

Topic: **American Foreign and Security Policy towards Iran: 2006-2010**

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### **Abstract**

The long term relations between the United States and Iran are complicated, tense and hostile. This diploma thesis analyzes American foreign policy towards Iran between 2006 and 2010. This time period was critical for American-Iranian relations for several reasons.

First, the American rhetoric towards Iran became significantly more intense during the George W. Bush administration. This started with the Bush's "Axis of Evil" speech and peaked with the National Security Strategy of 2006, according to which the goal of the United States was a complete change of Iranian internal and external political behavior, and the American leadership was ready to use all means necessary to achieve its objective. The highest level Iranian leaders consequently became more paranoid and under the fear of losing power took Iran into an even more defensive position, although the United States sought the direct opposite.

Second, in February 2006, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) turned over the issue of the Iranian nuclear program to the UN Security Council. There the United States took the opportunity to push for multilateral sanctions on Iran. Third, in 2009, the United States had a change of leadership at the White House. President Obama repeatedly offered Iran a new beginning, but it was his administration which enforced the toughest sanctions to date.

Finally, because the situation in 2010 was absolutely the same as four years earlier, it can be 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 to improve the foreign policy strategy in the future.

### **Keywords**

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