Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the international context of the German left terrorism of the 1970s and 80s. Its main goal is to analyse the influence of the international aspects on the activities of the West German terrorist groups in this period. The thesis focuses mainly on the Red Army Faction as the most important representative of the movement in question, however, it also includes other formations that are important from the international point of view: the Revolutionary Cells and the Movement 2 June. The theoretical background of the thesis is provided by the Wave Theory of modern terrorism by David C. Rapoport and the Revised Academic Consensus Definition of Terrorism by Alex Schmid. The international aspects are divided into three sub-chapters: ideology, international cooperation, and strategy and tactics. The thesis deals with international cooperation of German terrorist movements with both state and non-state actors. The research question is based on Rapoport’s claim, that unreliable international connections contributed to the failure of the new-left terrorist wave and caused it to fade out sooner. Analysing the influence of international aspects on the activities of German terrorist groups should therefore demonstrate, whether their impact was rather positive or negative and whether they contributed to the failure of the groupings in question.