

Abstract

This thesis deals with democratic erosion, mainly in form of executive aggrandizement. Thesis is based on the theory of Nancy Bermeo, who defined and started to scholarly deal with the issue of aggrandizement. Methodologically, this work uses the principles of a case study, with individual case studies being Hungary, Nicaragua, Thailand, Turkey, Mali, and Armenia, in which the subject of research is the phenomenon of executive aggrandizement in each branch of power during the years 2008 to 2018. The research questions are answered thanks to systematic analysis of branches of power within case studies. The result is discovery that across different political systems and regions there are common features in the examined cases. In all cases, except Thailand, there is a unicameral parliament present, and that the institution aggrandized first is usually the one that can threaten the continuity of executive mandate the most. Furthermore, it is possible to generalize the signs of democratic erosion. These particularly include – unconstitutional activities, manipulation of the electoral process, limitation of powers or gaining control over the legislation/judiciary/executive, etc. Finally, executive aggrandizement occurs the most over the judicial power, where research shows that the judiciary most often becomes a “target” mainly because of its function of a check on executive power. However, this thesis, among other things, complements Nancy Bermeo’s theory about which institutions are affected by the executive aggrandizement and about so-called sequencing – in what order aggrandizement occurs, i.e., in what order are the branches of power limited.