

## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis analyses the theme of the cause of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992-1995. It specifically elaborates the theory of manipulative elites on the case of the Serbian political elite, which is generally considered to be crucial for launching hatreds in Yugoslavia after the change of regime at the turn of the 80s and 90s. Territorially, the work is focused on the region of the former Yugoslavia, with emphasis on Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It analyses the period just before the outbreak of the Yugoslav conflict, i.e. at the turn of the 1980s and 1990s, including the beginning of the first half of the nineties. The work is conducted in the form of a case study. The purpose of this bachelor thesis is to verify the validity of the theory of manipulative elites on the case of Serbian elites' behaviour at the turn of the 80s and 90s of 20th century and the impact of conflictual strategies, which they created, on the triggering of ethnic conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the first part of my thesis I present competitive theories explaining the causes of ethnic conflicts and I also justify the choice of Gagnon's theory of manipulative elites from 1990s. The following theoretic chapter describes individual components of the theory in detail. Then I apply these components to specific examples of actions of Serbian leaders in empirical part of work using newer literature.