

## **Abstract**

This bachelor's thesis deals with the changes in the Ghanaian political system after its independence in 1957, with an emphasis on the changes made in the 90s which paved the way for democracy in Ghana. The work studies the development of Ghana's transition to democracy, particularly the actors and circumstances that allowed transition that shift. Furthermore, this thesis is analyses if transition in Ghana might be considered as completed and also if Ghana established a system that can be classified as democratic.

Right after achieving independence with Kwame Nkrumah at the helm, Ghana began a gradual descend into a totalitarian regime. He began dismantle institutions and curtailed political competition with his opponents being forced into exile. Due Nkrumah's Soviet Union leanings, the country embarked on socialist experiments and ideology which ultimately that led the country into a series of crisis.

In a short period of time (1966 – 1979), the country faced several military coup d'états that brought the country to a near economic collapse. A significant change was brought by J. J. Rawlings in 1981 and during his leadership the country gradually worked its way to democracy.

The beginning of the 90s saw J. J. Rawlings begin the process of political liberalization. A new liberal constitution allowed for multiparty democracy, which had been banned for a long time. Gradually a new independent media was been allowed, an active civil society grew out of that and alongside it, the economic situation improved. According to Freedom House, Ghana today is ranked with the highest country in political rights and civil liberties in Africa.

This work concludes that during the last two decades Ghana has undergone a relatively successful transition, yet this process is not finished. Therefore, regardless of positive steps taken and changes made, the current state of democracy in Ghana cannot be considered as a fully formed consolidated democracy.