

Abstract (in English):

The thesis focuses on the regional organisation of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSČ) in the Liberec region. In the political system of interwar Czechoslovakia, KSČ was specific in that its members hailed from all local ethnic groups. It was therefore, above all, the local Germans who formed the major part of the Liberec organisation. In the 1920s in some districts within the region, KSČ received up to one third of all votes cast, while throughout the 1930s, its support diminished rapidly in favour of the Sudetendeutsche Partei (SdP). The thesis seeks to clarify the causes of this sudden drop. It identifies as one of the major factors the mutually contradictory identities which were being formed within the local branch of the movement, i.e. the communist, the German and the Czechoslovak identity. These three came into alignment, to a certain degree, only shortly before the Munich Agreement with the emergence of a communist Czechoslovak narrative established on a supraethnic basis. The study also takes note of the developments in the KSČ headquarters in Prague as these had significant impact on the peripheral Liberec organization and further places the problem within the context of the First Czechoslovak Republic and its society. The policies and politics of the central government in Prague together with the economic crisis demonstrably influenced the course of events in the Liberec region and ultimately limited the ability of the local KSČ organisation to resist the upsurge of SdP.

Klíčová slova (anglicky):

Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, communist movement, interwar Czechoslovakia, Bohemian Germans, Sudetendeutsche Partei, Liberec region