Abstract

This thesis is focused mainly on the case of US withdrawal from UNESCO, which was announced in October 2017 and took effect in December 2018, especially on finding the motives for this move. In order to identify them, it introduces in the first section the legal and historical overview of withdrawals from international organizations (IOs) in general. This paper gives attention to examples of departure from UN specialized agencies, respectively from UNESCO. Further it presents the Principal-Agent theory, as applied to relationship between States and IOs, and the issue of politicization of IOs, for a better understanding of reasons for the US decision to leave UNESCO. The main method for detecting them used in the following section consists of a content analysis of statements of US officials, other governmental documents and media outputs from 2003 to 2018, in which the USA levelled any criticism towards UNESCO. The analysis distinguishes between the accusations of technical organizational mismanagement and politicization. It also differentiates between the two levels of its occurrence, concretely the supranational (in the independent bodies with delegated authority) and intergovernmental (in the bodies with pooled authority) level. The connection of the any supposedly politicized issue to Israel is also examined. The results of the analysis showed that accusation of politicization was indeed the most frequent criticism, whereas the intergovernmental level prevailed over the supranational. This thesis concludes that the US decision to withdraw from UNESCO was often to the public explained as the sign of American diplomatic support to Israel.