

Abstract

Tomas Garrigue Masaryk has been interested in Russian culture since his youth. He knew Russian very well. Knowledge of Russia and its culture allowed Masaryk to establish friendly political relations in this distant country. Masaryk found support in Russian Democratic circles for his ideas and ideals. Russia at the beginning of the twentieth century had similar social and state problems as the Czech lands: it was a monarchy and thoughts of revolution and system change were growing in it. Masaryk believed that the experience of Russian political opposition forces in dealing with the monarchy and in making changes could help him in his efforts to withdraw the Czech lands and Slovakia from Austria-Hungary and build a newly emerged democratic Czechoslovakia.

Keywords

Tomas Garrigue Masaryk, Russia, Czech lands, Czech-Russian relations, 1905 – 1918