

The graduation thesis „The Washout of Elite Replacement as a Factor in the Failure of Democracy in Russia“ deals with Russian elite during the government of the presidents Boris Yeltzin and Vladimir Putin. Its goal is to describe its composition and depict its change in time. This general portrait of the elite is supplemented with biographies of the representatives of Russian elite in a given period.

The thesis draws on an extensive theoretical material, which tries to comprehend (describe) the elite phenomenon and its role in the transitive period. This theoretical basics should be helpful for understanding its role in society, especially during the turning points.

This graduation thesis perceives structure of ruling elite as a key factor for the form and quality of political regime. The main groups, which Russian elite is composed of, are introduced. An emphasis is put on the way how these groups are incorporated into the elite (i.e. on the recruitment process) and which sort of society works as its staff supply. A great number of this staff originating from secret services and military is considered a bottle-neck of a functional liberal democracy in Russia.