

The aim of the thesis is to analyse and evaluate the changes in the constitutional development in Ukraine and Belarus during the 1990s and the first years of the 21st century. The main focus will be on the role of Presidents Kuchma and Lukashenko and on the comparison of the factors that contributed to the dramatic consolidation of the authoritarian direction of the state in the Belarusian case and to the so-called "Kuchism" in the Ukrainian case. The thesis touches upon political relations at the level of the president-parliament, as well as other factors that played an important role in the post-Soviet transformation of both countries (the economy, the legal framework of the state, as well as identity issues in both countries). In the thesis I will focus on the steps that led to the different directions of Belarus and Ukraine during the post-Soviet transformation, but also on the common factors and tendencies that can be traced in both states.