

## **Abstract**

The subject of this thesis is to analyze the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's rhetoric towards the key elements of liberal democracy defined by Larry Diamond since year 2010. The thesis follows up on previous studies in this area which address the changes in the Hungarian constitutional order and political practice of the past years. It also reacts to the public discussion about the situation in Hungary which is accompanied by criticism of the Hungarian government on the part of international institutions and non-governmental organizations. The basis for pursuing with this particular topic is Viktor Orbán's stated intention to turn away from the Hungarian state organization built on the principles of liberal democracy. The thesis raises the question in what aspects is Viktor Orbán verbally distancing himself from the elements of liberal democracy. This question is divided into three levels, examining the area of Orbán's intended state organization, Orbán's interpretation of liberal democracy, and, most importantly, the area of general remarks which express - knowingly or unconsciously - a dissociation from Diamond's elements of liberal democracy. The thesis comes to a conclusion that on all three levels Orbán takes a fairly consistent negative stance towards at least partial elements in most of Diamond's ten principles of liberal democracy. Particularly problematic are Orbán's stances on separation of powers, respecting the court decisions, and rule of law, all of which imply a preference of executive branch of power within Orbán's rhetoric.