

Abstract

The topic of this doctoral thesis is an analysis of the attempts to federalize the Austrian monarchy occurring between 1848 and 1918. Special focus is given to the political program and concept of a state in the works of František Palacký.

The first part of the thesis will introduce chronologically all principal ideas and theories which Palacký created during his life and which concern his concept of organization of the multi-national Austrian monarchy and of the Czech lands within the monarchy. Attention will be paid not only to the general grounds on which Palacký based his political program but also to the practical side of his political activities. In the same time, the most important political events and changes in the Austrian state will be mentioned from 1848 – the year when Palacký entered the political scene – to the year 1876 when he died. The first part will be devoted to the description of Palacký's character, especially his activities outside politics.

The next part will focus especially on his activity in the Constituent Assembly in Vienna and Kroměříž in 1848–49. A detailed essay on Palacký's most important theoretical work, *Ideje státu rakouského* (Idea of the Austrian State) will form the centre of the third part. The individual chapters of the part will also deal with his other important political and journalistic activities.

The fourth part of the thesis will expound the federalization attempts, or rather attempts to somehow arrange the ethnic situation in the Czech lands during the time of dualism. Detailed explanation will deal with the Czech constitutional declaration of 1868 with the so-called fundamental articles and "půntace" (points) as well as with language decrees which were to regulate the usage of the Czech and German languages both in the outside and inside contact. Mention will also be made about proposals and conceptions of that time concerning solution of the constitutional organization of the monarchy as arising from the Czech political environs and attention will also be paid to the so-called Whitsuntide program of the German political parties of 1899.

The goal of the fifth part of the thesis is to explain the federalist tendencies of other peoples of the Habsburg monarchy, especially the Poles, Slovenes or non-Hungarian peoples in Hungary viewed as potential Czech allies in the efforts for a federative organization of the state. The sixth chapter will briefly analyze the gradually changing reflections of the successor to the throne, Franz-Ferdinand d'Este, on the constitutional reform of the empire which, however, could not have been realized for obvious reasons.

The final part of the work will try to prove – among others – that many of the Palacký's opinions are still live and current. The concluding paragraph will sum up the facts concerning the constitutional development of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy in the period of dualism and offer reflections of whether the potential reform of the monarchy directed towards federalization could have prevented its collapse and final end in 1918.