

## **Abstract**

The Bachelor Thesis “Struggle for democracy and human rights in Cuba – the role of dissidents and non-governmental organizations” concerns a role of dissident movement in a possible democratic transition. Firstly, the paper analyses the development of theories of democratization with detailed focus on the role of ordinary people and on the enforcement of civil movement by non-governmental organizations based on studies from Ackerman, Karatnycky, Welzel and Inglehart. Regarding Cuban dissident movement, on which the thesis focuses as an instrumental study, it examines every important part and challenge that the movement is obliged to face in order to become a mass movement. Moreover, the further parts concentrate on international democratic promotion, more specifically, on the American embargo, as an example of economic sanctions, and on the Cuban projects of two particular NGOs, as an example of diplomatic pressure towards wider respect of human rights and as an example of the strengthening process of civil movement. In the conclusion, the thesis discusses possible catalyzers of democratic change in Cuba, including the role of dissident movement, reinforced by projects of NGOs, as a crucial player in possible process of democratization.