

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze and describe the historical development and current state of children's rights protection under international law. In the first place this text provides an introduction to the issue of the status of children in society and the need for its increased protection. This issue is still actual even if international regulation provides children with complex protection. The ongoing problem is the level of compliance with such obligations, which varies in Member States considerably. The main text of this thesis consists of three main thematic blocks. First one is formed by an excursion into the history of international protection of children rights. This block outlines position of children, which is mirrored in the development of various instruments of international law. It describes a gradual shift from socially almost invisible group, which was not guaranteed any special rights to first general protection by universal human rights instruments and to actual peak of international protection of children rights, which is represented by comprehensive Convention on the Rights of the Child. The second thematic section is dedicated just to Convention on the Rights of the Child where considerable amount of space is devoted to this international treaty. This work deals with related issues like its importance, history, mechanisms of implementation, the relationship of Czech Republic to the Convention, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and analytical description of its provisions. Special attention is devoted to its provisions regarding the definition of the child and general principles. Thesis do not omit equally vital Optional Protocols of the Convention. The third part of thesis reflects the status of regional organizations in the system of protection of children's rights and explains the importance of such organizations. Then there are specifically described the key characteristics of three major subsystems of the local human rights protection – Europe, America and Africa. The final section then comprehensively summarizes all the provided information and briefly outlines the development of the field of protection of children's rights along with description of current situation and thoughts about possible rise in the standard of protection of children's rights.