

Abstract

The bachelor thesis is concerned with the Czech Social Democratic Party and focuses on the election failures of the party in the last two decades. The main objective is to answer the question: What caused the electoral decline of one of the most influential political parties in the Czech Republic? The author identifies potential sources of such a decline. In the theoretical part, he discusses the problems of social democracies on the European continent in the context of the global financial crisis of 2008, which he sees as one of the general factors behind the decline of these parties. In the case of CSSD, the author adds the failed attempt to modernize CSSD, which may have contributed to its decline. In the practical part, both factors are examined in more detail with a specific focus on the CSSD. Using the method of synchronic comparison, the author compares the changes in the electoral success of individual social democratic parliamentary parties in the period 2010-2021. The second factor, concerning the electoral performance of the CSSD after the party's modernization, is examined in the context of the movement of voters and the emergence of new political parties based on the analysis of sociological data. The results confirm the author's assumption that the increasing electoral decline of the CSSD is closely linked to the financial crisis of 2008, which was the catalyst for the global decline of social democracies in Europe, including the CSSD. The results also confirm the second assumption. The failed attempt to modernize the party, its gradual transformation into a cartel party and the associated outflow of voters to alternative and newly formed parties that better represented their needs and expectations, was a significant factor behind the gradual decline of the CSSD.