

Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses on research of the position of the Christian Democratic Party of Italy in the system of the First Republic of Italy from its origin until the so-called historic compromise in the second half of the 70's of the 20th century. The Christian Democracy played a fundamental role in the process of forming of a new democratic republic. In the parliamentary election of 1948, which were crucial for further evolution of Italy, the Christian Democracy gained victory over the Italian Communist Party and its coalition partners, also thanks to its expressive anticommunist election campaign. Then a period of centrism began, therefore coalitions of smaller centrist parties were formed around the Christian Democracy to prevent the communist's access to governments. This *conventio ad excludendum*, leading to formation of the same or similar coalitions and so to the actual absence of political alternance, therefore had significant consequences for the whole party system of the First Republic of Italy, which can also be characterised as a partitocracy (*partitocrazia*).

The thesis also analyses the internal structure of the party, its particular factions and, finally, also its relationship to the voters and especially to the regions of the so-called white subculture, where the Christian Democracy traditionally gained very important support. It also deals with the question, why it came to weakening of the Christian Democracy, which led to searching for new coalition partners, replacement of the model of clearly centrist governments by a model of left-centrist governments and finally to the so-called historic compromise.