

Abstract

The aim of this bachelor thesis is to prove or disprove the following hypotheses: firstly, that the Gaullist foreign policy tradition continues to some extent to influence and provide inspiration for the contemporary direction of French foreign policy; and secondly, that it is almost impossible to apply this policy in the post-bipolar world. (I took this to mean the world since the end of the Cold War...)

The thesis will analyse the three relationships - with Europe, with the United States and with the Eastern Bloc - which were the main pillars of Charles de Gaulle's foreign policy. The first section of the thesis will focus on the period of de Gaulle's presidency between 1958 and 1969.

The second section will use a case study of French policy towards Germany in order to explore the continuity or discontinuity of this policy in the contemporary political scene, with a neo-Gaullist Jacques Chirac taking his lead from Charles de Gaulle. This section will also briefly analyse the approaches of French presidents between the retirement of de Gaulle and the beginning of the Chirac presidency. It then goes on to focus on the presidency of Chirac, which ended in 2007. The main methods of the thesis will be analysis and case study.