

## **Abstract**

The diploma thesis entitled "Analysis of Croatian-Italian bilateral relations with focus on Italian territorial aspirations" deals with the issue of the same name. The work deals with the analysis of bilateral relations between Croatia and Italy in the last twenty years. Focus is placed on the main problematic moments in relations between the two states. Despite the obvious Italian territorial aspirations both in Istria and in other former Italian territories on the eastern Adriatic coast, Italian-Croatian bilateral relations remain relatively stable. The aim of this work is to explain this phenomenon and answer the research question whether this irredentist rhetoric had and still has a different goal, such as serving for domestic political purposes as one of the populist topics and whether these individual statements of Italian politicians had or still have influence on bilateral relations. On the basis of the (neo) liberal approach and the theoretical concepts based on it (the concept of democratic peace, the concept of interdependence and the concept of transformational power of integration) and through the mentioned problematic points where irredentist rhetoric of individual Italian politicians plays an important role, seeks consequences and suitable explanations. This is a thesis which, in addition to the analysis of bilateral relations, critically reflects on individual theoretical concepts.