

Abstract

The focus of the BA thesis is the concept of American unilateralism. The analysis studies the approach of the Bush administration to negotiations with other parties involved in international relations in the matter of the US plan to build missile defense sites in central Europe. The present thesis is a case study aiming to confirm the hypothesis of the US unilateral approach to the parties in international relations, which played crucial roles in the plan to build the missile defense system, i.e. European countries, Russia and China in this particular case. The roles of the European countries are analyzed from the perspective of individual countries, NATO and the EU. One of the decisions of unilateral character made by the Bush administration in relation to the missile defense system was, for instance, the unilateral withdrawal from the ABM Treaty signed between the USA and the USSR in 1972. Moreover, it was one of the most important treaties on nuclear arms control, banning the development of missile defense systems. The US was further criticized for making little effort to negotiate with European countries and the great powers Russia and China about its plan to construct a missile defense system. Last but not least, the US did not seem to be much interested in negotiating the missile defense system on the multilateral level with NATO and the EU. However, the BA thesis does not omit instances of multilateral steps taken by the Bush administration, therefore its approach to parties concerned in international relations cannot be analyzed strictly in terms of the unilateralism – multilateralism dichotomy.