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The image of Britain in Czechoslovak Media Discourses Between 1939 and 1948

The thesis examines a period of a major existential crisis of the Czechoslovak statehood in a

new perspective. Britain is studied as a new significant Other, onto which, at the time,

Czechoslovaks projected their visions, hopes as well as fears and frustrations. The aim is not

only to reconstruct and describe the image but primarily to identify its social functions. The

thesis claims that the image served as a filter in the quest for a future direction of the country.

This accounts for a conscious process of looking for political inspiration – a close observation

of Labour Party’s postwar reconstruction plans represents an important corrective to the idea

that Czechoslovakia embarked on journey to socialism solely following the Soviet Union. The

future direction was also sought, however, in general societal dynamics and in the cultural

realm. The thesis interprets this as a subconscious process. The example of the Other, which

did not physically or mentally endanger Czechs and Slovaks (compared to a life in the

neighborhood of Germans and Hungarians) had a huge liberating potential. The general goal of

the thesis is to contribute to the investigation of the question of how the Czechoslovaks

understood the world and their place in it in the calamitous 1940’s?