

## **Abstract**

This thesis focuses on the literary and journalistic works of Czechoslovakia's first president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk – how he attempted to influence public opinion through them and entered into the current disputes on various topics. The main interest of this thesis is his anonymous journalistic output, i.e. articles and commentaries that he wrote under different initials, or were published anonymously. In these writings, Masaryk continued his previous wartime and pre-war activities. After the war, however, they took on completely different proportions since he couldn't remain a purely private person. He was seen primarily as the head of the state. His political function thus began to intersect with his tendency to express his opinions on various topics in public and enter into the current political and cultural arena. Masaryk tried to overcome (or circumvent) this contradiction, which was limited by the formal delimitation of the powers of the president of the republic, by publishing anonymous articles. In these texts he could express himself more freely and openly than he could in signed articles or official speeches. The goal of this thesis is not only to capture and collect, but also to analyze and interpret the president's output, including the description of the background and the mechanisms, with which the president conducted his interventions into public affairs. It also strives to tackle the issue of Masaryk's authorship of these and other texts, which were sometimes attributed to the president. It is divided into five chapters, which analyze the president's output from various perspectives. The first chapter is devoted to the key parts of Masaryk's anonymous journalistic works, i.e. articles that he wrote in order to intervene in various political disputes. The introduction also sets the texts into a wider context, for example the president's standing in the political system or the structure and way in which the media worked in the Czechoslovak republic. The president also took an interest in literature and culture, paying particular attention to modern novel writing. Masaryk introduced Czech readers to many foreign books in a series of anonymous literary reviews. In another section of the thesis, the background which allowed the president to secretly work as a journalist is discussed. Almost all of Masaryk's closest colleagues, some of whom were also co-authors of his texts, were aware of his activities. The fourth chapter summarizes the president's anonymous journalism, including overviews of the initials he used and the categorization of periodicals, in which the texts were published. The fifth chapter analyzes the „second life“ of Masaryk's anonymous journalism, which began immediately after his death in the autumn of 1937. The publication of an edition of the president's unsigned articles started a polemic in the press, in which the president's supporters and opponents attempted to come to terms with Masaryk's secret interventions into public life.