

## OLIGARCHS OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN ALBANIA

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### **Abstract**

The core of the elitist doctrine is that in a society a minority group of people takes major decisions. These elite - because of power, organization, political capacities or personal qualities - are always potentially capable of using their positions to maintain their rule. It is the elite that take the decisions in formal and informal way in internal and foreign policies. Under these conditions, the political process, supposed to be shaped by the preferences of the electorate, is directed by aspirations, goals and ambitions of politicians. This article aims to analyze the role of elites in the internal democracy of political parties in Albania and the problems coming up due to elite's influence in the last two decades. The main problem lies in the fact that for obtaining and maintaining power elites have not paid special attention to democratic principles. Due to the unification – from a conceptual perspective – of power (party - politics - state), political parties have developed a pattern that has stimulated the cult of the individual and has prevented the circulation of careers or the meritocracy. Political elites were more concerned about the power and benefits associated with it, than the respect of the democratic procedures. The struggle for power has waned considerably the internal democracy of political parties. Lack of political culture is one of the main factors negatively influencing this situation.

**Keywords:** *Oligarchic, internal democracy, political parties, elites, political culture.*