

Abstract

This work focuses on development of the Czech party system after the country's transition to democracy after 1989. The research principally deals with liberal parties, their development and position in the Czech party system. Liberal parties in the Czech Republic have not been very popular in long time horizon. The main goal of the work is to analyze formation, development and eventual disintegration of liberal parties and to answer the question why liberal parties have found it difficult to establish themselves in the middle of political spectrum. The results of parliamentary elections regularly show that there is a possibility to be elected by circa 7-15% of votes - mainly from the middle-class; despite that fact, no liberal party has managed to gain a long-term support from their voters. The work describes the origin and evolution of liberalism in the world and in the Czech lands. It shows its inclusion in the left-right political spectrum and the difference between political and economic liberalism. The analysis is based on the election results [mainly to the Chamber of Deputies] from 1989 to 2010. The third chapter is devoted to the liberal parties in the past and present in the Czech Republic and in the conclusion, the work attempts to provide answers to the research questions asked in the introduction.