Abstract

When KSČ gained power in ČSR, one of the steps it had to initialize in order to seize control over the Czechoslovak public was re-education and alternation of its intelligence. In order to do so, it was necessary to fully reorganize the system of universities. The arrangements that were being performed in the name of this principle strongly influenced also the Faculty of Law, Charles University, which was before February, 1948, considered the most reactive and the most conservative faculty of this university.

The first part of this paper will consider the personal changes at universities, with a special emphasis on the Faculty of Law, Charles University. The first of the "cleansing processes" was the examination of the national reliabilities, the foreground of what proceeded after February, 1948. The politically motivated elimination of students, initiated by the National Committee and the so-called "study inspections" of the years 1948-49 and the exclusion of the university professors after February, 1948 onwards, soon followed. This cleansing enabled the party to appoint such members of KSČ who did not resist further measures.

The second part of the paper discusses the organizational changes of the faculty and of the whole educational system on the base of the new law treating the universities, other concomitant government regulations, public notices, ordinances, directives and directions of the Ministry of Education, the resolutions of the Party and other steps which lead to the gradual rearrangement of the faculty's and other universities' structure according to the "Soviet pattern," and also the following critique of this change in the second half of the 50ies. First, the corresponding law alternations will be analysed, along with the secondary law prescriptions and actions by ÚV KSČ and the Ministry of Education, and then the rendering of this new law alternations into the structure and the common strategies of the Faculty of Law, UK, will be considered.

The aim of this paper is the overall consideration of the law situation at universities, especially the Faculty of Law, UK, in the era of the victory of the new regime, and its impact upon the common life and functioning of this faculty.