Abstract

With the emergence of Irish Free State, the Catholic Church found a partner who happened to be catholic as well. The relationship between the church and the state was characterized by high influence which the church enjoyed in different spheres of society. This bachelor thesis examines the influence on two of them. The first chapter provides basic information about connection between nationalism and religion. The second chapter describes relationship of the church and the state in primary and secondary education and observes reluctance of the state to change status quo in any way and to contest strong status of the church. The third chapter deals with the topic of so-called “politics of morality” and notes the problems whose solution with accordance to catholic teaching was important for the church and the pressure which catholic groups put on politicians. Aside from providing basic insight into the situation, the goal of this work is to answer three questions: First, how was the relationship of the church and the state influenced by the idea of Irish ethnic-confessional identity – did it facilitate projection of the church influence? Secondly, was the relationship one-sided, or did the state received something in return? Thirdly, how did this relationship between the church and the state affect position of the Protestant minority? In the conclusion, gathered information is summarized and the questions answered.