
Introduction

With this issue, we start a regular publication of the Czech Sociological Review. Along with four issues in the Czech language, two issues in English will be published each year. The first (special) issue appeared already in August 1992 with articles about the transition in Czechoslovakia, perceptions of the labor market, educational inequalities and others. Interests from foreign scholars encouraged us to continue this endeavor and to regularly bring you an English edition of our journal.

The purpose of the Czech Sociological Review is to aid the dissemination of Czech sociology, to inspire comparative research on transformation processes and also to encourage our authors to share their results with the international public. From the Czech version of the journal, we select articles of broader relevance and focus on big changes which occur in the Czech society and Central Europe as a whole. The information section will report on the main comparative projects and documents published, among other projects.

Several articles of this issue stem from the No. 1/1993 of the Czech version of the Sociological Review, which was dedicated solely to the Czech/Slovak separation. This pitiful process is worth not only political, but also sociological attention. The contributions we select reveal its historical background and differences in the populations' perceptions of the ongoing changes. In fact, quick changes developing after 1989 show, that after 40 years of planned and partly even forced rapprochement, Czech and Slovak societies are much less alike than one could figure out.

Jiří Musil's comparative article of the Czech and Slovak societies displays the asynchronicity of their modernization processes and offers two other explanatory models: a model of internal economic dependency and a model of mobilization. Eva Broklová offers a historical analysis of the relations between Czechs and Slovaks as a problem of Slovakia's positioning in the Czechoslovak Republic. Like Musil, she stresses the role of the elite but shows that when the Slovak intelligentsia finally came of age and wished to participate in public administration, the existence of the Czechoslovak state was broken.

Jadwiga Šanderová used several sociological surveys to demonstrate differences between the Czech and Slovak perceptions of the economic transformation. As a sort of counterbalance to hitherto mostly historical interpretations of the divergence in Czech and Slovak survey data, she states that the dissimilar perceptions of the transformation might stem from their different rates of change toward market economies. Zora Bútorová displays the elements of the population's political awareness which played an important role in the process of the Czechoslovak dissolution. She pays special attention to the images of the political parties during the pre-election period and to the reactions of the population to the division of the country.

Remaining articles belong to stratification and social policy research.

In his "Revolution for Whom?", Petr Matějů and Blanka Řeháková test a popular hypothesis about the manipulation of east-european revolutions by and for ancient cadres. Using the data of a longitudinal study, they show that membership in the Communist Party as well as membership in the "cadres" group in 1989, did significantly increase the chances for downward mobility. But these characteristics only very slightly affected chances for upward mobility. Precisely these two groups had far greater chances to enter the group of entrepreneurs.

Zdeněk Konopásek's theoretical analysis about the welfare "mix" on the way to welfare universalism argues that as a consequence of the coming "chaotic" post-modern era, modern welfare institutional regimes cease to be appropriate "representations" of the most urgent welfare conflicts. He discusses two fundamental ways of mixing two statuses - "citizen" and/or "employee" status - both aimed to ensure institutional universalism.

In the information section, we bring information about unemployment, income and social stratification comparative projects and about teaching sociology in the Czech Republic.

The transformation of Central Europe surfaces compelling social topics. We hope this issues will help interested researchers and that it is enjoyable for the curious as well - so read on.

Jiří Večerník