

Energy issues are of growing interest in the modern world. Ever since the Industrial Revolution and until the present century, energy and the need to secure its supply have been fundamental to any position of power in the world. At the same time, despite the rising role of energy in influencing state's national security, regime development, domestic and international politics, it is a fact that the professional journals in political science and international relations have not paid the sufficient attention to publishing research on these topics; themes, which have been examined in this respect, have been mostly devoted to research to the impact of oil. In contrast, this thesis focuses on the analysis of the relationship between international politics and natural gas originated from the Russian Federation as the country, which is widely recognized to be as one of the most influential actors on the energy source markets. This research project is based on a wide review of relevant literature supplemented by the data analyzing method, method of comparative analysis and the case study method. The latter is founded upon the examination of the new projects promoted by Russia, namely: the Nord Stream and South Stream pipeline projects. The findings underline that realist and neorealist categories have shaped foreign and security policies of the Russian Federation and that energy sources are seen as one of the most influential levers in the foreign policy implementation and as a tool for security goal realizations. The main conclusions to be drawn from this study that Russia despite its desire to gain the considerable geopolitical power and weight in Europe with the help of its natural gas resources cannot be blamed in aspirations to employ the "gas top" in every single occasion.