

Ph.D. thesis abstract

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The Ph.D. thesis "*The Warsaw Treaty Organization 1969-1985. The pinnacle and path to dissolution*" analyses inside processes within both political and military structures of the alliance and puts it in the context of the Cold War's development and the events in the Soviet sphere of influence in Europe. It deals mostly with the climax of the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev's rule, however, attention is paid also to the short intermezzo of his successors, Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Chernenko. The work is based on a broad research in the Czech, Polish and German archives, already published documents and the proper secondary literature. The explanation focuses not only to the development of the organization's mechanisms - it also assesses the Warsaw Pact's role as one of the Kremlin's tools for managing the Eastern Bloc. Nonetheless, during Brezhnev's era, the alliance never became an initiator of processes within the Soviet sphere of interest. In fact, the organization's structures were not very initiative. The agenda of meetings was defined elsewhere, most often in Moscow. The activities in the alliance's framework did not constitute a starting-point for the development in the Soviet sphere of influence. On the contrary, the processes within the Warsaw Treaty Organization rather reflected the overall situation in the Eastern Bloc, changing policy of the Kremlin and alterations in relations between the Soviet Union and its European satellites. But their roots and impetuses lain elsewhere. Strong rigidity and lack of flexibility of the alliance's mechanisms resulted in the fact that the organization was not able to react to dynamic challenges in the 1980's and therefore took a final path to its end.