

## **Abstract**

Diploma thesis *Conflict Resolution in International Relations: The Case Study of Northern Ireland Conflict* examines development of the conflict and peace process between the years of 1980 and 2007. A complex concept of conflict analysis by Peter Wallensteen is applied to the case of Northern Ireland. Using the method of process tracing allows for a detailed understanding of the transformation of conflict dynamics from negative to positive. Such a transformation results from behavior and attitudes of individual actors who act positively and in a constructive way. The following actors were identified as the main parties to the conflict: IRA, Northern Ireland political parties – mostly the UUP, DUP, SDLP, and SF – governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Development of their attitudes and interests is examined with respect to five distinct categories: involvement of independent authorities and/or third parties; ideology and understanding of the main goals; economic conditions; cultural aspects; and the matter of decommissioning. The Northern Ireland case illustrates that the change of behavior eventually led to the transformation of the conflict and its resolution. However, it also illustrates how painfully slow process it was.