

Abstract

The aim of the bachelor thesis was to find out what reasons led the European right-wing populist parties to articulate their pro-Russian attitudes in the political and media environment after the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014. Based on two case studies, the paper analyzes pro-Russian attitudes of the European parties: Italian *Lega*, (English: League) and Austrian *Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs*, FPÖ, (English: The Freedom Party of Austria) between 2014 and 2019 in the European Parliament and in the media. It also examines the nature of this alliance from the perspective of political parties. The subject of the analysis was to monitor the degree of consistency of pro-Russian attitudes of both parties before and after they became a part of national governments, and the aim was to reveal whether the motivation of both parties was driven by ideological affinity with Russia, pragmatic motives, or a combination of both. At the same time, the paper tries to show how the real politics and rhetoric of populist parties change at the time when these parties are in power.