

Abstract

The bachelor thesis will describe the conflicting dimensions of liberal democracy in the context of Hungary's position in the European Union, with an emphasis on the issue of illiberal backsliding. The author will explore the paradoxical situation where, despite the crucial importance of democracy for European Union membership, the illiberal tendencies of some member states, including Hungary, are tolerated. The European Union emphasizes the respect for democracy as a key element of membership, as declared in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union. Each acceding state's commitment to the EU's core values includes, in addition to democracy, respect for human dignity, freedom, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Hungary's contentious position within the EU stems from the ambiguity of these core values and the policy of interpretation at a time of crisis of European values. The thesis focuses on the divergence in the conception of democracy, with the European Union claiming liberal democracy and the Hungarian Prime Minister emphasizing "illiberal" or, later, "Christian" democracy. The debate on the meaning of the word 'liberal' and interpretations of democracy within the EU and Hungary highlights the conflict of values within liberal democracy. The main question of the thesis focuses on the binding nature of liberal democracy for the European Union and how it is practically manifested in relation to Hungary. The thesis seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the conflicting aspects associated with liberal democracy within the EU and creates a space for reflection on the different conceptions of democracy between the EU and Hungary.

Keywords

Hungary, European Union, liberal democracy, European values, ambiguity, EU contract