

This bachelor's thesis deals with the U.S. foreign policy transformation in the 1945–1948 period. In the post-World War Two era, the United States does not return to its traditionally detached foreign policy that characterizes most of its earlier history. Instead, the country remains a key player in international politics. The United States defines its new primary foreign policy interests and remains engaged almost throughout the entire world in its efforts to safeguard as well as pursue these interests. Despite the initial hopeful attitudes of the American leadership, the Soviet-American cooperation soon breaks down and the mutual relationship between the two countries quickly turns into a fully-fledged Cold War confrontation. Consequently, the United States doubles down on its global engagement. This work examines these most important aspects of the U.S. foreign policy transformation in the period starting from the end of the Second World War to the days before the First Berlin Crisis. In doing so, it utilizes the analytical model provided by neoclassical realist theory. The work consists of four main chapters. The first chapter describes the theoretical grounding of the entire work and especially explores the details of the neoclassical realist perspective. The second chapter provides a static picture of the postwar international system, its basic parameters and finally the United States as its examined actor. The remaining two chapters map the major aspects of the U.S. foreign policy evolution in the selected period. A special attention is paid to key American strategic interests, Soviet-American relations, domestic institutional reform, Truman doctrine and efforts to reconstruct postwar Europe symbolized by the Marshall Plan.