

Abstract

This master thesis focuses on conservatism as a political ideology in Czech left-wing parties. The aim of the thesis is to answer several research questions. The most important one is whether elements of conservative ideology appear in the programs and other materials of selected Czech left-wing political parties. Subsequent questions build on the first one, aiming to determine in which periods conservatism appears in the programs and other materials of the examined parties and whether these parties deliberately seek to overcome the differences between conservatism and socialism, or whether they simply accept elements of conservatism that are not in conflict with left-wing ideologies. These questions are answered through content analysis of the programs and other materials of three political parties: the Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD), the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM), and the Left. In addition to the analysis of programs and other materials, the thesis also includes a theoretically oriented chapter that deals with the individual political ideologies under study and their directions or branches. In conclusion, it is stated that elements of conservatism appear in the programs of all three analyzed parties, with clearly the fewest identified in the programs and other materials of the Left and its predecessors. Elements of conservatism appear across the entire examined period, which includes the years 1992 to 2021. Left-wing parties primarily adopt those elements of conservatism into their programs that are not in conflict with the fundamental values of socialism.