

Abstract

The thesis deals with the issue of economic sanctions as one of the options to replace conventional war between states that threaten each other with assured destruction. The thesis examines this issue through the case of events on the island of Cuba during the Cold War and the rivalry between the United States, the Soviet Union and the regime in Cuba. For the purpose of the thesis, data relevant to this case are collected in the empirical part. The grounded theory method is then used to establish that in order to confirm the main research question, three events must be found in the data, which must be chronologically consecutive for the relationship to hold. The first of these events is the conventional war, between the United States and Cuba. This event must be followed by a second event, the cessation of these hostilities by the United States for no other reason than the threat of nuclear war, in order to be confirmed. Finally, this second event must be followed by a third event, the use of economic sanctions as a new instrument of war. The thesis concludes that these three conditions occur chronologically in the data, so it is shown in this thesis that in this selected case the United States resorted to economic sanctions as a substitute for a conventional war with a state with which, because of their common relations, they normally wanted to wage a conventional war.