Abstract

This thesis inquires into the assimilation faction of the Jewish minority on the Bohemian territory at the end of the 19th century and first half of the 20th century which was represented by the Czech-Jewish movement. It presents the origins of the movement with a special focus on the period of the First Czechoslovak Republic. It examines the development of its identity which was formed by contemporary social-political events. The study presents the movement's attitudes towards Czech majority and towards the Czechoslovak state. It also describes its struggle with Anti-semitism and Zionism which were undermining the efforts of the assimilation into the major society. The thesis introduces Jindřich Kohn – the leading figure of this movement during the interwar period – and researches his attitude to assimilation and his reflection on antisemitism and Zionist movement.

The references can be found at the end of the thesis. Major part of the thesis was based on thorough work with the resource materials, more specifically monographs of the representatives of Czech-Jewish movement from that period and the then magazines. The main resources were historical studies by associate professor Blanka Soukupová who was researching the Czech-Jewish movement.

The aim of the study is to introduce the development of Czech-Jewish movement and the process of creation of its identity within the Czech majority in a newly founded national state. The presentation is topped off with the personality of Jindřich Kohn. The thesis also examines the ability of the Czech society - and its readiness - to accept the assimilation of Czech-Jews and the ways in which it was approaching its Jewish minority.