

LOCAL PEOPLE COURTS (1961-1970) - SOCIALIST EXPERIMENT IN THEORY AND PRACTICE.

Abstract

The dissertation deals with the Local People's Courts (LPC), which were the basic element of the judicial system of Czechoslovakia between 1961 and 1970. After defining the historical and ideological reasons for the LPC, including a reference to their predecessors, the Comrades Courts, the work also deals with the legal regulation of these courts. Here is outlined the way they were set up, their composition, their jurisdiction and the procedure before them. After describing the legal framework of the LPC, there follows a list of the factual deficiencies of it such as uncertainty in a number of legal questions, the participation of a laic element only in decision-making and the inequality of the offenders in the LPC system. Part of the work captures the LPC periodical evaluation in the professional press as well as the authorities of the ruling Communist Party. The last theoretical part of the work is devoted to the abrogation of LPC and its reasons. The theoretical part is followed by the practical part, which is a probe into the life of LPC in one region. This provides a comparison between theory and practice. Based on authentic archive materials, it provides insight into the decision-making practice and internal mechanisms of these courts. The chosen method of critical description made it possible to subject the preserved archival material to a wider examination and to put it in connection with other findings. In the case of specific cases, it is not just a mechanical acceptance and statistical analysis of the discussed cases, but a legal analysis of the cases as such, an evaluation of the way in which the individual chambers dealt with this or that case. The most interesting thing that the critical assessment of the de facto activities of the LPC has brought is the analysis of how the legal laymen have come to terms with their new role as judges. The last part of the the work is devoted to list of similar judicial bodies.

Keywords:

local people's court; socialist democracy, offense