

ABSTRACT IN ENGLISH

Iconography and Nationalism: The comparison of the First World War memorials in Budapest and Prague

The purpose of the present thesis is to compare the national iconography appearing on Czech and Hungarian WW1 memorials. The political power symbolically occupied the public spaces by the WW1 memorials while expressing its national propaganda after the Great War. It was an attempt inducting sensitive questions since the dead heroes of the nation were dead sons of the families at the same time. For this reason the making of memorials is connected to individual and collective grief. This grief resulted in a glorious narrative in Czechoslovakia, while in Hungary the death of soldiers represented the death of the nation in the discourse on the political level. How can this process be expressed and how can it be researched?

On the one hand, commemorations are situated in space, and space is an implicit content of WW1 memorials. As a consequence, it is important to analyse the spatial context of the monuments. On the other hand, the explicit content of the monuments is their visuality. In order to analyse and compare the iconographies, it is useful to transform the symbols into a countable form by applying the content analysis method. Furthermore, for interpreting the symbols, it is necessary to understand their historical-temporal, spatial and the iconographic contexts. Symbols are analysed in detailed case studies. The final aim of the thesis is to compare the traces of the two national intentions in the urban memory.

Key words:

First World War, memorial, nationalism, iconography, comparison, Budapest, Prague