

**A short presentation of the dissertation project:  
"Crimes grossly violating civil coexistence  
in socialist Czechoslovakia"**

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Dear all. My name is Milan Dobeš, I reached master's degree last year at Masaryk university in Brno (Czech Republic) at the Faculty of Law with my diploma thesis: "Social Parasitism – Legal Historical Development of this Institute on Our Territory."

In September 2021 I started my doctoral studies at the same faculty, where I want to continue with my research. It means I'm at the very beginning of my dissertation project, which is for now called "Crimes grossly violating civil coexistence in socialist Czechoslovakia."

My dissertation will deal with the historical development of the specific crimes, which grossly disrupted civil coexistence in Czechoslovakia between 1948-1989. This research will cover the application, interpretation, enforcement of selected crimes specially in the application of the district court of Prague 1. I acquire criminal files in Prague city archive. These files are focusing on crimes committed in the Prague city centre. Prague was the capitol city of Czechoslovakia and in its centre was a large concentration of people from all over the county and even some foreign people. People were coming to Prague to make money and some of them by some illegal activity, so there were many various acts and offenders.

These offences included 1) Violence against a group of people and against an individual for his or her beliefs, especially the belief in the rightness of the socialist development path of the state and the law; 2) Defamation of the nation's race and beliefs, especially the followers of the socialist establishment; 3) Dissemination of an alarm message; 4) The offence of drunkenness; 5) Disorderly conduct; 6) Social parasitism; 7) The offence of pimping; 8) Endangering morality; 9) Slander; 10) The offence of failure to provide assistance;

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11) The crime of damaging other people's rights; 12) The criminal offense of unauthorized use of a foreign motor vehicle.

One of the first tasks on this project is to narrow this topic. This will occur after sufficient resources have been collected. One option is to choose only certain crimes to address next. The selection of specific offences will depend on the number of cases and their variety and interest. For example, the crimes of rioting and hoodlumism were often committed by different people (men, women, juveniles...) and by different acts and could be used against persons hostile to the regime. In contrast, the crime of drunkenness generally had the same factual scenario in all cases - a middle-aged man was caught driving a car drunk and subsequently had his driving licence revoked as punishment. In some cases, the offender was involved in a traffic accident, in others he was caught by a public safety patrol. I want to use this example to show that this project cannot be "built" on the crime of drunkenness.

In some criminal proceedings for these crimes the police, attorneys and judges were breaking the basic principles of criminal law like presumption of innocence. The guilt of the offender must be proved beyond the reasonable doubt by state. But in some cases – which this thesis is dealing with – the burden of proof fell on offenders, who had to prove their innocence – which always has been against this basic principle. Some of these crimes were abused by the socialistic regime against people who were uncomfortable for communists (dissidents.)

One of the aims of this work could be approaching the specifics of cases of these crimes set in the period atmosphere. The second aim of the thesis is to deal with specific institutes of Czechoslovak criminal law, which will enable a deeper understanding not only of the history of law, but of the pre-November functioning of the whole local society.