

Abstract:

This Bachelor's thesis is dealing with the approach of the Palestinian autonomy to the negotiations over the final status of Jerusalem while observing the development of nationalism in Palestine. More precisely, the work is looking into the changes of Palestinian nationalism in the 1990's. Palestine was dominated by secular nationalism, represented by PLO with Jasir Arafat in the lead. However, in the course of peace negotiations Arafat changed his stand and started to use religious (Islamic) elements in his rhetoric. Thus, this thesis is asking a research question about what caused the shift of Arafat and whether the utilization of Islamic symbols can be considered as a shift from secular to religious nationalism. On the basis of a research, the author is assuming that the shift was mainly pragmatic aiming to maintain the support of Palestinians. The reason was that Islamism, most distinctively represented by Hamas, began to grow stronger in the 1990's with ambitions to take control over the Palestinian territory. Arafat's shift towards Islam can be best observed in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations about Jerusalem which were recommenced as a part of peace negotiations. Firstly, the author will be inquiring the shift of nationalism from secularity to religiousness using a theoretic approach of Mark Juergensmeyer. Secondly, a brief factual account of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Jerusalem will be presented. Next, she will be analyzing the ideological shift of PLO looking into milestones in the negotiations about the final status of Jerusalem while expanding her argument by comparing it with an ideological shift of Zionism in Israel.

Key words:

Jerusalem, Palestinian nationalism, secularism, religious nationalism, Islamism, Jasir Arafat