

Abstract

Bachelor thesis „Causes of rise and fall of poujadist movement: analysis of a French extremist movement in the 1950s” dedicates to a poujadist movement – poujadism, which acted in postwar France in the period 1953 – 1959. Poujadism was created from small revolts in southwestern French city Saint-Céré, which transformed into a Defence Union of Shopkeepers and Craftsmen (*Union de défense des commerçants et des artisans*, further just UDCA) after its widening. The UDCA stood out as an organ unifying French retailers, craftsmen and farmers within their fight against high taxes and tax controls. From the beginning a French retailer Pierre Poujade was the forehead of the UDCA and his impact on the movement was so high that the movement was called the Poujade’s movement or simply poujadism. The aim of this analysis is to detect which factors had the greatest impact on rise of poujadism and on the contrary which one caused its fall. The thesis is consisted of two chapters of the similar range. The first chapter is concerned on the poujadism’s rise in the period 1953 - 1956, in the context of which examines for example the impact of Poujade’s charisma on the movement or the politicization of the UDCA which led to a greatest success of poujadism - gain 12,5 % within parliamentary election in 1956. The second chapter is focused on the sharp fall of poujadism in the period 1956 - 1959 in which consequences the thesis is concentrated on the factor of unsuccessful politicization of the UDCA or on demission of eminent members. This analysis concludes that the main causes of rise of poujadism was the utilization of social - economic situation of French retailers, craftsmen and farmers, apolitical character of the UDCA and Pierre Poujade’s charismatic abilities. In question of the main causes of poujadism’s fall is possible to incorporate unsuccessful politicization of the movement and demission of eminent members. In both factors had a huge impact ex-poujadist Jean- Marie Le Pen.