

Abstract

The bachelor thesis “The Italian state's fight against Cosa Nostra and Camorra” deals with the Italian state's response to the activities of the mafia organizations Cosa Nostra and Camorra. The thesis focuses mainly on the period from the late 1980s to the present day. From the 1980s onwards, the Italian state began to enforce major steps in anti-mafia legislation, creating a more comprehensive legislative framework to limit the power and influence of the Italian mafia. The fight against the Italian mafia became one of the priorities of the governments at that time. However, due to the different state approach to the two organizations and their characteristics, such as their internal structure or their relationship with the Italian state, the Italian state was not able to achieve comparable results. The aim of this thesis will be to use a comparative analysis to evaluate data on the success of anti-mafia measures and the level of involvement of the Italian state in the fight against the two organizations, in order to reveal the reasons for the different results achieved by the Italian state since the late 1980s. Thanks to the data collected, the thesis also outlines possible hypotheses for the future development of the fight against the two organizations.

The thesis concludes by answering the research question and argues that Cosa Nostra has seen a more significant decline than Camorra since the 1990s, mainly due to the involvement of the Italian state, which has made the fight against Cosa Nostra a security priority. International cooperation, civic initiatives and the very effectiveness of anti-mafia measures have also been crucial.