

## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis examines the debate of Alawite Muslim identity and its politicization in modern era, analyzing arguments regarding their classification within the broader Islamic community. The thesis first provides a historical contextualization of the emergence of the Alawite sect, followed by its main focus on the modern period, particularly from the 1970s onwards. This timeframe helps understand the arguments why Alawites should or shouldn't be included in the Muslim community. The aim of this thesis is to research when and how the Alawite identity became politicized and what arguments relating to the Alawite identity and its relation to broader Muslim identity were used. The thesis will first contextualize the historical perception of Alawite identity, its main part will be focused on the twentieth century, specifically the rise of the Ba'ath party to power and the situation during the Syrian civil war. The thesis concludes that regarding arguments against the inclusion of Alawites into the Muslim community, the most common points revolved around differences in faith and the heterodox nature of Alawite beliefs. Conversely, arguments for inclusion into the Muslim community often arise during periods when it is necessary to affirm the Muslim identity of Alawites for political reasons.

Data is gathered from both primary and secondary sources, with a significant primary source being fatwas, some of which are translated from Arabic originals into Czech. Specifically, the thesis includes translations of fatwas by ibn Taymiyya, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Amin al Husaini, and Ayatollah Hasan al Shirazi. Additionally, a fatwa by Musa al Sadr and Ottoman-era fatwas by Sheikh al Mughrabi and Sheikh al Dimashqi are utilized. The thesis entails an analysis of these fatwas and the derivation of conclusions regarding how the Alawite identity was perceived from the perspectives of Islamic religious authorities. The secondary literature primarily addresses the history and identity of the Alawite community, providing insights into the perspectives of the broader public and politicians on this issue.

**Keywords:** Alawites, identity, Syria, Shia Islam, fatwa