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Differences and common aspects in mechanism of action of T. G. Masaryk and V. Havel in Czech society. Use of Max Weber's concept of charisma as an analytical category to address the issue.

The thesis approaches the topic of power of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and Václav Havel as charismatic leaders according to famous German sociologist Max Weber's theory of charisma and terms related to this theory, such as power, dominance, legitimacy and bureaucratization. The idea of charismatic power of both presidents is compared in the thesis. Several key areas are important for the research, such as non-political politics, symbolic center of memory, foreign policy orientation of T. G. Masaryk and V. Havel and international reaction to their policies, the relationship of T. G. Masaryk and V. Havel to the church and religion. Moreover, I conduct the research on how they gained the power, for what reasons these presidents were so successful: the first one was a professor and philosopher, while the second one was an intellectual writer.

Masaryk's concept of non-political politics is based on the connection between morality, humanity and positivity. Work, education and culture played an important part in this concept. In 1885, Professor of Philosophy of the Czech University T. G. Masaryk published an article in the Czech magazine "Athenaeum"; the article was about development of Czech scientific literature. This article represents in a certain sense a detailed plan to save the Czech nation from fading into oblivion. Masaryk considers the continuous increase in educational attainment to be the only real instrument of such a rescue. In his view, systematic work and joined efforts to increase the Czech general education are the main requirements to have this plan fulfilled.

T. G. Masaryk was consistently bringing his plan to life. As a result, in Prague he founded a magazine "Athenaeum" devoted entirely to science. This magazine published not only articles written by Czech scientists from all areas of knowledge (from theology to meteorology), but also numerous book reviews and articles by foreign scientists.

Masaryk named specific steps for improving the level of education, such as translating the scientific literature from various foreign languages into Czech, publishing the first Czech scientific (encyclopedic) dictionary and professional journals, developing of expert critical

review, establishing a second Czech university, establishing libraries and developing a system of lectures, calling for students to actively learn foreign languages.

Václav Havel was a Czech writer, playwright and former dissident, defender of human rights and statesman, who served as the last President of Czechoslovakia (1989 – 1992) and then as the first President of the Czech Republic (1993 – 2003). He was also a co-founder of the Civil Forum and a member of The European Council On Tolerance And Reconciliation (ECTR).

The power of „word“ was important for Václav Havel. He received a global recognition because of his plays. Havel's literary works are conditionally divided into dramatic and political.

According to Václav Havel's speeches, the most important for him was to write, to stay a writer, a playwright. V. Havel was always surrounded by creative artists, especially when he was in Hrádeček in the 1970s. These people were somehow connected with art and dreamed of freedom: writers, playwrights, musicians, screenwriters... V. Havel was the one who brought all of them together.

A chapter that approaches the issue of language and speech is an important one. Phenomenon, which operates as a field of power relations, is based on French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu's structural theory of the role of language. Language and its power, functions of language and symbolic power, as well as relationship between language and power play an important role in his theory.

Power may be applied not only by violence, but also by words. Words have their own power and this power often has a symbolic character.

In the article *What does it mean to speak: structuralist linguistic theory of Pierre Bourdieu*, the author Jan Radimský follows the Bourdieu's thought of language as an instrument of power. Bourdieu understands communication as a struggle for symbolic power between speakers, and the language itself acts as a weapon in the hands of these speakers.

Tomáš Masaryk was mainly a politician, a practitioner who wanted to build his political and social life on two mutually connected principles, which were high moral standards and ethics. Havel was considered to be a successor of the Masaryk's tradition, he was a president who is above the political parties, but not above the society. As a president, he symbolized a state that seeks to communicate with the world directly, and not through institutions.

T. G. Masaryk and V. Havel were democrats who built their policies not on political intrigue, but on values, concept of ethics and humanity. It was a concept of democracy based on strong civil society and moral standards.