which he then analyzed in its complexity.

During his research the author came to the conclusion that the relationship of the Habsburg Monarchy towards the Ottoman Empire was quite important for general development of the Austro-Hungarian foreign policy. This fact proved especially in the period of the Austro-Russian cooperation in the years 1897–1907, during the Bosnian Crisis and in the course of the Balkan Wars. The significance of the relations between Vienna and Istanbul proved itself most notably in the last mentioned example. The inability of Austro-Hungarian policy to maintain its long-term principle of status quo on the Balkans (i.e. the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire) led to a considerable weakening of the great power status of the Habsburg Monarchy. As a consequence of this fact the politicians in Vienna decided to a fatal step to enter a state of war with Serbia, which led to the start of the First World War. The relations between Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire had therefore their irreplaceable influence on the break out of this conflict. It is clear from this point of view that the research of the history of the Austro-Ottoman relation at the beginning of the 20th century brings new perspectives and

interpretations of the history of the international relations before the First World War.