

The author bases his bachelor thesis „The French Foreign Legion: Building of a New, Common Identity“ on the presumption that creating such common identity within the men who join the Legion is one of the main factors ensuring that the Foreign legion functions as a military unit.

The necessity of paying attention to the question of identity in the Legion follows the fact, that this unit consists mainly of foreigners. These men need to be formed during the training in a way that they can become a functional part of the Legion.

Observation and analysis of the means of building and maintaining the common identity in the Foreign legion forms the main contents of this thesis. The identity building itself comes in form of procedures that weaken and change the original identity of the legionaries, as well as strengthen the soldiers' loyalty towards the Legion and the sense of brotherhood among legionaries. The identity that the Legion tries to create, is also being constantly fortified by legionary symbols and traditions.

However, the loyalty of the soldiers towards the Legion isn't always strong enough, which is reflected in phenomena such a desertions. And even though the Legion functions well despite these problems, the question remains to what extent the buiding of the common legionary identity is the primary agent responsible for its functionality.