

Abstract

This diploma thesis examines the impact of ultra-nationalist pro-state militias with a radical political ideology on the stability and functioning of democratic systems. The observed cases encompass the Ukrainian Azov Battalion and Right Sector, as well as the Croatian Defense Forces (HOS) and the United-Self Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC). Through qualitative analysis and multiple case studies, the research investigates the consequences of these militias' activities, their integration into the state apparatus, and their potential threats to democratic processes. The findings reveal a complex relationship between militias and the state, characterized by ideological differences and simultaneous integration within the political sphere. The study highlights the militias' role in defending the state during civil conflicts, while also noting the gradual loss of autonomy as they collaborate more closely with official military structures. The research emphasizes the significance of popular support garnered by these militias during wartime, yet it highlights the limitations in their political influence within the democratic system. The thesis also introduces the concept of the "Militia-State Ambivalence Nexus" as a framework of understanding the strategies employed by governments to harness militias' capabilities while mitigating potential destabilization. Future research should explore the political wings of these militias and expand the framework's applicability to radicalized armed pro-state formations within democratic environments, deepening insights into the implications of such groups in democratic frameworks.