

The objective of the thesis is to describe the legal regime of the Antarctic specifically in relation to the protection of its environment. The introductory chapters are devoted to brief description of the natural conditions of the Antarctic and the history of its exploration. In relation with the discovery voyages there are also mentioned the first territorial claims of the states and the legal foundations on which these claims were made. The author also deals with the basic legal document in relation to this continent, the Antarctic Treaty, mainly with its main principles as the demilitarization, prohibition of appropriation and the recognition of previous claims. Under the Antarctic Treaty several categories of the Parties to the Treaty can be distinguished which is an un-common situation. The existence of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting which is related to this situation is also being discussed. This Consultative Meeting further develops the principles of the Antarctic Treaty and issues Measures, Decisions and Resolutions.

This thesis focuses on the analysis of the protection of the environment of the Antarctic. The topic has been divided into separate components of the environment and these are dealt with in individual chapters of the thesis where the steady development and the introduction of stricter rules of the protection can be seen since the time of the first exploration until today. Separate chapter is devoted to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, also known as the Antarctic-Environmental Protocol which is so far the most complex international document devoted to the protection of the environment and can be called the environmental codex of the Antarctic. Special attention is given to the rules referring to the activities conducted in the Antarctic and the process of assessments of their possible impact on the Antarctic environment. Other chapters are devoted to tourism and the issue of inspection, liability and conflict resolution in the Arctic. The following chapter discusses the relation of the Czech Republic to the Antarctic Treaty System and to the Antarctic in general. Czech Republic, although a landlocked country thousands of miles away from the icy continent, has been very active in the last more than 50 years and even established its own research polar station (Mendel Polar Station). The final chapter is devoted to the Czech law on the Antarctic which incorporates the international obligations related to the Antarctic into the Czech law.