

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis deals with camarilla changes of three Russian rulers. Sources and literature of this theme are dealt in the thesis introduction. Camarilla, favourite, favouritism and absolutism are defined in another chapter. Subsequent chapters deal with particular rulers, their accession to the throne, key government institutions and mainly with the most important camarilla members. Last chapter compares the three regimes. Firstly it goes in for qualifications of rulers to rule. Further it compares their favourites and then it focusses at the most successful persons who were able to maintain their position throughout several regimes and gives reply to questions if those people had common features which were reasons for success and if these positions sometimes changed or remained constant.

**Key words:** camarilla, tzarina, regent, favourite, foreigners, 18th century, palace coups, autocracy, Cabinet of ministers, Senate, Guards