

## **Abstract**

This thesis analyzes the actions of American foreign policy in the years 1969 - 1975 and focuses mainly on the presidency of Richard Nixon. First, the thesis outlines the characteristics of American foreign policy in the context of the Cold War and briefly maps the situation in Cambodia and the US before Nixon's inauguration. Other parts are providing detailed analysis of Nixon decisions, often secret before the US Congress and the American public. Thesis reflects the impacts of operation Menu that helped to expand Vietnam War into Cambodia. Next five years America supported very weak Lon Nol's regime which was only possible with significant material and economic aid as well as air support represented by B-52 bombers. After signing the Paris Peace Accords US officials were clear that the long-term Lon Nol's government is an unachievable dream. After the ban of the US Congress concerning the bombing of Cambodia in 1973, the communist Khmer Rouge fully expressed their idea of Marxist revolution. They were gaining their power since early 70s with support of the Vietnamese Communists and Chinese. In 1975 Khmer Rouge conquered the main city Phnom Penh and American foreign policy was given an unprecedented defeat, a few days later highlighted with the fall of Saigon. In conclusion, I will summarize the relevant points related to my hypothesis on US influence on Cambodia in the period studied and I will answer the research question, to which extent US foreign policy in the years 1969 - 1975 contributed to the rise of the Khmer Rouge in 1975.