ABSTRACT

In my Bachelor thesis entitled “JOSÉ MARTÍ – life and work with orientation to his essays Madre América and Nuestra América” I am going to pursue two of his principal essays titled Madre América and Nuestra América which contain Martí’s ideas related to the self-determination of the nations of Latin America.

In order to analyse the respective themes, I consider necessary to introduce the author first. In my opinion, José Martí is one of the most important figures in the Cuban colonial era; he represents also one of the most influential ideological leaders of the Cuban independence war. His ideas about the Latin American roots, the union and the independent and equitable society also inspired the history of the whole Latin America.

José Martí was also an outstanding figure in the world of literature. His complete works include poetry, articles, essays as well as dramas and one novel. Because of that I find appropriate to describe briefly his literary work.

The crucial part consists in the analysis of the essays mentioned above, which deal with the roots of Latin America. According to Martí, the recognition of these roots and the faith in them will lead to the liberty of every Latin American nation; it will help to reach the unity among all of them and to avoid foreign influence. In the words of Martí, primarily the United States of America may negatively influence the future of Latin American nations due to their economic and political expansionism.

Martí’s ideas have been present from the end of the 19th century up to now. We can find their steps in Cuban culture as well as in some political ideologies and regimes. However, Latin American history has shown that in many of them, Martí’s ideas have been misinterpreted by political leaders who only want to reach their own aims.