

Abstract

Bachelor thesis “Debate about the introduction of a Bill of Rights in the United Kingdom“ deals with a debate which has been taking place in the United Kingdom since 2007 and which mainly considers the possibility of introducing an original British Bill of Rights. The thesis presents the most important moments of the debate and opinions of its most significant participants. These are politicians, scholars in the fields of constitutional law and human rights as well as non-governmental organisations, think-tanks and pressure groups. The thesis analyses their arguments and opinions and examines which of these arguments are the most often mentioned and are the most influential. In general, the debate deals most with the questions whether a Bill of Rights should be introduced, what it should include and how it should be entrenched. The character and the content of the debate are significantly affected by the discussion of the current protection of rights in the country. This has been since 1998 represented by the Human Rights Act which incorporated the European Convention on Human Rights into the constitutional system. Its critique stood at the beginning of the debate about a Bill of Rights and the thesis argues that it belongs among the most important arguments for the introduction of a new Bill of Rights. The second group of arguments emphasises above all the fact that a Bill of Rights could enhance human rights protection and could include rights which are not part of the Human Rights Act. Participants of the debate who refuse the introduction of a Bill of Rights mention mainly the risk that its introduction could be misused to limit human rights protection. In their opinion, the debate is significantly influenced by concerns that emphasis on human rights of individuals endangers security of society.