

Abstract

The theme of this Bachelor thesis is the American China policy between the years of 2001 and 2011 and the strategic position of the U.S. and China in Asia. Development of international relations during this era is very important for both states and also for the world because the emerging powers, including the PRC, have the potential to change the current world order. The main objective of this thesis is to compare American China policy during the administrations of Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama and determine whether China poses a threat to the U.S. The first chapter attempts to assess whether the 9/11 attacks and the subsequent war against terrorism were an important watershed in U.S.-China relations since these attacks significantly affected the overall foreign policy of Washington. The second chapter describes Bush and Obama policies towards China within the framework of the U.S. foreign policy concepts of „candid, constructive, and cooperative relationship,“ „responsible stakeholder,“ „the Group of Two“ (never became an official U.S. policy), and „strategic reassurance.“ The third chapter examines the main features of Chinese foreign policy, particularly on the basis of historical experience, the Confucian tradition, and foreign policy concepts of „multipolarity,“ „peaceful rise/development,“ and „harmonious world.“ The final chapter assesses the strategic position of both players in Asia and discusses selected aspects which influence U.S. and Chinese positions in the region. The thesis concludes that the main argument of the U.S. foreign policy concepts is the enhancement of the U.S.-China cooperation. However, the Obama administration tries to resolve the rise of China in a rather global and multilateral context in comparison to the previous administration. Another conclusion assumes that China does not necessarily represent a threat to the U.S. in the foreseeable future.