

The realm of trust has of late become the subject of a new agenda of research. Withal, as this paper demonstrates, trust has always implicitly been at the core of international relations theory. The object of the research is the transatlantic relationship and the role that trust plays on the field of security, using NATO as the platform. In this connection, at first, the author considers the category of trust in international relations as a whole. A detailed analysis of the phenomenon of trust, its principles and distinctive signs will be conducted. For the further application of the theoretical findings to the case of transatlantic relations, special methodology as exploratory research is elaborated. It develops a multiframework strategy for recognizing signals of trust in a relationship, emphasizing the role of the security dilemma, hedging strategies and reassurance in this manner. The selected research methods are determined by the theoretical basis and the available data for the research.

Taking stock of the history of transatlantic relations on the basis of researching literature and using the research findings of the case study, the author estimates the level of trust between the United States and European NATO members during periods of turmoil. The aim is to reveal the causes of such state of affairs and to define the premises, which will promote or prevent the growth of trust. The diploma thesis approaches the U.S.-European partnership from the perspective of asymmetric trust, which represents an enduring factor in the actors' security and defence affairs. Special attention is paid to the implications which Donald Trump's controversial presidency has against this backdrop, and, last but not least, how trust affects the European path to autonomous security. The diploma thesis demonstrates the importance of acknowledging trust and suggests that more attention should be paid to this phenomenon.