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**THEORIES ON SEPARATISM AS A CHALLENGE TO STATE  
GOVERNANCE<sup>118</sup>**

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***Abstract:** The paper views separatism as an ideology, which is focused on the construction of political identity of a minority group with existing cultural identity, who coexists with a majority within the territorial borders of a sovereign state. This ideology aims at political self-determination with a minimum and a maximum goal, namely - from degree(s) of territorial autonomy in the same state to full independence and acquisition of the status of a sovereign state (secession). Such political projects characterize movements, which are observable in almost all 21st century liberal democracies. They are basic challenges for the governance of the affected parent state, which is confronted with the need to keep its territory intact, without abusing the right to self-determination of the relevant group/groups on its territory. The complexity of such problems has been subject to extensive theoretical research. The paper identifies a deficit in the theoretical findings and concludes, that the global political context is a key factor of today's separatism, which needs to be operationalized and explored.*

***Key words:** cultural identity, political identity, separatism, secessionism*

***JEL Codes:** F51, F53, H77*

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