Abstract

Since the accession of Donald J. Trump to the presidency, there have been many significant events that have affected the United States' relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea - from testing North Korean nuclear weapons, to verbal insults to both officials, to a historical meeting of the leaders of both Korean states in the demilitarized zone, a joint performance by South Korean and North Korean athletes at the Pyongyang Winter Olympics, to the historic Singapore Summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un. However, the second meeting of both representatives in Hanoi ended prematurely - without signing the planned joint statement. Relations between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are constantly developing. The main theme of the talks in the past was the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula to ensure lasting peace and stability for the region. The North Korean nuclear program and efforts to reduce it have thus become a major issue in multilateral negotiations, with the Republic of Korea, China, Russia and Japan participating in addition to the United States and North Korea. North Korea, however, often sabotaged the talks and the period of cooperation was interrupted by provocations and hostile actions in the form of ballistic missile tests or nuclear weapons tests. In my work I try to find a general typology of the behavior of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, focusing on recurring cycles of cooperation and confrontation. This was influenced by the country's economic, security and political situation. One of the leading factors affecting North Korean behavior was the United States. The main aim of this work is to elaborate a heuristic scheme using mapping of the development of mutual relations between the two countries, which should illustrate cycles of mutual cooperation and confrontation. To do this, I will compare the different approaches of individual presidential administrations to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from R. Reagan to the accession of D. Trump.