

CHARTER 08 AND THE STATUS OF PUBLIC INTELLECTUALS IN MODERN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

ABSTRACT

Bachelor Thesis "Charter 08 and the Status of Public Intellectuals in Modern People's Republic of China" is describing contemporary Chinese dissent associated with manifesto Charter (2008) as public intellectuals who are standing for democratic and liberal values. The thesis is describing historic and social development of Chinese intellectuals stressing their relationship to the system and status of public intellectuals. The thesis describes activities of public intellectuals and illustrates their status on examples of selected signatories of Charter 08. Particular attention is paid to Liu Xiaobo the main author of the Charter 08. Despite the fact that China is classified as an authoritarian regime that does not allow any opposition, it seems that public intellectuals in China are able to organize themselves and be active in public. This contradicts the concept of vanishing of public intellectuals in postmodern society.

The thesis also deals with Charter 77, a manifesto of the Czechoslovak dissidents who inspired the authors of the Chinese Charter. The comparison shows that though both documents were created in a socially and historically distant conditions, both documents and historical situations have many common features.