

## **Abstract**

The thesis' main focus is Donald J. Trump's administration's trade policy towards People's Republic of China. Since taking office, Trump has been striving to turn the trade policy towards PRC into a more protectionist one. His argument is that China's economic prosperity is acquired through unfair trade practices, which damages the economy of USA. Since the beginning of 2018 up until the end of 2019, Trump imposed high tariffs on numerous Chinese goods and PRC does the same in return. The resulting tit-for-tat policies cause the deterioration of the two countries' trade relations. The thesis searches for the main causes of Trump's trade policy towards PRC, which is in comparison with the two preceding presidential administrations more aggressive. The thesis' primary hypothesis assumes that the cause lies in the risk that the strengthening China poses on the US hegemonic role in the international order. The thesis confirms this hypothesis on the basis of the theory of relative gains, hegemonic stability and comparative advantage. The hypothesis is supported with examples concerning US economy, security, institutional power and legitimacy.

Title: The Causes of the Deterioration of Trade Relations Between the US and China During the Donald J. Trump Administration

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