

Abstract

The bachelor's thesis *Conditions and factors for the admission of a new state into the Union - comparison of Puerto Rico with Hawaii and Alaska* deals with the development of these three territories. Although all three territories gained territory status at the same time, subsequent developments differed. While Hawaii and Alaska were admitted to the Union as the 49th and 50th states in the late 1950s Puerto Rico remains a commonwealth territory to this day. The thesis analyses several areas chosen by the author. In the common section for all three territories, it focuses on the history before joining the US; the demography and culture of the territory; development after gaining the status of the territory until the acquisition of the status of a state or commonwealth. In the case of Puerto Rico the thesis also analyses the development from gaining commonwealth status up to the present. The author searches for the key factors influencing a development of the territory. The identified influences and conditions are subsequently analysed and decided whether necessary for the territory to be accepted into the Union. The four identified conditions for adoption are the creation of a statehood movement, societal transformation, evolution of the local political system, and consensus at the federal level. The results of the analysis further reveal the frequency and diversity among the influencing factors and the non-fulfilment of some conditions by Puerto Rico. At the same time, they outline possible positive developments in Puerto Rico's quest to become the 51st state.