

American presidential elections have always attracted the interest of the whole world. It is not only because their results influence the policies of the greatest world power, but also thanks to the specific features, events and activities connected with them. The electoral process is unique as far as selection of candidates by political parties is concerned, and also due to the specific electing the president by Electoral College.

It has been very often observed that the decisive factor of the American presidential election is a well-set “geography strategy”, i.e. focusing on specific states and regions of the USA. The main reason of this phenomenon is the unique electoral system, in which due to the system of Electoral College a necessity emerges – coming with the correct strategic decision on the victorious “geographical coalition”, which is to secure the winning the election by the presidential candidate. The aim of my work is an analysis of American presidential elections held from 1980 – 2004 focused on geographical distribution of electoral preference.

Which regions and which states were the source of support for the Republican Party candidates and their Democratic competitors in individual presidential elections in the years 1980 – 2004 and in which states shifts in the electoral preference occurred? What is the relation between the gain of electoral votes in the largest states and the election victory? I try to answer these questions in my work.

The first chapter, which is important for understanding the main topic of this work, deals with the party or primary election and also with the proper presidential elections. The second chapter is devoted to the “electoral geography” of American presidential elections. Chapters three, four, five and six, which contain the key topic, are devoted to the territorial distribution of votes for individual candidates of the Democratic and Republican party in the years 1980 – 2004. I establish from which regions or states the candidate of Democratic Party draws support and where his democratic opponent is popular, the relation between the gain of electoral votes in

largest states and shifts in electoral preferences between the parties during individual elections.