

Abstract

The bachelor thesis “Passing The Iron Curtain via Prague – the first wave of refugees from the GDR in autumn 1989 in the West German embassy and the portrayal in the Czechoslovakian press” deals with the topic of refugees in the West German embassy in Prague in the year 1989. It focuses on the first of three waves of refugees in the late summer and autumn 1989 which took place from August to September 1989. Concerning the first wave of refugees in August and September two aspects are being analysed in this bachelor thesis which influence the structure of this scientific paper. The first part deals with the role of representatives of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic during the first refugee wave and how they reacted to the events in the embassy. This part draws especially on documents from Czechoslovakian archives because the Czechoslovakian role in these events has been kept secret from the Federal Republic of Germany. The second part contains an analysis of how the selected Czechoslovakian daily papers (*Rudé právo*, *Svobodné slovo*, *Lidová demokracie*, *Mladá fronta a Práce*) reported about the refugees in the West German embassy from August until the departure of the first special trains. Much emphasis was laid on showing how often, in which way and to what extent there were reports about these events.