

Abstract:

The thesis focuses on European countries which underwent so-called partial democratization in the last quarter of the 20th century. It starts from the polemic with Mansfield and Snyder who claim that a (partial) democratization leads to war. The development in Europe of the last quarter of the 20th century, however, seems to contradict this notion. The aim of the thesis is, thus, to contribute to the debate of war-proneness of democratizing states by answering the following question: What caused that the democratization did not lead to war in many cases? Due to the nature of the research question as well as to the number of cases (i.e. 20) the method applied here is qualitative comparative analysis using the so-called fuzzy set method. The application of this method as such is a secondary aim of the thesis. Possible causal conditions of the absence of war which are under study here also derive mostly from the conclusions made by Mansfield and Snyder. The main focus is put on the so-called golden parachute. Among other causes are strong institutions – conceptualized here as weak and weakened executive, political integration into international community, duration of independent statehood and at least some experience with democracy – and developed economy – conceptualized through GDP, economic integration into the world and income distribution in the society. Further, one additional condition is added, namely the ethnical homogeneity of the society. In the latter, analytical, part of the thesis, necessary and sufficient conditions for the absence of war are examined as well as their combinations.