

Abstract

The bachelor thesis studies the terrorist group ETA and its development in the second half of the 20th century and focuses on its retreating popularity at the beginning of the 21st century. Leaving violence as a mean of achieving the Basque Independence in 2011 will be the newest event for my work. In the paper I will focus on changing public opinion on the ETA group, which goes hand in hand with the democratization process and the loss of legitimacy of armed resistance. Next, I will monitor the extent to which the Spanish federal government was fighting this group and the influence on such success of Spain's entry into the EU. Loss of public opinion support further delegitimizes the ETA's activities. The work also discusses the Basque political parties, especially extremist ones and the development of their popularity over time. The conclusion of the paper will outline where nationalist terrorism in the Basque country can go further or whether it is a closed chapter in Spanish history. However, given the history of the breach of truce by the ETA, it is probably just a short interim period.