

Bibliographic note

STAHL, C. (2014): *Cleavage Politics and Europeanisation-induced transformation of the national political space – The Case of the Czech Republic*, 94 p. Master thesis, Charles University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of International Studies. Supervisor: doc. PhDr. Jiří Vykoukal, CSc.

Abstract

This research seeks to map the national political space and assess the prevailing cleavage patterns in the Czech Republic. Processes of globalisation and Europeanisation have left their imprint in Western Europe – splitting the electorate into *winners* and *losers* of globalisation and denationalisation. This *demarcation vs. integration* magnet is also relevant in the CEE region – altering and reshuffling the underlying structure of party competition and EU contestation.

By employing quantitative content analysis of print media the prevailing issue and cleavage dimensions will be reconstructed both during early stages of democratic transition (1996 Parliamentary elections) and after the 2004-EU-enlargement (2010 elections).

While the political discourse and politics in the 1990s are primarily structured by issues of economic transition and post-communist transformation (underlying the classical socio-economic cleavage between market and state), in 2010 also cultural and post-materialist political issues mark the political agenda. Under closer inspection it becomes apparent that the valence issue of *political corruption* is most relevant and addressed by almost all parties in 2010. The expected cultural divide in the European context is visible and potentially conflictive, but for now rather marginal and of secondary importance. Czech political parties, such as the Dawn for Direct Democracy (UPD) have articulated and politicised the cultural divide since the 2013 elections, but it remains to be seen how other parties will react and respond in the near future.

Keywords: cleavages, political parties, political space, transformation, European integration/EU, Czech Republic, media content analysis, correspondence analysis