

This study deals with the history of Spanish - Czechoslovak relations in 1945 - 1975. In this period both countries were on the opposite sides of the Iron Curtain which separates two ideological blocks created after WWII. Czechoslovakia, where the Soviet influence was strong since 1945, became a communist state after a coup in February 1948. Franco's regime in Spain was legitimized with the victory in the civil war over the coalition of republicans, which was dominated by the Communist Party of Spain (PCE). Anticommunism was an important part of the ideology of Franco's regime and was used at the beginning of the Cold War for improving the image, which was damaged by collaboration with Axis powers during the WWII. For this reason Spain started to be an asylum for exiled anticommunists from the Eastern block and enabled them to lead political activities. It was also the case of Czech Zdeněk Formánek and Slovak Jozef Cieker. These two men represented different exile organizations and had different points of view about Czechoslovakia. Formánek was defending the democratic system of the Czechoslovak 1st Republic. Cieker was a Slovak nationalist, who wanted to destroy Czechoslovakia, to create independent Slovakia. This is why they were adversaries. They both died in the 60s when anticommunist exiles in Spain had much less importance than before.

In 1945 was founded the Spanish National Committee which associated Spaniards in Czechoslovakia. This organization was after a few months abolished for political reasons. Czechoslovakia in 1946 established diplomatic relations with the Government of the Spanish Republic in exile. The embassy of the Spanish Republican government in Prague had to be closed for lack of money in 1949. After the communists had come to power, Czechoslovakia became an asylum for members of the PCE. Most of these emigrants lived in Czechoslovakia until the 60s when most of them went to other countries.