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**Diploma thesis: The Functioning of national-separatist organizations. A Comparative study of the IRA and ETA**

**Abstract:**

The diploma thesis “The Functioning of National-Separatist Organizations. A Comparative Study of IRA and ETA” deals with two West European national-separatist organizations as well as the phenomenon of political terrorism and ethnic conflict. The selected organizations are unique among other ones as to their history and the way of functioning, and for these reasons they have been chosen for this study.

Both organizations can be considered the main source of conflict in the national separatist movement in Basque Country and Northern Ireland from the beginning of the 20th century. The basic premise is that both IRA and ETA reach their aim, which can be generalised as independence of the national states, which they are a part of, in a specific way, it being primarily terrorism. The main aim of this paper is to compare various aspects of functioning of IRA and ETA and, on the basis of these results, to evaluate if we can consider these as two organizations different from other groups of this kind as well as different from each other, although they demonstrate some similar characteristics. The aspects which are being investigated are the following: establishment and development of the organization in connection with the development of the conflict, its connection to the political system, development of the membership, the inner structure, the support from the outside world, financing of the organization as well as methods and aims to be reached.

The paper is based on the theoretical principles of rationalism and positivism. Methodological tools used are mainly qualitative and historical analysis followed by the comparative method as well as the descriptive method which is used to describe the basic theoretical assumptions and historical-political connections related to the topic. The synthesis of the findings is to be found at the end of each chapter. The comparison of these summaries leads to the conclusion that despite a number of similar characteristics both organizations can

be viewed as two completely different entities, differing not only from other organizations of this sort but also from each other.