

# **Abstract – bachelor thesis Democratic Stability in Costa Rica**

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This bachelor thesis deals with the stability of democracy in Costa Rica. The aim was to find out how stable is democracy in this Latin American country and to try to estimate whether it is in danger of democratic collapse in the near future. J. Schumpeter's minimum definition, which was supplemented by the work of Robert A. Dahl was used to define the concept of democracy. Using the study *Why Democracies Collapse: The Reasons for Democratic Failure and Success* by Abraham Diskin, Hanna Diskin and Reuven Y. Hazan, five factors were selected to analyze the stability of democracy in Costa Rica. These factors included: historical experience with democracy, cleavages, the state of the country's economy, the stability of cabinet, and finally the pressure from foreign actors on domestic policy. The results of the work suggest that, except for the state of the economy, Costa Rica is in a relatively good position. Although the country's economy is sufficiently productive, its management by Costa Rican government, coupled with the unequal distribution of wealth among citizens and the economic recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, may result in a fall to dangerous levels. Because a study by Diskin et al clearly states that one negative assessment of these five variables does not indicate a democratic collapse, the final assessment is that Costa Rican democracy is stable and should maintain its political regime in the near future.