

Abstract

As part of culture-building efforts on the part of the Soviet regime, Culture Houses were established, beginning in the 1920s, in most towns in every country where Soviet influence extended. Twenty-eight years have now passed since the Soviet regime crumbled, and in many places, the institution of the Culture House has crumbled along with it. The situation in the Czech Republic, however, tells a different story. Almost three decades after the fall of the Soviet Union these buildings are still vital to the social life of the Czech village. Through an analysis of data collected from Culture House employees from *Zlínský kraj*, this thesis examines the reasons behind the institution's longevity in the Czech Republic. My research highlights the impacts that location, views of the past, and approaches to social transition have on the Czech Culture House's survival. In the analysis, I demonstrate that reinterpretation of the space, as envisioned by its staff, has allowed for the Culture House's endurance.

Keywords

Culture Houses, Czech Republic, Post-socialism, transition, community, rural