

The thesis Revision of french constitution in 2008 analyses french case of the constitutional revision initiated by Nicolas Sarkozy in 2007. This case study focuses on the complex way of modifying constitution in France. It was the biggest constitutional revision in the history of The Fifth Republic. The aim of this revision was to modernise institutions and their better equilibrium.

The thesis is divided into two main parts. First chapter mainly analyses the propositions of Committee of reflexion about modernisation and equilibrium of institutions of The Fifth Republic, called Committee of Balladur. This Committee proposed 77 suggestions. Three main goals of this revision were declared: a better control of executive power, reinforcement of Parliament and new right for the citizens. Second chapter focuses concretely on the constitutional law n°2008-724 from 23 July 2008. This paper analyses how the three initially declared goal were accomplished.

Concerning the executive power, the powers of the president was limited mainly symbolically in several constitutional articles. His mandate is limited to two succeeding mandates, some of his nomination are newly controlled by Parliament, he has no more power to grant a general pardon. But we can not consider these symbolical changes as a real limitation of executive power. The role of the Parliament is newly specified in the constitution and its role reinforced in several domains. For example the Parliament can newly vote the resolutions, control some presidential nominations and actions of military force. Concerning new rights for the citizens, main amendment is that the citizens can initiate the referendum, but only with support of members of the Parliament.