

Abstract

This bachelor's thesis deals with the primary and secondary causes and possible features of the riots in Albania in 1997. As the primary cause of the conflict the crash of the pyramid schemes and the subsequent economic collapse are identified. The thesis aims to prove that the first step toward the conflict was made earlier. The lack of democratic transformation and dysfunctional state apparatus after the fall of communism has become a prerequisite for the outbreak of the conflict. From March 1992 to June 1997 the Democratic Party reigned under the leadership of Sali Berisha. Since the post-communist transformation took place mainly in the first half of the nineties, it is assumed that the Democratic Party with Sali Berisha was instrumental in the emergence of the conflict. The hypothesis is that President Berisha not only caused, but also deliberately deepened the conflict. Two Albanian ethnicities Ghegs and Tosks play an important role in determining the causes of the conflict. Their relations are not completely idyllic and during the historic events rivalry and tension have frequently resurfaced. In the time of communism problems between Ghegs and Tosks were pushed into the background and therefore the thesis assumes that during the post-communist transformation disputes between Ghegs and Tosks deepened as much to imply that the riots in 1997 can be characterized as a conflict with ethnic features.