

Abstract of the Diploma Paper „ Transitions to Democracy ”

Transition of a particular country from an undemocratic political regime to mostly that of democratic is a head subject regarded by many experts and general public. It may seem that democratic regime is a matter of course nowadays; however, the truth is unlike. The democratic regime dominates scarcely in the half of all countries in the world.

Regarding to the situation in northern Africa and other Arabic countries, it has recently been more and more proved that changes of political regimes, especially from the undemocratic to the democratic ones, are taken as a current subject matter not only today, but also in the following days, weeks, months and years. This is why I am focusing on the theme of Transitions to Democracy in my diploma thesis.

The thesis is divided into four chapters. First chapter, named Democracy, deals with the conception of democracy. One cannot define the word “democracy” by just one feature, therefore, criteria of volition and division of democracy into the constitutional liberalism and illiberal democracy by Fareed Zakaria is fundamental in my work.

Second chapter is focused on the undemocratic regimes. Definitions of these regimes are important mainly for understanding why they had been transferred or why they are to be transferred, and for specification of how the transition had been proceeding in the past or how it will possibly be proceeding in the future. A close attention is also paid to the totalitarianism, authoritarianism, sultanism and post-totalitarian regimes.

Transition to democracy is the main subject of the third chapter. There is an explanation of what democracy means, its history and beginnings of transition research of democracy. The fourth chapter is divided into four subchapters – waves of democratization, reasons of waves of democratization consisting of theoretical models and models presented by Huntington, typology of transition splitted into two areas: the end of undemocratic regime and single types of transitions. The last subchapter is concentrated on the periods in which, according to the subdivision of two politologists Rustow and Przeworski, the transition proceeds.

Fourth chapter covers the current development of democracy in the world. It is based on an American research organization Freedom House.

The topic “Transitions to Democracy” is difficult to elaborate. There were always different reasons and circumstances in all countries that had already faced any kind of transition into the democratic regime. Transition to democracy is unique in each country. Nevertheless, there are theoretical models which serve to generalize this issue and define how a potential transition to democracy would be like. This diploma thesis delivers a summary of the most important and the most significant theories which have been treated in the works of famous politologists from all over the world. Transition to democracy is neither a simple nor a clear-cut process, it is a process which is definitely incomparable in each particular country. It is, therefore, up to a reader how this issue could be taken and understood properly.