

Abstract

Central Asia has been long seen as a region that is contaminated with terrorism, violence, arms and drugs trafficking, and ethnic clashes, among many other security threats. These were seen as compromising not only the region's safety, but also as having the potential to threaten other regions. However, as the researchers delved into the cases, they named the above-mentioned narrative as the "discourse of danger" and suggested that the security threats were exaggerated.

Small arms and light weapons that Kyrgyzstan inherited from the Soviet Union has been an integral part of the discourse. It was claimed that their trafficking through the borders of the country by the terrorist organizations would compromise the whole region's security. However, later studies showed that Kyrgyzstan's small arms case was part of the exaggeration produced by the discourse of danger, resulting in a discrepancy between the local realities and the claims of external actors.

It is vital to point out that the literature on this specific subject was created in the early 2000s, in light of the war on terror, when the region gained strategic importance for the US. Therefore, this thesis focuses on what allowed this discrepancy and the recreation of it. In doing so, it delves into the colonial approach that both the US and Russia adopted.

Keywords

Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, arms control, security, discourse of danger

Klíčova slova

Střední Asie, Kyrgyzstán, kontrola zbrojení, bezpečnost, lidská práva, diskurs o nebezpečí

Title

The Problem of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Kyrgyzstan: a Post Colonial Interpretation

Název práce

Problém ručních palných a lehkých zbraní v Kyrgyzstánu: postkoloniální interpretace