

## *Abstract*

This Bachelor's thesis, authored by Samuel Blecharž under the supervision of Jakub Franek, PhD., aims to explore the rise of populism in the Slovak Republic and its potential threats to liberal democracy. The thesis will focus specifically on the period following the parliamentary elections of September 2023. The core research question is whether the current populist government poses a threat to liberal democracy, and if so, how.

Populism, characterized by anti-establishment rhetoric and the appeal to the general population against a perceived corrupt elite, has been a significant force in Slovak politics since the early 1990s. The proposal outlines a two-pronged methodological approach: political-philosophical theoretical research to define populism and its implications, and empirical research to analyze the current Slovak government's legislative actions and their impact on liberal democracy.

The study will examine the historical, political, economic, and social factors contributing to populism in Slovakia, with a focus on the threats it poses to individual freedoms and democratic norms. The thesis will be structured into an introduction, three main chapters discussing the theory of populism, normative research on government actions, and the conflict between populist and liberal democratic principles, followed by a conclusion. Key sources include works by Canovan, Dahl, Mouffe, Mudde and Kaltwasser, Müller, Rosanvallon, and Urbinati.

Keywords: populism, nativism, liberal democracy, Slovak Republic, government, varieties of populism