

Abstract

The bachelor thesis discusses the process of democratization in Slovakia in the years 1989-1998 and tries to answer the question whether this process was successful. The thesis analyzes various factors that have influenced the course of democratic consolidation. The work is based on the theoretical concept of democratic consolidation of the authors Samuel P. Huntington, Juan J. Linz and Stepan C. Alfred. This thesis focuses on the single territory in a certain period of time, therefore the main method used is the case study. In addition to the case study, a comparative method and various statistical data are used. For a better understanding of the issue, consolidation within Czechoslovakia and Slovakia is compared, as well as individual electoral programs and their subsequent application and compliance in practice. The analysis of democratic consolidation in Slovakia is conducted on the basis of a study of selected literature, media archives and relevant internet resources.

The thesis is divided into 5 main chapters. The first chapter deals with the theoretical basis of democratization and the concepts of individual authors. The second chapter evaluates Slovakia and the democratic transition itself, namely the Velvet Revolution, the emergence of political parties and movements, free elections and economic transformation. The third chapter focuses on the beginning of democratic consolidation, which has still seemed successful. It analyzes the first democratic government of Slovakia, the rise of Vladimir Meciar and HZDS, and the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federation. The fourth chapter analyzes the factors that negatively affected democratic consolidation in a given time period. The final chapter talks about a positive reversal in politics and the resumption of the process of democratic consolidation, the emergence of a coalition against Meciar and the resolution of the international isolation of Slovakia.

The author concluded that the process of democratic consolidation in the years 1989-1998 in Slovakia was not successful. Democratic consolidation began after Velvet Revolution, and from the beginning the process seemed successful, but after the split of the Czech and Slovak Federations, it gradually began to slow down until it completely stopped. The process of democratic consolidation was re-established only after the change of government in 1998. The main cause is the personal and conceptual unpreparedness of the VPN for the changes that came after Velvet Revolution, the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federations, the weak functioning of the rule of law and the authoritative nature of Vladimir Meciar. These statements are supported by the decision of the EU and NATO to eliminate Slovakia from accession talks, and the international isolation of Slovakia.