

Abstract

Main focus of this bachelor thesis is the influence of John Locke's political theory on American foreign policy. Its aim is to reveal the colonial context of Locke's theory and link it with American exceptionalism and also to identify some features of Locke's theory with the "War on Terror" and the so-called "Bush Doctrine". Two dichotomies typical of American foreign policy studies are being examined, realism-idealism and isolationism-expansionism. To understand them better, the thesis examines briefly the history of the early American republic with an emphasis on the so-called Monroe Doctrine. In conclusion, the author states that the tradition of American foreign policy is rather expansionist and unilateralist than isolationist and that it is hard to place it clearly in the realism-idealism dichotomy. Locke's political theory is found at the core of American exceptionalism and idealism and some features of Locke's theory are found in the "War on Terror" and in the "Bush doctrine". At the end it is argued, that it is necessary to keep in mind the eurocentrism of Locke's theory and the ideological nature of American exceptionalism when studying American foreign policy.