

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to compare meanings and interpretations of selected key Holocaust memory sites in Czechia and Germany, and their role in culture of remembrance and collective memory. The chosen memory sites are Lety u Písku, Terezín, Buchenwald and Dachau. The research methodology is based primarily on the combination of approaches of field and qualitative research, employing methods such as analysis of literature and other written sources, internet sources, semi-structured interviews with representatives of selected institutions, and field observations.

The Holocaust can be defined as a genocide, specifically the systematic extermination of people, in this case Jews and other groups (Poles, Sinti, Roma, Soviet war prisoners, political prisoners, and homosexuals) as and is connected with the period of National Socialism in Germany, 1933–1945. It is the most tragic event ever recorded in human history. Importance of the topic is increasing in the context of growing historical revisionism, antisemitism and disdain for democracy. Holocaust memory sites connect the past with the present within the framework of historical memory, have a crucial role in the culture of remembrance and collective memory, and can mitigate the risks associated with the absence of remembrance.

The research findings indicate that the selected memory sites have both a commemorative and an educational function. The study provides a new perspective on these memory sites, and its results can strengthen the historical and cultural identity of regions and link historical memory with physical space. The thesis proposes practical measures to improve the operation of these memorial sites and offers suggestions for further research.

Keywords

Holocaust memory sites, Holocaust heritage, culture of remembrance, collective memory, Czechia, Germany