

## **Abstract**

This bachelor's thesis examines the development of American political thought and is based on Michael Sandel's claim that individualistic (or "deontological") liberalism was the dominant political philosophy in the United States at the end of the last century. This paper sets out with two goals, first to analyze the recent development of liberalism, communitarianism, and identity politics, and then to test a possible shift away from classical (individualist) liberalism. The theoretical part of the thesis therefore deals with John Rawls' theory of justice, the works of Michael Sandel, and the formation of identity politics. The practical part focuses on the analysis of two American presidential elections, 1980 and 2020. In doing so, the thesis combines qualitative and quantitative approaches, specifically, critical discourse analysis and quantitative content analysis are conducted. Based on the analyses carried out, it was possible to show that the American public debate has been transformed between the selected years, with positions based on the protection of group interests coming to the fore instead of individualistic arguments. This transformation is reflected in the gradual formation of identity politics, which is currently becoming a highly topical issue not only in the United States.