

Abstract

This bachelor thesis will focus on the regime transformation in Venezuela in connection with the government of Nicolás Maduro, who was elected as the successor to President Hugo Chávez in 2013. Since its inception, Maduro's regime has struggled with a low level of electoral competitiveness of the governing party and, conversely, an increase in the electoral potential of the opposition. Although the unified opposition achieved several electoral victories and gained considerable international support, it failed to overthrow Nicolás Maduro. Therefore, the thesis will focus on the reasons why Nicolás Maduro managed to stay in power and the methods he employed to achieve this. An important context for answering these questions is the process of democratic backsliding that occurred during Hugo Chávez's presidency (1999-2013). Democratic backsliding refers to the gradual weakening of democratic institutions leading to the erosion of democracy, which in Venezuela led to the emergence of a competitive authoritarian regime. The aim of the thesis is to answer the question of how Nicolás Maduro utilized and innovated the tools and tactics created by the Chávez regime and how their use led to a regime transformation.

Key words: Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, democratic backsliding, autocratisation

