

## **Abstract**

The dissertation explores the political thinking of the Catholic philosopher Štefan Polakovič (1912-1999), who is considered one of the main ideologists of Jozef Tiso's politics during the Slovak state (1939-1945). In the context of the political struggle between President Tiso and Prime Minister Vojtech Tuka, Polakovič participated in the Nazification of Slovak Catholic political thinking by creating Slovak and Catholic concepts inspired by the ideology of the German National Socialists. After the Second World War, from Argentina, he tried to achieve the restoration of the Slovak state and in the 1990s he was one of the apologists of Jozef Tiso's politics and a supporter of the idea of the anti-fascist Catholic resistance in the milieu of the Hlinka Slovak People's Party.

The main aim of this dissertation is to investigate, what were the main reasons for Polakovič's fascism and why he considered the nation-state as the only acceptable form of statehood for the Slovak nation. Although the dissertation concentrates mainly on Polakovic's thinking during the Slovak state period, it also pays attention to Polakovič's thinking during Argentine emigration in an attempt to reflect the development of his thinking throughout the twentieth century. First, this dissertation describes the birth and history of Slovak political Catholicism in the context of European political Catholicism. Further, it examines the ideological roots of Polakovič's thinking, the reception of his philosophical reflections by the representatives of the Hlinka Slovak People's Party, and analyses Polakovič's modifications of concepts adopted from the ideology of the German National Socialists. It examines the circumstances of Polakovic's democratic turn after the Second World War, his use of the critique of postcolonialism and the concepts of Slovak national communists, and his support of Vladimír Mečiar's politics of history. It explores Polakovič's thinking in the light of the modernization of Catholic thinking, approaches it through Catholic modernism as an analytical concept, and suggests a new research category of the crusader of paternalistic modernism.

**Keywords:** Štefan Polakovič, Catholicism, Fascism, Slovak State, Catholic Modernism, Clerical Fascism, Christian Democracy