

Abstract

The aim of the doctoral thesis is an analysis of the ideas and political activities of Jan Scheinost (1896-1964), a journalist and skilful backstage policymaker who was also known as an ideologist of Czech fascism. The thesis presents and analyses primarily those texts and activities of this controversial personality which were somehow unique, typical or atypical for the Czechoslovak political and intellectual scene of the First and Second Republic, i.e. from the 1920s to the period of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

The influential Catholic journalist Scheinost is often connected not only with conservative traditional Catholicism but also with Fascism in academic literature. However, the thesis tries to prove that throughout his career, Jan Scheinost was always mainly looking for the most suitable movement or political party for putting into practice his aggressive Catholic ideas.

At the same time the thesis also follows the historical, cultural and media context in which has Scheinost, as the editor in chief of the daily *Lidové listy*, acted. Scheinost, as a convinced nationalist and Catholic, joined the Czechoslovak People's Party at the beginning of the 1920s, but this party was not conservative enough for him, and he also felt that it made too many compromises. That is why he established, together with the writer Jaroslav Durych, the review entitled *Rozmach*, where he drafted and presented his ideas. When Czech fascism was taking form in the middle of the 1920s, Scheinost joined the fascist movement in order to influence it and give it substantial content with his ideas. He also saw some common points between the fascist doctrine and Catholic teachings, inter alia in the concept of the corporative order of society. As a critic of democracy and the political system of the First Czechoslovak Republic, Jan Scheinost pondered an alternative political order in the form of the so-called corporate state.

A chance for the realization of Scheinost's ideas came with the period of the Second Republic, when he became the author of the programme of the ruling Party of National Unity. However, the programme could not be put in practice, and Jan Scheinost finished his public career as a protectorate journalist, as after the war he was prosecuted because of his writings.

Keywords: Jan Scheinost, Catholicism, Fascism, nationalism, First Czechoslovak Republic, Second Republic, Czechoslovak People's Party, National Fascist Community, criticism of democracy, corporate state.