

Abstract

The subject of this thesis is the description of two current normative models of democracy which were created by John Rawls and Jürgen Habermas. The aim of this thesis is to describe the most important ideas of these authors presented in their major works, compare them with each other and then highlight some similarities and differences. I will focus on their vision for western democratic societies and international dimension of their theories. I will focus on methodology as well. The question I would like to answer is: to which extent could be these theories of democracy considered as the theories of liberal democracy?

First I will deal with John Rawls's approach. In *A Theory of Justice* he introduced interesting idea of the social contract restoration and the establishment of two principles of justice in the original position. This work can be read as defence of human rights. Next I will focus on *Political Liberalism*. In *Political liberalism* Rawls is interested in securing human and civic rights for members of modern pluralist democracies. He is introducing here the idea of an overlapping consensus. This idea should maintain the stability of a system. *The Law of Peoples* is the attempt to bring his theory to international level. Next I will move to Jürgen Habermas. I will mention his early works - *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* and *Legitimation Crisis*. Then I will be concerned with *The Theory of Communicative Action*, in which Habermas examines the role of language in social cooperation. In *Between Facts and Norms* Habermas introduced his model of deliberative democracy based on the ideas of *The Theory of Communicative Action*. The last discussed topic will be Habermas's vision of international relations which he put forth in *The Postnational Constellation*.