

Abstract

The bachelor thesis focuses on the legal and socio-economic aspects of the integration of ethnic Germans in Austria during the years 1945-1955. The methodology of this work involved compiling available secondary sources, including historical studies, academic articles, books, and documents related to the integration of ethnic Germans in Austria during the aforementioned period. The thesis aims to answer how the displaced group of ethnic Germans from Central and Eastern Europe was integrated into Austria's legal system and its socio-economic sphere. Ethnic Germans were not included in international law and refugee protection in the early post-war years by any of the organizations addressing these issues, leaving all integration efforts to the Austrian government. However, Austria began to identify itself as the first victim of Nazi Germany, relieving the government of legal and financial obligations towards displaced ethnic Germans. The Austrian government began addressing the issue of integrating ethnic Germans in 1950. The first impulse was the establishment of an advisory board for refugee issues at the Ministry of the Interior in August 1950. The initial agreements of the board served as a basis for improving the social and economic conditions in the lives of ethnic Germans. In the socio-economic sphere, the group faced significant discrimination in the early years, with limited mobility and difficulties in finding employment despite labor shortages. The solution to the integration issue came in 1955 when Austria ratified the Geneva Conventions relating to the status of refugees, committing to the protection and integration of refugees.