

## Abstract

This thesis entitled “Relationship of inhabitants to their home place in Eastern and Western Ore Mountains (Krušné hory)” focuses on the issue of a relationship the current inhabitants have to the area they live in. This relationship is defined on the basis of several distinct theoretical areas. The first portion of the thesis covers the basic terminology key for understanding the relationship of inhabitants to their home place. It deals with the definition of the term “home place”, its character and ways in which it may be perceived. It also contemplates the term „settlement“ and focuses on „identity“ which is further defined as biographical and regional identity. Identity may be studied in the context of a relationship to the countryside, local community and historical awareness. The paper also characterises the Sudetenland region and provides the historical context necessary for a comprehensive outlook at the area researched without marginalizing the issue of nationalism. The practical portion employs qualitative methodology to process eighteen semi-structured interviews with representatives of elites (mayors, businessmen and members of associations) of the selected areas of the Eastern and Western Ore Mountains. Subsequent analyses point to identical and distinct features in the relationship of inhabitants to their home place and outline topics which seem to be dominant in the testimonies to determine the relationship of the inhabitants to the Ore Mountains. In conclusion, the paper summarizes the differences between the selected areas and their specific characteristics.

## Key words

relationship to home place, Sudetenland, identity, Ore Mountains, civic activity, Czech-German relationships, countryside, natural environment