

Abstract

The subject of this thesis is the presidential system as one of the distinguished alternatives of existing political systems in the present democratic society. This thesis is divided into three parts. The primary aim of the first part is to produce a brief overview of individual political systems and to outline their mutual differences through the description of their characteristics. The second part describes a specific political system in this world – namely the United States of America which became the source of inspiration for all subsequently established systems of this type. This part focusing on the United States is then divided into three separate chapters where each of them provides a view of particular branches of the government which form a constitutional system of the state together. These chapters offer not only the characteristics of these particular government branches and their central government bodies, but they also explain their mutual relationship and the control mechanism and particularly their relation to the President who is the key character of the entire presidential system, also his office and his powers. The main source of information, from which this part of the thesis proceeds, is the United States Constitution itself which is, as the supreme law of the state, the crucial source of the law establishing the American constitutional system. The Constitution is accompanied by a countless number of federal statutes and resolutions passed by the Congress within more than 200 year long history of the United States. Finally, the especially important source of knowledge as well as the source of law lies within abundant judicial decisions of federal courts, mainly the United States Supreme Court, whose binding legal opinions made it possible to complete the present form of the American presidentialism. In this thesis, some of these principal judicial decisions were analysed in more detail as they help to illustrate the function of certain constitutional institutes in practice. The third and the final part of this thesis seeks to evaluate presidential systems with respect to their strengths and weakness and to point out some hidden risks which can emerge if this type of political system is adopted in an unacquainted and insufficiently informed way.