

Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with the Dutch political Party for Freedom (PVV) and its leader Geert Wilders. PVV is basically known as an extreme right party based on its anti-immigration policy and criticism of Islam. Its leader Geert Wilders considers Islam not to be a religion but rather a political ideology which is dangerous the same way communism or Nazism used to be. However Wilders denies labeling himself as an extreme right politician. He argues that his aim is to preserve Dutch liberal values and its identity. He tends to reject deeper integration of the Netherlands to the European Union as well. The aim of this thesis is to examine whether the PVV can be qualified as an extreme right populist party according to the Rydgren's theory, which strictly defines extreme, right and populist aspects of this party family.

The second aim of this thesis is to examine the position of the PVV on the current political scene in the Netherlands. The success of the party has started since the Dutch society has radicalized. The main reason for its radicalization was political assassination of Pim Fortuyn in 2002 and murder of Theo Van Gogh two years later. Since PVV was established, the party has participated in general elections three times: in 2006, 2010 and 2012. After the elections of 2012, the party lost 5.4% of votes compared to its election results in 2010. Despite of its declining support, PVV is currently the third largest party in Dutch parliament. The main reason of losing voters is that Geert Wilders did not follow the principle of consensus and caused the fall of government in 2012.