

## Abstract

The bachelor thesis "*Defective democracies in Latin America*" is focused on the theory concerning issue of defective democracies presented by Wolfgang Merkel. In the theoretical part there are introduced the common grounds of defective democracies, causes of their emergence and three main types of defective democracies which were defined by Merkel. These three types are namely exclusive, domain and illiberal democracies that can be classified according to an evaluation of six criteria defined by Merkel. In addition Wolfgang Merkel and Aurel Croissant considered the prospects and they outlined three distinct scenarios of the foreseeable future, namely the regressive scenario, the stability scenario and the progression scenario. In following sections there is analysed the specific case of Latin American country, Chile. The main aim of this thesis is to assess the statement that a development of Chile towards the defective democracy was predetermined by historical assumptions. Therefore, in the second section there is described the Chilean history from the declaration of independence to the present. Consequently, the case of Chile in 1990s is analysed by the application of Merkel's criteria and the result is a classification of Chile as an domain democracy. On the base of reports published by organizations like Freedom House, World Economic Forum or Transparency International, a development after the year 2000 is examined and it can be considered as the development according to the progression scenario.