

Abstract

The master's thesis deals with the analysis of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2014 from the perspective of the diversionary theory of war. The main objective is to determine whether this conflict was initiated by Vladimir Putin to divert attention from domestic issues within Russian society and to enhance his popularity rating for a subsequent victory in the upcoming presidential elections. The theoretical part defines the theory of diversionary wars and its components. In the practical section, the domestic political situation in Russia from 2011 to 2013 is analysed in terms of the assumptions and goals of diversionary conflicts. Subsequently, the period after the invasion is examined in terms of the tools and effects of diversionary foreign conflicts. The analysis includes monitoring the change in the president's popularity rating. Individual chapters address specific research questions that form the basis for achieving the main goal of this work.