Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the topic of voting behaviour towards the Green Party in Germany. The paper focuses specifically on the elections to the Landtag in 2016, in the two Länder Baden-Württemberg and Saxony-Anhalt. The Green Party achieved completely different results in these two elections, winning the elections in Baden-Württemberg and barely getting to the Landtag in Saxony-Anhalt. These two Länder serve as examples of the differences between the old and new Länder, which persist for almost 30 years after German reunification. The thesis tries to find answers to the questions of what specific differences in electoral behaviour towards the Green Party and its topics exist in the new and old Länder, what are the reasons and what are the consequences for German politics. The first theoretical part of the thesis presents the factors of voting behaviour, which are divided into long-term and short-term. In the second analytical part of the work, is this theory applied to a comparative case study of the two mentioned elections, which are compared on the basis of factors of voting behaviour. That means differences in the history and economic situation of Länder, the history of the Green Party and its typical voters. The party's election program, the competencies assigned to party by voters and the main candidate are also compared. Big differences can be found in almost all of these categories, but the most fundamental difference is in the history. While in Baden-Württemberg the green movement has been rooted since the 1980s, in Saxony-Anhalt it is more of a new topic due to the communist past. The Green Party is therefore unable to reach a wider range of voters in Saxony-Anhalt and respond to their problems.