

Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses one of the marginalized chapters of Czech modern history, the functioning of people's courts and expulsions. It is a qualitative study using both analytical and statistical methods. This work benefits from using both primary and secondary sources. Its aim is to create a plastic picture of what happened on the main square in Lanškroun in May 1945.

This work follows a research of immediate post war period. In few months (not just in Czechoslovakia) took place changes which irreversibly changed a society structure. Migration waves, the largest in the modern Czechoslovak history, affected economic, political, cultural and interpersonal relations, and thus the overall character of society. Initial euphoria over again liberation changed quickly to commonly manifestation hate against Germans, collectively responsible perpetrators of war crimes. Before official government organized expulsions, there has been a wild expulsions, escapes and people's court. Also by the influx of inland Czechs to border areas there has been created till that time nonexistent reality, culturally and ethnically unified border region which influenced internal state organization and also significantly influenced Czech-German (and Czech-Austrian) relations. Czech and German population living after war in border area recognized a temporary absence of reach central power. Relative autonomous tendencies led to the creation of local self-government systems, often behaving in despotism way. Even though the border areas evolved largely independently in the post war months, their form of governance and possible consequences are hardly delineated. Although this period is peremptory for politic-administrative development of the republic, essential literature pays only marginally. Czech historians' attention is more paid to central governing (presidential decrees, statements of representatives, etc.) and international relations.

In my bachelor thesis, especially in the theoretical part of this bachelor thesis pays emphasis on Sudetenland, as a part of the Third Reich, and on relations between Czechs and Germans and relations of the majority Czechs to the Reich. It also covers the contemporary political situation, which influenced radicalization of the attitudes toward Germans. The main aim of this work is to analyze the partisan people's court in Lanškroun, focusing on the causes, as well as the course and numbers and fate of convictions. This work tries to point out (among other things) the lack and the inconsistency of sources, which are focused on the period between the end of the Second World War and resurgence of self-governing apparatus.