

## **Abstract**

### **Development of the British Parliament from 1707 to 1901**

The subject of this thesis is the process of development of the British Parliament from the unification of the Kingdom of England and Scotland and the creation of Great Britain in 1707 until the end of the rule of Queen Victoria in 1901. The objective of this thesis is to analyze the British political system of the 18th century, explain the relationship between parliament and other branches of power, describe the parliamentary reforms in the 19th century and the related composition of the upper and lower house of parliament. Last but not least, the thesis deals with the emergence of a constitutional monarchy in relation to the British Parliament. The first chapter deals with the first half of the 18th century, describes the reign of Queen Anne, during which the Acts of Union 1707 were passed, and the Treaty of Utrecht was approved. The chapter also includes the accession of the Hanoverian dynasty to the British throne and the emergence of the institution of Prime Minister. The second chapter deals with the second half of the 18th century, especially the reign of King George III. and his efforts to expand royal power and restore the monarch's influence over his ministers. Furthermore, this chapter contains issues related to the rise of radicalism, the constitutional crisis of 1782-1784 and finally, the position of Ireland at the end of the 18th century is addressed. The third chapter revolves around the reform period at the beginning of the 19th century, the parliamentary system at the turn of the century and the path leading to its reform. The main point of this chapter is the Great Reform Act of 1832 and its thorough analysis, including the impact on the position of the monarch, the relationship between the upper and lower house of parliament and impact on the British society. The fourth chapter describes the growing role and power of government and other changes in political practice. Last but not least, the chapter deals with the Chartist movement and Ireland's self-government efforts. The fifth chapter describes the continuing development in the 19th century, the changes that took place in the period of 1846-1866, and especially the Reform Act of 1867. At the same time, this chapter deals with further electoral reforms of the late 19th century and the Irish efforts for self-government and independence. The sixth chapter focuses on the development of the House of Lords in the 19th century. The seventh and last chapter follows the development of the constitutional monarchy during the reign of Queen Victoria and the relationship of the monarch with parliament and government.

**Key words:** Parliament, competences, constitutional history