

Abstract

The thesis examines the role of direct democracy and referendum in the Ukrainian political system between 1991 and 2022. Comparative analysis was chosen as the main research method to identify the historical roots and development of direct democracy in Ukraine. The aim of the paper is to explore the advantages and disadvantages of direct democracy in the country's political system, especially during the presidency of Volodymyr Zelensky. The thesis asks three main research questions: the advantages of the current application of direct democracy in the Ukrainian political system, the identification of the disadvantages of this approach, and an analysis of the comparison of the new legislation adopted under President Zelensky with previous experiences with direct democracy. The thesis is divided into theoretical and practical parts. The first part deals with key concepts and theoretical aspects related to direct democracy and the referendum as its instrument. The second part complements the analysis with a historical retrospective of referendums in Ukraine and an overview of the legislation governing this area. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of legislation adopted under President Zelensky and its relevance to the experience of direct democracy in Ukraine. The study concludes that the advantages of direct democracy in the Ukrainian political system include the modernization of legislation, the computerization of the referendum process, and increased public participation. However, the study also identifies disadvantages such as dialectical legislation, abuse of the referendum institution, population division and lack of appropriate legislation for local referendums. The new legislation adopted by President Zelensky takes into account the experience of direct democracy by proposing mechanisms for public participation. However, its full impact and results require further monitoring and evaluation.

Keywords

direct democracy, referendum, Ukraine, Ukrainian political system, representative democracy