

Abstract

This bachelor thesis addresses the issue of Georgian NATO membership and its strategic and geopolitical importance for NATO between 2003 and 2008. This thesis focuses in the first place on the question to what extent did Georgia fulfil Alliance's membership requirements. The aim of this section is to demonstrate that the reasoning behind NATO's refusal to award Georgia with Membership Action Plan cannot be objectively justified by Georgia's failure to meet the criteria but is to be derived from the lack of Alliance's political consensus regarding the importance of Georgia. Second part of this thesis analyse the importance of Georgia from the NATO's strategic and geopolitical interests. From this point of view is important Georgia's role in energetic infrastructure to which it is destined by its geographical location on east-west energetic corridor which transports Caspian fossil fuels to western markets. The importance of Georgia in this aspect depends on the significance that NATO attributes to its energetic security. Subsequent analysis of benefits provided by Georgia's strategic position to the Alliance's primary missions concludes that Georgia's territory enhances Alliance's power projection because it is the best route to deploy military planes to afghan theatre. Second factor that enhanced Georgia's importance was the timing of the Rose revolution, which coincided with Bush administration democracy promotion. These facts resulted in firm American support for Georgian Membership Action Plan. Bucharest summit in this regard manifested that the issue of Georgian MAP was part of bigger disagreements of American and German stance.