

Abstract

In the mid-1970s, the Soviet Union and its allies, strengthened by the Helsinki Conference's success and the United States' international weakening after the defeat in Vietnam, launched a new global offensive. One of their priorities became cooperation with the newly established states in Sub-Saharan Africa - Angola and Mozambique. In addition to continued military support, the Eastern Bloc states invested in their industrialization, agriculture, and key infrastructure, which were supposed to contribute to the development of both states. In the case of Czechoslovakia, like other European socialist countries, sending experts to Angolan and Mozambican factories and other institutions became part of its foreign policy. By the end of the Cold War, several hundred Czechoslovak citizens had gained work experience in Angola and, later, Mozambique. The aim of the dissertation dealing with this key Czechoslovak foreign policy strategy in the broader Cold War context is to contribute to the current academic discussion on the forms of socialist globalization and the approach of the East to the Global South in the late Cold War. Based on the archival documents and interviews with witnesses, it explores Czechoslovakia's intentions in pursuing its expertise in these Lusophone countries after 1975. Further, it examines whether both cases were comparable. It also brings closer the perspective of hitherto neglected actors, especially specialists, on their role and life in postcolonial societies. The thesis concludes that even though the Czechoslovak authorities emphasized the economic benefits of this cooperation, they also pursued their other interests there.