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Czech film between art, business and state.

According to film historians, the Czechoslovak film industry was one of the most important in Europe; nevertheless, an economic analysis of the film industry is still missing. Therefore, the Czech film is rather conceptualized as a kind of art than a specific branch of industry.

There is no doubt that the inception and development of the film was a consequence of a number of inventions: Photography, later innovated to motion-picture camera and other technologies for shooting and later projecting the reality. But these technological changes were accompanied by another process: accepting film as a tradable good around the whole world. This process turned an innovative form of art to the industry as such.

In my contribution I am going to analyze the film as a specific branch of the Czechoslovak interwar industry. I am going to ask about the path of the film industry in interwar period and whether this path followed general tendencies of the Czechoslovak economy:

How was the development of the film industry affected by political changes?

How was the development of the film industry affected by the development of the Czechoslovak economy?

How was the film industry influenced by state interventions including tax and budget policies and state financial subsidies?

To what extent these interventions represented a specific kind of response to globalization pressures and waves of nationalism?

How was the film industry influenced by the lobbying of film market participants themselves?