

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with relationship between Israeli Defense Forces and Israeli society, how are the relations influenced by religion in the army, ethnic diversion in society and the approach of the Israeli army in several internal and external conflicts. First chapter is focused on the army itself, describes the conflicts that army went through. Then it analyzes current status of the personal side of the Forces, number of soldiers, ethnic diversity, etc. It also deals with the process of conscription to the army. Next part analyzes the link between the army and Judaism. Judaism is connected with the army from the 70s of 20th century and it has a significant influence on the army ever since. That started to be reflected into the relation of Israeli society with the army. Apart from the religion, this chapter also focuses on the ethnicity in the army, both between Jews and other ethnicities and partition in the Jewish society itself. In the last chapter, the paper analyzes results of opinion polls made from 2003 to 2012 where it tracks the percentage of trustworthy of the Israeli army and other aspects connected with the relations of society towards the Israeli Defense Forces. The influence of religion, ethnicity and conflicts is evaluated as some of the key effects for the formation of the attitude of Israeli society towards the Israeli army. The influence of conflicts depends on the rate of engagement and the accomplishments of the army in those conflicts. Religion forms this relationship by the engagement or more likely disengagement of the religious Jews in the army. Ethnicity concatenate the Jewish community in Israeli society, but divide this community internally.