

Abstract

This thesis is focused on countries which do not have their own armies, especially those which had an army in the past but decided to abolish it. The main part of the thesis is a comparison of two particular countries - Panama and Costa Rica - having undergone a process of demilitarization in the last century. The thesis aims to identify factors which conditioned a contradictory post-demilitarization development of the respective countries and clarify their motivation to abolish their armies. The thesis is divided into four chapters. The first one is to introduce the contemporary army-less countries to a reader. Second chapter, the theoretical one, deals with praetorianism - a situation when an army becomes a dominant element of the executive and the society as a whole. Chapters number three and four are detailed case studies of Panama and Costa Rica.