

Abstract

This thesis deals with post-war lives of eighteen respondents who were according to the Nuremberg Laws labeled as Jews or half-Jews. They have been imprisoned in concentration camps, they had to hide or emigrate during the World War II. This thesis focuses on their lives after the war. It traces their return, not/regaining of their property, reunification with their family and friends, or their post-war emigration. The thesis also centers around their lives after the communist regime came to power in Czechoslovakia, it was a regime that many Jewish survivors supported in the beginning. The thesis also concentrates on their lives during anti-Semitic purges in the 1950s to which many family members of the respondents fell victims. In the 1960s, borders were a bit more “open” and this was welcomed by many because most of the Jewish families had relatives and friends abroad. Lots of the respondents decided to emigrate after the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia. The following decades of normalization maintained the discourse of hidden anti-Semitism and restrictions of personal freedoms. Many respondents eagerly welcomed the Velvet Revolution. They were able to strengthen their own Jewish identity thanks to newly gained freedoms and emergence or re-creation of many Jewish organizations. Last but not least, the thesis deals with the respondents’ changing relations toward Jewishness, holocaust, anti-Semitism, German nation and culture .

Keywords

Jewish survivors_of the Holocaust_ communism, assimilation, emigration, oral history.