

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the consociational political system in Northern Ireland. This topic appears to be still relevant in the light of recent events, especially Brexit and the non-functional Northern Ireland Assembly. The political system of Northern Ireland is the „flagship“ case for both supporters and opponents of the consociational democracy theory. There are many publications about the consociational model in Northern Ireland; however, the publications primarily deal with the early stage of implementing and functioning of the system. It has been 25 years since signing of the Good Friday Agreement and this time frame allows us to evaluate the functioning of the system. That is why this thesis deals with not only the consociational model itself but also with its theoretical reflection and the development of the system since 1998 to this day.

The main theoretical frame of the diploma thesis is the consociational democracy theory as defined by Arend Lijphart. The main aim of this thesis is to evaluate the functioning of the political system in Northern Ireland, its positives and negatives and propose possible modifications with respect to the development of the system since signing the Good Friday Agreement to this day, its scholarly theoretical reflection and the development of Northern Ireland's society.