

Porovnanie jadrovej politiky posledných dvoch amerických administratív: George W. Bush a Barack Obama

Katarína Svitková

B.A. Dissertation Evaluation 2011

The B.A. dissertation produced by Katarína Svitková is an interesting one. It deals with the nuclear weapons policy of George W. Bush and Barack Obama respectively. My colleague and friend, Karel Ulík, served as Katarína's supervisor. I must say that Karel has done an excellent job. The work is divided into an introduction, four main chapters, and a conclusion. The sources utilized are commented upon in the introduction. Katarína clearly states that her aim is to compare the approaches of the Bush and Obama administrations on nuclear weapons. Her main argument is that the goals of both administrations were similar, but their respective tactics and strategies differed.

Chapter 1 begins by analyzing the changes that occurred in the U.S. national security outlook following the end of the Cold War. Katarína then delves into the terrorist threat, which involves proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. She then discusses nuclear non-proliferation policy and nuclear disarmament.

Chapter 2 represents an analysis of George W. Bush's policies. Of course, the policies of Bush were shaped by the tragic events of 11 September 2001. The main arms control event under Bush was the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT). Insofar as the war on

terror was concerned, Bush did not shy away from military intervention. Unfortunately, Bush's stated reason for invading Iraq was weapons of mass destruction, which were never found. His policies towards Iran and North Korea can be seen as more a show of displeasure and strength rather than of engagement. Bush saw a role for nuclear weapons in U.S. national security policy and therefore was not willing to ratify test ban treaties. His plans for a missile defense shield drew criticism from Russia, which saw such a shield as a threat to its own security.

Chapter 3 analyzes the policies of President Obama. Obama signed a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with Russia in Prague. Though committed to maintaining an American nuclear arsenal, Obama has been more open to cuts and limits of testing. His policies can be rightly seen as more diplomatic, less militaristic, and open to discussion.

Chapter 4 compares the policies of both presidents. The similarities and differences in policy are recapitulated and compared. It is obvious that the personalities of both men have played a large part in the formulation of policy.

In the conclusion, Katarína demonstrates how the goals of Bush and Obama, namely keeping the United States safe and maintaining national security are similar. However, the means employed are different.

I am pleased with this dissertation, which is obviously the product of hard work. I recommend an **excellent** mark.

.....
Doc. PhDr. Francis D. Raška, PhD.

IMS FSV UK

29.5.2011