

Summary:

The publication deals with one of the significant aspects of the struggle for political power in Czechoslovakia between 1945 and 1948. At this period the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia took control over the Secret Services operating within the Ministry of the Interior and in the Army, abusing this fact to further strengthen its influence within the power forces of the state as well as in the economic sector.

All political parties required financial resources for their activities in the struggle for political power, which they obtained in various ways and by various methods. Quite frequently they were balancing at the edge of legality, or even violated the law. The key role among them was played by the Communist Party as it abused also the Secret Services to get finances. It took advantage of the fact that all activities of these Services were kept strictly confidential and information about their unlawful deceitful practices was withheld from the public. This was also one of the reasons for strict confidentiality of archival materials relating to these activities until 1989.

The publication addresses the issue of unlawful ways of obtaining funds pursued by the Intelligence Service of the Ministry of the Interior by means of various deceitful practices used by members of this Service, in cooperation with other persons from the Army as well as outside. These practices were common particularly in England in 1946-1947. In this respect, the author has made use of extensive archival source materials concerning the main actor of such unlawful transactions, Captain Adolf Püchler, in order to explain the above-mentioned practices.

The first part of the publication deals with the issue of obtaining finances by political parties in the post-war period. The other part contains authentic statements of Captain Adolf Püchler between 1948 and 1949 with a detailed description of particular transactions abroad and at home. The next part assesses the implications arising from both Adolf Püchler's statement, and other archival materials in the context of various circumstances of the struggle for political power in the country.

In addition, the publication comprises autobiographies of the main leaders of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and chief officers of the Secret Services who were directly involved in the unlawful obtaining of finances through the Secret Services, knew about this practice, or were in another way engaged in this regard.

The publication also includes archival documents supplementing the previous part with further relevant information. It offers a close look at the backstage of the struggle for political power in Czechoslovakia between 1945 and 1948. In addition, it gives evidence of different aspects of the struggle. Together with the seemingly democratic struggle for political power presented by political parties in public, there was a fierce struggle going on behind the scene. As part of this struggle, the Communist Party abused the Secret Services, over which it gained a complete control in the post-war period, irrespective of laws in force at that time. The case of Captain Adolf Püchler presented in the publication, is a convincing example.