

Abstract

After the end of the Cold War, there was the only one remaining super power, the United states of America. Due to its strong position, it could influence situation in various regions of the world, also in Southeast Asia. USA primarily supported respecting the human rights and democratic principles in this region, in addition to guaranteeing its long-term economic and security interests. From the beginning of the 21st century China, which is, thanks to its Four National Modernizations, since 1978 very intensively developing, asserted its own influence in Southeast Asia too. China's political and security influence is also rising in this region. Many globally important commercial routes (shipping lines) pass through region of Southeast Asia. These roads are crucial for the Chinese economic rise. USA has so far guaranteed the security of these lines in the Indian and Pacific Ocean.

This bachelor thesis analyses the economic, political and security influence of the USA and China in this region on multilateral and bilateral bases. China used mainly economic influence (trading relations and direct foreign investments) in relations with Southeast Asian countries during the period under question. Contrary to China's stance, the Bush Administration concerned itself particularly with security cooperation and struggle against terrorism in Southeast Asia. The thesis analyses and examines the measure of success of these two approaches and comes to the conclusion that despite the rise of Chinese influence, the overall position of the United States in the region was not seriously threatened.