

## **Abstract**

Bachelor's thesis is primarily focused on evolution of the Welsh Office (that was founded in 1964) and its role in devolution context. This institution is considered as one of the main innovations of the British regional administration within the territory of Wales during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Text is evaluating political and cultural situation in Wales in relation to Great Britain. Followed by periodical chapter about institution itself – what preceded its establishment, office's function and process of earning powers step by step with focus on character and position of the Secretary of State for Wales, up to successful devolution referendum in 1997. Thereafter the Welsh Office formally ended its activity. Then the research is focused on transfer of powers from the Welsh Office to the newly established National Assembly of Wales under circumstances of the Government of Wales Act 1998 and the role of successor institution – the Wales Office. The aim of this work is to evaluate and describe the role of the Welsh Office, examined the main hypothesis that the Welsh Office and its staff were crucial during the decentralization process in the Welsh region. Another hypothesis is focused on the main political parties of the United Kingdom, whether each party contributed to the realization of devolution in Wales. Resource base is made up by historical and political science surveys and evaluations of the Welsh Office, another important sources are acts and bills concerning devolution model in association with Wales.