

## Abstract

Master thesis „*The Crisis of French concept of laïcité*“ ponders the current status of *laïcité* in the atmosphere of contemporary France. General feeling in French society is characterized by a negative attitude of ethnic Frenchmen towards the growing presence of Islam which is accentuated by growing Muslim’s demands in economic and social fields. Main goal of this thesis is to prove that the contemporary state of the concept of *laïcité* can be perceived as a crisis which comes through the differences between perceptions of principles based on *laïcité*. This notion will be proved on the basis of the theory of social constructionism complemented by the *two-way-protection* theory which deals with relations between state and churches. The hypothesis anticipates that Muslims, Catholics, Non-believers and even the State are using principles of *laïcité* depending on actual situation and impact of different actors and in order to ensure their own interests. Thereby they create the concept *laïcité* as a social construct. The main field in which the thesis proves this hypothesis is the French school system which is crucial for forming and maintaining the Republic and its values. The hypothesis is argued by several concrete examples such as several legislative measures adopted by the French state, for instance the law banning conspicuous religious symbols in public schools, the Charter of *laïcité* in the schools and so-called affaire *Baby-Loup*.