

Abstract

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to analyze the political evolution of two Latvian politicians, Alfred Rubiks and Tatyana Zhdanok, both of whom are currently members of the European Parliament. Also, both of them fought actively against the Latvian independence in the turn of the 1980s and 1990s, when the USSR began to crumble. This paradox is highlighted by the fact that both of the politicians are banned by law from participating in general and local elections in Latvia.

The first chapter introduces the reader to the circumstances, causes and consequences of the polarization, dividing the society and politics into two groups, the sympathizers and contestants of independence, in the former Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic in the late 1980s. Understanding of those factors is crucial to the analysis of the political biographies of the two politicians, as they affected their political evolution significantly.

The following two chapters are formed by the proper analysis of the two political biographies of Rubiks and Zhdanok. They provide answers to questions: How did the socio-economic origin of the two politicians influence their political carrier? What was their position during the transformation mentioned above and what were their key arguments? In what role did they appear on the political spectrum of the independent Latvia? And finally how were they impacted by the Latvian adherence to the European Union?

Conclusions of the analysis of the two biographies of Rubiks and Zhdanok are compared in the final chapter.