American Foreign Policy towards Iran: 2006-2010

author: Daniel Soukop
date: 16 May 2013

Abstract

In the long term, relations between the United States and Iran can be painted as complicated, tense and hostile. This diploma thesis analyzes the American foreign policy towards Iran between 2006 and 2010. This time period was essential for American-Iranian relations for several reasons.

First, the American rhetoric towards Iran got significantly intense during the George W. Bush administration. It started with the Bush’s “Axis of Evil” and peaked with the National Security Strategy of 2006, according to which the United States were aiming at a complete change of Iranian internal and external behavior, and were ready to use all means necessary to achieve this ultimate objective. The highest Iranian leaders consequently gave in to paranoia and under the fear of losing their own power brought Iran into an even more defensive position, although the United States needed the direct opposite.

Second, in February 2006, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) handed over the issue regarding the Iranian nuclear program to the UN Security Council. Thereby the United States got an opportunity to push for multilateral sanctions on Iran. Third, at the beginning of 2009, the United States awaited the change of leadership at the White House. President Obama repeatedly offered Iran a new beginning, but it was his administration which enforced the so-far toughest sanctions.

And finally, because the contemporary situation in 2013 is absolutely the same like seven years ago, it can be easily concluded that the American foreign policy towards Iran 2006-2010 was unsuccessful and ineffective. It is therefore crucial to identify the mistakes which the White House made, so it would be possible in the future to improve the foreign policy strategy.

Keywords

United States of America, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Islamic Republic of Iran, Middle East, terrorism, nuclear program, human rights, foreign policy, security.