

Abstract

The main objective of Diploma Thesis: “Chinese reaction to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine” is to determine whether and how has the war in Ukraine influenced Sino-Russian relations. To determine this, the paper focuses on a research question: “Why did China not oppose Russia’s invasion of Ukraine despite its long-lasting tradition of non-interference policy?”. To answer the question, the paper contains a complex analysis of the evolution of the modern Sino-Russian relations, its converging and diverging tendencies, the history and relevance of the Chinese policy of non-interventionism and indicators proving close Sino-Russian cooperation despite the ongoing war effort. The tracked indicators are composed of joint-military exercises, number of official visits, official statements, and perceived patterns of behaviour in the UN Security Council. All of these factors would subsequently be analysed through the prism of Neoclassical realism. The results of the study indicate the partially fading importance of the non-interference policy, which can be outweighed by the realist cost/benefit calculations. Consequently, the said balance of power logic and attempts to maximalise state power were concluded to be the motor behind the post-invasion Sino-Russian rapprochement.