

## **Abstract**

This thesis investigates the complex relationship between nationalism and democracy in Azerbaijan, focusing on the period from 2011 to 2017. Through a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative and qualitative analyses, the study examines the roles of civil society, the government, and external actors in shaping democratic processes. Initial findings indicate that civic nationalism has not effectively promoted democratization in Azerbaijan, raising questions about the factors influencing its earlier successes in the early 1990s. The qualitative analysis of government rhetoric reveals that exclusive nationalism has significantly contributed to democratic decline, with the government's nationalist agenda having a greater impact during stable periods. Additionally, the influence of external actors such as Turkey, the United States, and the European Union is assessed, highlighting their limited capacity to alter Azerbaijan's democratic trajectory without robust interventions. The study's innovations lie in its differentiated analysis of nationalism's impact and its use of both quantitative and qualitative data to reduce subjective bias. However, limitations include the reliance on secondary data and the specific focus on Azerbaijan's unique political context. This thesis aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how nationalist sentiments can both support and undermine democratic development, offering insights into the dynamic interplay between nationalism and democracy.