

The theme of this thesis is strongly connected to its aim which is to distinguish and describe the causes of the rise of the United Kingdom Independence Party. The introduction provides us with the brief history of the party and its election results. The next step considers the classification of the UKIP which leads us to consideration that party does not match perfectly to any party group. Still the theoretical frame of populist radical right parties seems to be the most suitable for examining UKIP.

According to assumptions of this theory it was plausible to determine potential causes of the rise of the UKIP: process of modernization, economic dimension, Euroscepticism, crisis and populism, ethnic issue and immigration, authoritarian intentions, voting system, evolution of party competition and internal supply of UKIP. Final analytical part of this thesis is designated to evaluate each cause.

The findings of this paper correspond to original hypotheses. Thesis comes to conclusion that the most important voters' motives to vote UKIP are their Eurosceptic, populist and anti-immigration attitudes. This clearly corresponds to party's own policies and presentation. While process of modernization and development in party competition created suitable environment for the rise of the party. The voting system has strong influence on final figures of UKIP's electoral gains. The rise of the UKIP is also supported by its more stable structure and wider policy agenda that encompasses those important causes mentioned above.