

Transformation and Splitting of the KSČ/M since 1989

The process of transformation of the Czechoslovak Communist Party (KSČ) and its successor the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM) since November 1989 is a unique example of incomplete transformation of the communist party into the non-communist party. The core of this process was the development of the KSČ and the KSČM in 1989-1996. The party following a change in the political system saves in the first free elections in 1990. The party searches possibilities of changes, which culminates into internal referendum in 1991-1992, when the majority decides to keep the original labelling. The decisive point of the whole process is Congress in Prostějov in June 1993 when the winning faction prevents the radical change and preserves the party. Despite the strong party splitting, which creates a lot of non-communist parties, the KSČM may rely on the solid core of voters in the elections of 1996. It is a signal for the party that the trend starting by KSČM consolidates positions, even offers other options for strengthening.

I study the consequences of the transformation of the KSČ/M in my work from several perspectives. We can read an effort for transformation into the party of the democratic type, democratic centralism was rejected. KSČM crystallizes as highly oppositional subject in the party-political system and gets isolated. It has been cooperating with different subjects that may be considered a very radical and extremist (an example is legally dissolved the Communist Youth Union - KSM). Membership and electorate are one of the most stable in the Czech Republic. It is characterized by high age and largely comes from the time when the KSČ had a leadership in the Czechoslovakia. Although we cannot directly read antidemocratic ideas from the official program documents, they are more pronounced in speeches and views of officials and ordinary members, even though the tangle of these opinions

is very often impenetrable. Party has not clearly manifested its attitude towards the past crimes of KSČ.

KSČM is not and cannot be the same party as its predecessor. However it has not gone through a profound transformation in the party, which would revoke its past, which would renounce the objectives incompatible with pluralistic democracy. Therefore it cannot be regarded as completely transformed communist party.