

Abstract

The topic of this study is the formation and activity of Union of Democratic Forces in Bulgaria between 1989 and 1992 in comparison with the Civic Forum during the same time period. UDF was established in December 1989 as a reaction to weakening of the communist regime and dissatisfaction of the general public with the regime. Both political movements successfully became the main actors of roundtable negotiations with the representatives of regimes and as a result the movements had the chance to form the new democratic arrangements, especially pluralistic party systems. Meanwhile Civic Forum had a strong position during the roundtable negotiations thanks to the public support, Union of Democratic Forces had harder position because of strong popularity of Bulgarian Communist Party and insufficient internal organization. The differences in formation and development of both movements caused very different results - CF was able to participate in the governance of Czechoslovakia within months of its own establishment, UDF, on the other hand, formed a minority government almost two years after the formation of movement. Development and extinction of CF was much faster compared to UDF which slowly became marginalized after 2002. Both movements had large influence on party systems of newly-formed democracies and importance of both actors on political systems can still be registered in both countries nowadays.