

**Abstract:**

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk of the 20th century is a person whose characterization and classification in the society of the time is generally agreed upon among scholars. Masaryk of the 19th century, however, is a very different case. To this day, there is still no consensus among scholars as to how exactly to classify Masaryk, which many simplify by arguing that Masaryk himself was indecisive in this regard, devoting himself to many things at once but not always fully. The central issue of the second half of the 19th century was undoubtedly the social question, which is also difficult for many to grasp, since it can be viewed in either a very specific or a very general way. With this in mind, in my thesis I not only focus on Masaryk's view of the social question of the time, but I come up with the hypothesis that it is the social question and its principle of equality that is the central motive of the person of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk in the 19th century. I propose a functional *Masarykian model for solving the social issues of the time*, which is based on the aforementioned concept of equality, but in several interrelated yet sufficiently independent areas, such as religion, politics, nationalism, society and education. I subsequently verify the location of these individual aspects within my Masarykian model through the analysis of Masaryk's ideas, texts and publications of other scholars who have devoted themselves to Masaryk as a topic. Indeed, the meaningfulness of the chosen model can only be verified by analyzing each of its aspects separately. The model itself then acquires the shape not of a pyramid, but of a circle, in the centre of which stands the just-mentioned principle of equality. Since social issues are a long-term, even almost eternal, problem, Masaryk's approach to its solution is to a certain extent timeless and in many ways relevant even for today's society. The aim is therefore not to present just another Masaryk who will be added to the already rich composition of Masaryks up to now, but rather to show a kind of ideological bridge that aims to bring a large part of these different Masaryks together and link them into a person who must necessarily be close to more than one reader through his efforts and endeavours.

**Keywords:** Masaryk, the social question, Austria-Hungary, religion, politics, education, nationalism, society