

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Student: Mgr. Hana Zatřepálková

Advisor: PhDr. Jaromír Baxa. Ph.D

Title of the thesis: Reflection of the Czechoslovak Monetary Policy in the thoughts and writings of German-speaking Economists that worked at the Charles-Ferdinand University during 1918-1938

OVERALL ASSESSMENT *(provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):*

Short summary

The author claims that her work is a pioneering and original contribution to the history of economic thought. In the author's words, the thesis seeks to uncover to what extent the German-speaking economists reflected the developments of the Czechoslovak economy and to analyze links between the Czech and German economists in interwar Czechoslovakia.

Contribution

The question the thesis promises to answer is crucial for our better understanding of the nature of economic thought in interwar Czechoslovakia with the multiple clashes between different nations' communities. Therefore, one expects the lesson that could be learned from the unique Czechoslovak situation. Unfortunately, the thesis does not meet these expectations.

The work is mainly descriptive. The personalities of the selected German economists are only briefly characterized at the level of a dictionary entry; an analysis, at least a descriptive analysis of their work, is missing. The analysis of selected German economist's texts is insufficient, and it has no relevant conclusion. Moreover, Rašín's quoted work is not a work of economic thought but a description of the monetary reform. Analysis of the transfer of ideas between German and Czech authors is completely missing.

Besides missing in-depth qualitative analysis, the thesis does not meet the newest developments in economic history that could help better focus the analysis and avoid uncertainties in interpreting the key political-economic issues.

The description of the key political-economic processes (monetary reform, land reform, so-called nostrification) is adopted from older texts, now outdated in historiography. Therefore, political-economic processes are not understood in the context of the latest relevant literature. Some statements are but long-term clichés of the Czechoslovak historiography. Using WFA does not lead to answers to the questions asked.

Methods

Mainly description. I highly evaluate the use of WFA. However, the analysis does not add new findings relevant to answering the questions formulated in the Intro.

Literature

Insufficient Literature review. Although the author mentions some books on Czech economic thought (she calls them anthologies), she has not studied them comprehensively and, therefore, she does not understand the concept of "Czech economic thinking" defined in historiography as written in Czech. The author does not take into consideration books about the German university in Prague and German intellectuals, published in Czech, English and German (Hlavaček, Connelly, Kolář), about Central European economic thought, published in

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English (Horvath) or economic education in Czechoslovakia published in Czech and English (Doležalová, Krameš).

The same applies to the historiography of the economic policy of the First Republic. The author works with outdated interpretations of its course and dynamics.

Manuscript form

The author uses the wrong terms; for example, English-written historiography does not use the term the "Austro-Hungarian Empire" but either the "Habsburg Empire" or the "Austro-Hungarian Monarchy."

Archival sources are not quoted properly. It should be: National Archive Prague, Collection..., Box...File..., Signature...

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

In my view, any thesis is supposed to answer the formulated questions. It does not necessarily have to be original, but it certainly cannot just open up a new field of research. Based on my reading and understanding of the thesis on one side and my expertise in the topic on the other, I highly evaluate the new field the author decided to elaborate on, and I am happy to confirm the originality of the topic partially.

However, the thesis's meaning is unclear, its style is descriptive with insufficient analysis, and it covers limited (partially inappropriate) literature.

German economists' lives and works are only described in the short biograms, while their work is not analyzed.

The work does not answer the questions asked in the Introduction and does not contribute to our better understanding of the state of the economic thought in interwar Czechoslovakia.

The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

I recommend the thesis for defense and suggest the grade D.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	10
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	70
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	D

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NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Antonie Doležalová*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *January 29, 2024*

Antonie Dolezalova

Referee Signature

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EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F