

## **Abstract**

This thesis is focused mainly on the recognition of Kosovo, its subsequent withdrawal and finding factors influencing both of these acts. In order to identify them, it firstly introduces the theoretical and historical background, inter alia the debate between declaratory and constitutive theory, the brief history of Kosovo and existing explanations for both recognition and derecognition. Apart from building on previous literature, it develops a new distinction, between internal and external factors of (de)recognition, the former being connected with the characteristics of the country itself, whereas the latter with the influences of other states. Secondly, it conducts a quantitative analysis including recognition as a dependent variable and the individual factors representing independent variables. Thirdly, three cases of derecognition, Suriname, Palau and Ghana are presented in a brief descriptive analysis. The results show that both internal and external factors influence recognition to the same extent. Specifically, transnational religious ties (percentage of Muslims, or Orthodox), economic wealth and influence of other states, either by following their example (voting coincidence with the USA in the UNGA), or through alliances (membership in NATO) proved as highly significant, with domestic vulnerability, regulation of religion and ethnic ties also playing a role. In contrast, internal dynamics, especially a change in the government, seems to matter less in the case of derecognition than external factors, like a possible offer of financial aid in exchange for it. The countries could also only emulate the behaviour of others from the same region with no specific reason of their own.