Annotation
The discussion on the Kurdish question has often connected the Kurdish struggle to the idea of an independent Kurdish state. While there are significant external factors that inhibit the possibility of establishment of a common (pan)Kurdish political project, within this thesis I focus on the internal inhibitors - specifically, on intra-Kurdish fragmentation, with a focus on the case of the Syrian Kurds. The work presents three main aspects of Kurdish fragmentation - political, territorial, and cultural/linguistic. This fragmentation, as presented in the thesis, is a product of competing identities, interests, and future goals of various Kurdish actors. The purpose of the thesis is to offer a detailed and comprehensive analysis of disunity and existing cleavages within the Syrian Kurdish national movement. The thesis asserts that Kurdish in-fighting, rivalries, and competing parochial interests present a significant obstacle to the creation of a (pan)Kurdish national movement and, therefore, also to the goal of the establishment of an independent Kurdish political entity.