

Abstract

This thesis deals with international criminal justice, which began to influence international politics during the last twenty years. After the end of the Cold War, a lot of armed conflicts were breaking out. They were accompanied by unprecedented inhuman acts and atrocities. The international community had to find a solution for how to respond to such events. In 1993, the United Nations Security Council acted under Chapter VII of The Charter of the United Nations and decided unanimously upon the establishing of an ad hoc International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The Tribunal's role was to prosecute persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed during the Balkans conflict. A year later, in 1994, the Security Council decided to establish another ad hoc tribunal – The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, which served to punish the architects of Rwandan genocide. Both tribunals sped up negotiations and the decision to establish the permanent International Criminal Court, whose objective is to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. The crime of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and in the future the crime of aggression. Firstly, this thesis analyses the ad hoc tribunals – the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. It pursues their jurisdiction, their activity and their importance for international law and the international community. This thesis also analyses the cooperation of states with the ad hoc tribunals, focusing on Serbia and Croatia in relation to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in relation to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Secondly, this thesis analyses the permanent International Criminal Court and tries to evaluate why some key actors in contemporary international relations are afraid of cooperating with this judicial institution. Finally, the thesis offers a view of theories of international relations (realism, liberalism and constructivism) regarding the possibility of cooperation by means of international criminal justice.