

## **Abstract**

The thesis focuses on a historical narrative promoted by president Putin during his first two terms in office during the years 2000 – 2008. Furthermore it aims to analyse the consequences of Putin's uses of history on the domestic and the international level. First, theoretical aspects of political use of history are drafted since they are essential to understand the role history plays in a nation-building process. Consequently, tools used to promote a certain historical narrative are mentioned. The work describes main problems related to the formation of Russian post-Soviet identity and analyses causes of Yeltsin's failure in this task. Subsequently, Putin's political visions such as a need of strong Russia and restoration of great power status are presented. The work also identifies how Putin's political goals project into his view of history. The main characteristics of Putin's historical narrative are analysed on a basis of secondary literature and Putin's speeches. The thesis focuses separately on Putin's use of symbols of three Russian historical époques – the Tsarist Russia, the Soviet Union and the Yeltsin era. Emphasis is put on Putin's attitude towards the Soviet past since his Second World War narrative and his view of Stalin represent a major source of controversies. The consequences of Putin's narrative on historical consciousness of Russians and on Russian foreign relations are evaluated in the conclusion.