

This bachelor thesis is concerned with the foreign policy of Brazil towards the USA during the administrations of Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Lula da Silva. The aim of this thesis is to determine whether the election of the leftist president Lula had an impact on the continuity of the Brazilian foreign policy towards the USA. Firstly, the concept of autonomy in foreign relations is introduced and subsequently put into context of South America and eventually into the context of Brazil itself. The second part offers an insight into some aspects of the political system of Brazil such as the presidential diplomacy and coalitional presidentialism. The third and the fourth parts are the core of the thesis and examine the cooperation between Brazil and the USA at the political and economic levels. In the framework of both the political and economic cooperation specific topics are identified, which are then analyzed with the objective of comparing Cardoso's and Lula's foreign policy. The thesis as a whole concludes that while the political cooperation between the USA and Brazil after the Lula's election demonstrates continuity, discontinuity prevails in the economic cooperation.