

## **Abstract**

Gibraltar is the only dependent territory in Europe. Although it is a small area, Gibraltar mixes different factors that together form the so-called question of Gibraltar. Gibraltar belongs to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is a colony, which, however, has considerable autonomy. The process of gaining greater autonomy for the region began after the Second World War. The Gibraltar national consciousness was largely shaped by defining out against London and especially to Madrid.

In this thesis I examine a process of the national consciousness from the point of view of the theories of secession. I consider the question why does the desire for independence have not yet led to an independent state? Why is Gibraltar still in alliance with the British royal crown? The research is devoted to Gibraltar and nationalism from the point of view of the Gibraltarians. Who are they? Do they see themselves as a nation? How do they justify their conviction? And are they satisfied with the existing constitutional order in Gibraltar?

Using the theories of secession I conclude that the Gibraltar nation have developed to a distinctive nation. Autonomy granted to him permits decision-making in most areas. The Gibraltarians do not aspire to the independence and secession from the United Kingdom at present. The relation with the United Kingdom suits them, because it guarantees the existence of such Gibraltar as we know it today. London is their protector in the international affairs and the guarantee against the Spanish territorial claims.