

ABSTRACT

The diploma thesis "Private business in Czechoslovakia in the second half of the eighties" focuses on the period of "perestrojka" in the conditions of socialist Czechoslovakia in the second half of the eighties. The aim of the thesis is to describe and especially evaluate the beginnings of private business in socialist Czechoslovakia at the end of the eighties. The research question then is whether this economic form of production and trade had any hope of greater development given the given political order. Derived questions are to what extent private business was successful, what and how big a response it evoked among the population and especially how it was accepted and evaluated by the ruling elite. The thesis traces the change in the attitude of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia towards private business after Mikhail Gorbachev took over as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the reconstruction of the economic mechanism announced by him both in the Soviet Union and in its satellites. The primary method will be work with archival materials from the National Archives of the Czech Republic, the Archive of the Security Forces and other state organizations, as well as work with information from the contemporary press. The secondary source will be the study and extraction of literature related to the given topic. The thesis will be divided into several sections. In the first part, the socio-economic situation in the examined period in Czechoslovakia will be outlined with regard to historical development, especially in the field of private business. The second section will deal with the government's procedure in the field of enabling private entrepreneurship, its own legislative adjustment and practical examples from the practice of entrepreneurship in the Czechoslovakia. In the last part of the thesis, we will focus on the evaluation of the entire issue, compare it with the approach of the then German Democratic Republic in the field of private business and evaluate the impact of this "economic reform" of the centrally controlled economy in Czechoslovakia with regard to the further historical development of the early nineties.