

Abstract

This thesis focuses on analyzing the phenomenon of isolationism by testing the IR theories. The research examines the four historical cases of Ming and Qing Imperial China, Tokugawa's Japan, Great Britain under the Gladstone and Disraeli's stewardship, and finally, the U.S. behavior throughout the 1930s. The study distinguishes between the whole and limited isolationism, arguing that it is impossible to pursue complete isolationism due to globalization, interdependence, domestic constraints, and other factors. Furthermore, by explaining the phenomenon, neoclassical realism appears to best grasp the full image. Finally, by comparing the cases of American state behavior in the 1930s and under Donald Trump's presidency, the paper argues that the latter's policy should not be considered isolationist.