

Abstract

Since 1958 the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was the best known British organisation opposing nuclear weapons. They organized the greatest protest activities mainly in two critical periods of the Cold War: 1958–1963 and 1979–1987. The intent of my thesis is to compare the work of the Campaign in these two historical eras. In connection with the functioning of the anti-nuclear protest movement the paper focuses on several issues: (1) the circumstances of the establishment and resurfacing of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, (2) its main activities, (3) the reasons why the protests faded away, (4) changes of the membership, (5) affiliated groups and international cooperation, (6) relationship between the campaigners and the Labour Party, (7) reactions of the British governments and (8) of general public. In addition to the analysis of the Campaign's work the paper tries to explain the political and historical context as well. A chapter describing the 1960s and 1970s was included for better continuity of the text. At that time the British population wasn't that interested in the nuclear armament and the activities of the Campaign were considerably limited. My thesis should explain the main changes in the perception of the nuclear threat during the Cold War and find the most important differences and similarities of the protest movement in those defined periods of time.