

Abstract

The topic of this bachelor thesis is policy coordination between the US and Japan towards North Korea during 2001–2009. The aim of the thesis is to analyze whether coordination of these policies in the time stated can be evaluated as successful. The analysis was executed on three main factors that influenced this coordination. The first factor included strategic objectives of Japan and the United States that both countries wanted to achieve vis-à-vis North Korea. The second factor was represented by the abduction of Japanese citizens during 1970s and 1980s and removing North Korea from the list of state sponsors of terrorism. The third factor included specific political environment in each of the countries – meaning dualism in George W. Bush’s policy and Japan policy officers’ fear of diplomatic abandonment by the US and disappointment in actions of the United States. Based on the analysis of the influence of these three factors on allies’ policy coordination, the thesis concludes that the policy coordination can be considered successful. The main reason why the coordination was successful in spite of numerous disagreements were common strategic objectives and the fact that both countries were willing to cooperate on them as on the primary mean for successful and effective policy coordination.