

Abstract

Development of the British Parliament since the early 20th century

The subject of this thesis is the process of the development of the British Parliament, from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day, i.e. year 2024. The main objectives of the thesis are to analyse the political situation in the United Kingdom in the early 20th century, to analyse the three constitutional crises of the first half of the 20th century, to outline the reforms on voting rights, to explain the position of the upper house in the parliamentary system of the United Kingdom and the related reforms that have already been carried out or are intended to be carried out. Last but not least, the thesis examines the consolidation of the position and development of the constitutional monarchy in relation to the British Parliament and the devolution of the United Kingdom. The first chapter examines events in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the constitutional crisis triggered by the rejection of the Lloyd George's "People's Budget" in 1909 and the subsequent dispute over the limitation of the powers of the upper house, which led to the passage of the Parliament Act 1911. The main focus of the chapter is its thorough analysis, including its impact on the legislative process in the United Kingdom, the relationship between the upper and lower house of parliament, and its impact on British society. The second chapter examines the ensuing crisis over Home Rule for Ireland. In particular, the chapter describes the various disputes and negotiation attempts related to the granting of autonomy to Ireland. The chapter then concludes with an overview of the Irish War of Independence and the completion of the journey to full independence for Ireland. The third chapter deals with the representation of the people after 1900. The chapter describes the struggle for equal suffrage for women and men and the journey to universal male suffrage. The fourth chapter looks at the position of the upper house in the parliamentary system of the United Kingdom and the reform efforts to modernise it, whether they were successful or not. The chapter also contains fundamental issues that have been and are yet to be taken into account in the reforms of the upper house. The fifth chapter examines the emergence of the modern constitutional monarchy and the relationship between the monarchy and the other branches of government. The sixth chapter contains a detailed analysis of the circumstances and consequences surrounding the abdication crisis caused by King Edward VIII's intention to marry Mrs Wallis Simpson. The seventh chapter outlines further development of the constitutional monarchy, in particular the relationship between the monarch and the Prime Minister after 1940. The eighth and final chapter focuses on the formation of the regional

legislatures of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and the questions with respect to their operation.

Key words: Parliament, competences, constitutional history