

The motive of this diploma thesis *The Relationship of an Individual and the State in the Elements of the Philosophy of Right* of G. W. F. Hegel is to cope with the one-sided – but in the Czech Republic widespread – liberal critic of Hegel's political philosophy, which accuses this philosopher of etatism and suppressing the freedom of individual. The first part of the thesis briefly deals with the question of the relation between the citizen and the state in the political philosophies of Hegel's most important modern predecessors: Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Immanuel Kant. The second part introduces the main features of Hegel's political philosophy followed by a look at the connection between Hegel's theory of state and his philosophy of history. The main part of the thesis focuses on presenting the *Elements of the Philosophy of Right* in view of the theme of thesis. The conclusion tries to summarize the acquired information and to outline the unsolved problems.