

Abstract

The thesis examines the relationship between the KDU-ČSL and the Czech Christian churches after 1989. The thesis outlines the development of the relationship between the church and the state, the shift of the KDU-ČSL from political Catholicism to the ecumenical cooperation of its members following the example of the German CDU-CSU, the political role of the church and the theory of the relationship between political parties and interest groups is presented. The thesis, within its practical-analytical part, operates with church subjects, which it considers to be interest groups, and strives to introduce and describe their mutual relationship.

In the practical-analytical part of the thesis is used the content analysis of the election programs of the KDU-ČSL and are examined the priorities of the Czech Christian churches contained in them, which is placed in a wider context. The thesis also presents a case study of church restitutions, in which the phenomenon of the fact that the KDU-ČSL becomes a political party protecting the interests of the church in the form of the return of church property confiscated by the communist regime is presented. The thesis focuses on the efforts of the KDU-ČSL leading to the approval of the return of church property, which, ironically, is returned in a period in which the party is not represented in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. After its successful return in 2013, the party also advocated for the maintenance of the approved form of church restitution within the post-election coalition negotiations. The thesis therefore offers a broad view of the investigated issue of the phenomenon of the relationship between the Christian Democratic Party and the Czech Christian churches.