

The main objective of this work is to contribute to understanding of the origin and activities of two Maoist movements in the Third World countries – the Shining Path of Peru and the Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist. The principal question of this thesis that I try to answer is: What were the causes of political success and failure of these two movements? Or to put it in another way – How did the Nepal Maoist manage to get to the Government and be the strongest parliamentary party while the rest of the Shining Path disappeared somewhere in the Peruvian jungle to become drug smugglers? To answer these questions I used a method of comparative analysis to describe some of the main characteristics of both movements. To understand both guerrilla insurrections it is necessary to analyze a historical background from which both movements emerged. There were striking similarities between the two Maoist parties. Both were born in the periphery, where people were suffering from tremendous poverty and discrimination. Both movements followed the Chinese Maoism; both used a violent revolution as the only way how to transform their societies into communist states; both put an emphasis on peasantry; both had charismatic leaders; same military strategy etc. In single chapters I describe the historical context of guerrilla wars, the movements' ideology, programs and objectives; party organization and leadership; the role of women in the movements; and the reaction of the state. Both Maoist insurrections in Peru and Nepal have been undoubtedly a sad reflection of the reality in the Third World countries. Both states were hit by the political violence, which they hadn't experienced before. There were deep roots of both rebellions and they were the results of many structural problems which have been typical for many developing countries.