Abstract

The thesis discusses the uprising of Zapatista Army of National Liberation and its impact on democratization and political transformation in Mexico. First, it looks into the context of the political situation in Mexico before 1994, history of Zapatista army and the election year of 1994. The reasons for the uprising were several - from neoliberalism in the Mexican economy and the completion of the land reform until the joining of NAFTA. During the uprising, Mexico was an authoritarian regime with a government of one party - the Institutional Revolutionary Party. The Zapatistas have tried to proclaim the change of direction of Mexican politics. The actual rebellion lasted only 12 days before the start of negotiations between the government and rebels. Thanks to the media and broad international support, the uprising evolved into a left-wing movement, fighting for the rights of the Indian population and the poorer Mexican inhabitants. Over the years the Zapatistas have achieved partial success and often provide direction for the political transition. The main subject of this thesis is examining the impact of democratization on the Zapatistas in Mexico.