

Abstract

This thesis deals with the reasons of the failure of *Freie Demokratische Partei* in 2013 federal election. With the gain of only 4,8 % votes, it didn't pass the 5% threshold for entering Bundestag for the first time since its establishment in 1948. The theoretical part focuses on the beginning and development of liberalism and especially German ordoliberalism, which transformed into the social market economy after the World War II and became an important aspect of German *Wirtschaftswunder*. The concept of social market economy was adopted by the newly established FDP. The analytical part first compares FDP's 2009 and 2013 election programmes regarding the adherence to social market principles, it then summarizes the problems and FDP's failures, which occurred during the 2009–2013 legislative period, the personal crisis in the party's leadership and also shortly considers the influence of European financial crisis on the voters' decisions in context of the establishment of the strongly euro-sceptical party *Alternative für Deutschland* in February 2013.