

Abstract:

This thesis deals with the career and private life of a specific group of employees of Czechoslovak airlines – cockpit crew, especially pilots – during the years 1970–1989 with a slight overlap into the 60's and 70's as the context of the work requires.

This thesis is based on the method of oral history. Recordings with all the narrators were combined into integrated blocks of data, that shows how these people became pilots of Czechoslovak airlines but also how they managed to deal with everyday contact with the wide abroad, how their career progressed, how they were affected by changes in the history of Czechoslovakia and Czechoslovak airlines during the era of "Normalization".

The author of this thesis tried to provide an insight into the history of pilot profession in the mentioned period based on creating a brief history of Czechoslovak airlines, archive materials concerning the trends in aviation and testimonies and interpretations of the narrators.