

Abstract

The thesis titled “Special Canadian-Cuban Relations under Prime Minister Diefenbaker” examines the roots of the Canadian Cuban Relations set during the reign of Prime Minister Diefenbaker. Whilst Canada’s role is usually minimized during the events of the Cuban Revolution as well as the Cuban Missile Crisis, Canada will be discussed as one of the major players in the present thesis.

The relationship of the two countries will be discussed mainly through the concepts of “other diplomacies” as the means of Canadian soft power diplomacy and Canadian “othering” of the United States as a part of Canadian nationalism. Both concepts will be introduced in the theoretical framework.

The thesis is based on the assumption of Cuba’s importance for Canada’s national independence. Therefore greater focus will be payed to Canadian nationalist policies of Prime Minister Diefenbaker. The aim of the thesis is thus to discuss whether Canadian nationalism was the main factor influencing Canada’s policy towards Cuba during the set time period. We will examine whether the means used by Canada towards Cuba during the late 1959 and early 1960s period can be linked to Canada’s need to be seen as an independent country. Thanks to this approach we will be able to assess whether Cuba can be seen as a means of Canadian independent foreign policy.