

Abstract

The city of Příbram earned the nickname "Czech Palermo" mainly due to the events of the 1990s related to the activities of organized crime, black and grey economy, especially corruption and other, often still unexplained, criminal activities.

This master's thesis aims to reveal, through documentation, analysis, and interpretation of rumors, contemporary legends, memorates, and other collectively spread narratives related to the 1990s, the influence of these local narratives on the shaping of the identity of the inhabitants of Příbram and its surroundings. This will be done by taking into account the context of the historical development of the Příbram region.

Firstly, the thesis raises the question of whether the industrial history of this area and its subsequent notorious association with criminal events have a diachronic connection to the creation of the current identity and how the dynamic relationship between the "mining" and "mafia" collective identity of Příbram works.

Furthermore, the most commonly occurring collective narratives, which form an integral part of the identity of the inhabitants of Příbram and its surroundings, are analyzed in detail, including their attitudes towards them. The method of data documentation includes semi-structured interviews, narrative interviews, and archival research supplemented by content analysis of internet sources and newspaper articles.

The result of the research is, first of all, the finding that the long-term mining focus of the region, especially its development after World War II, has a causal connection to the significant expansion of the black economy and organized crime in Příbram after 1989. This was associated with unresolved murders, abductions, corruption, and other illegal practices, which subsequently led to the labelling of Příbram as the "Czech Palermo". The city folklore obtained during interviews with informants further confirmed the fact that stories with "mafia" themes are associated with local society and thus belong among the significant elements of the inhabitants' identity.