

Abstract:

The dissertation thesis deals with mutual reflection and perception of national movements in Finland and Czech lands during the years 1789–1914. On the background of newly shaped Finnish or Czech nations, it compares, in which way the perception of Finns respectively Czechs changed and evolved from the point of view of other nation that was in analogical situation in its national emancipation. The major role was played by mutual contacts between prominent figures of both national revivals, who delivered their perception and experience to broader audience not only via articles in newspaper, but also in magazines, popular as well as scientific, and also books. This thesis is based on assumption, that the leading persons of both nations were aware of mutual similarities as well as differences between both national movements, at the same time it also sets up a hypothesis, that knowledge of the other national movement, its advantages and disadvantages could be used in a progress of own nation.

The first chapter outlines bilateral contacts between Czech and Finnish ethnics from the High Middle Ages until the birth of the national revival movements. Following chapter is describing the first mutual relations between the first generations of Czech and Finnish revivalists at the end of the 18th century, which is symbolized with the meeting of the leading figures of both national movements, Josef Dobrovsky and Henrik Gabriel Porthan. Next chapter describes mutual reflections of Czechs and Finns in the first half of the 19th century, which helped to uncover the status of the other nation and identify its analogical role in Russian or Austrian multinational empire. The fourth chapter is dedicated to a period from the beginning of the 1850s to the end of the 1870s, in which the mutual contacts and friendships between leading figures of both national movements were established. Observed against a background of those relationships is the evolution of perception of the other nation as well as the changes in perception of the observer himself.

In next chapter is the attention dedicated to an issue of interactions between prominent Czech and Finnish writers and artists. Last chapter follows the progress in both nations at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries and against its background it reflects, how both nations perceived important social changes in the society. In final summary is outlined not only the evolution of both national movements in more than one hundred years, but especially in which way the mutual perception evolved and changed during this period.