

Abstract

This thesis "Ogaden War in the Soviet Foreign Policy" aims to describe the dynamic development of Soviet foreign policy in the Horn of Africa. Its main focus is placed on the events preceding the Ogaden War between Ethiopia and Somalia as well as the war itself while attempting to clarify the circumstances that lead to the realignment of USSR's alliance from one African country to the other. Moscow's mutual relations with both governments had been complicated by various factors and therefore it had attempted to seek balance between the two adversaries. The Ogaden War itself represented a shift in the Kremlin policy towards this region. As such, this thesis seeks to explore the circumstances that had caused Moscow's support to be reoriented from a long-term ally of Somalia towards Ethiopia. In analyzing the Soviet behavior a wider context will be presented in regards to its policy in the Third World during the 1970's in the larger framework of Cold War and détente.