

Abstract

The bachelor thesis considers the Spanish transition to democracy, which started after the death of General Francisco Franco in 1975. In the introduction, the thesis provides the theoretical classification of the Spanish transition taking into consideration theories of several authors. Consequently it follows the historic flow of the events, while focusing on the origins and establishing of the pluralistic party system. In the times of the dictatorship, existence of no parties was officially permitted, except for the National Movement. After the fall of the authoritative regime, Carlos Arias Navarro is swapped by Adolfo Suárez on the post of the prime minister. He establishes the basic rules for the Spanish democratization allowing new political parties to arise again. Moreover, Juan Carlos becomes the Spanish king and he expresses full support for the transition to democracy. An uncountable number of parties participate in the first democratic elections in 1977, but only some of them remain in the system and are able to contribute to the successful transition. The main political party in this period is Union of the Democratic Centre UCD that is led by Adolfo Suárez. The party system starts to change after the elections of 1979 and the next elections in 1982 are not won by the UCD, but by the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party PSOE. This is the milestone that ends the Spanish transition to democracy, Spain experiences a change of the ruling party and Spanish democracy may be considered consolidated.