

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the cooperation of Croatia and Serbia with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Using the comparison of cooperation of these two countries reveals the reasons why Croatia reached a satisfactory cooperation six years earlier than Serbia. Since the thesis is based on the assumption that the causes may be found in domestic political affairs, it analyzes the political, social and legal developments linked to cooperation with the Tribunal in both countries. However, since cooperation is also largely dependent on external actors, in particular the EU, its role is often analyzed. The thesis is divided into two main chapters, each of which contains three subsections - political, social and legal. The analysis focuses on the period after 2000, when the major democratic political changes in both countries occurred. In the case of Croatia the analysis ends in 2005, when the last Croatian accused have been transferred, which in the case of Serbia happened in 2011, so the analysis of Serbia dates to that year. The thesis concludes that an important turning point on the political level happened in 2003, when the situation in Croatia has been consolidated and political parties joined in the promotion of cooperation with the ICTY. Nothing like this had happened in Serbia and most parties were at least until 2008 against cooperation. Public opinion seems to have no direct impact on cooperation, but the society showed its priorities in the elections, when Croats supported parties which were in favor of cooperation with the ICTY and integration into the EU. The majority of Serbs voted contrary for nationalist and anti-European parties. The fact that Croatia had a law for cooperation with the ICTY years earlier than Serbia, might have played a role in the delay of Serbian cooperation with ICTY, but the laws adoption showed to be no guarantee for it.