

Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with the transformation of the Swedish foreign and security policy at the turn of 1980s and 1990s. The main object is to examine the impact of geopolitical changes upon the transformation and reveal new (especially internal) influences which are usually overlooked at the expense of the end of the Cold War. Furthermore, the thesis will concentrate on the Swedish neutrality and its development.

The thesis is a case study. The theoretical concept is based on the foreign policy analysis. Several levels of analysis are distinguished – the external (systemic) and the internal (the public, social groups, the government, particular individuals). The levels are examined individually and different theoretical approaches are applied to them. Finally, new findings are merged. The approach to the neutrality is derived from international law and international relations.

The thesis concludes that the main transformation of the foreign and security policy led to the Swedish accession to the EU and to the reassessment of the policy of the non-engagement. It was primarily caused by the end of the Cold War but there were also other important influences, for example the Swedish economic crisis, the new non-socialist government and the new prime minister Carl Bildt. On the other hand, the public opinion and some political parties refused any changes.