

Abstract

The Japanese student leftist movement, which already started to take shape after the Second World War, was an important phenomenon of 1960s Japanese politics. The outcome of this situation was the creation of a number of extremist and terrorist organizations, such as the Japanese Red Army which is the studied subject of this work. In the first part of the work I present a detailed description of this group, specifically its history, ideology, organisation, leaders, the most famous terrorist actions, foreign relations, and current status. In the research part of the work I examine the terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Japanese Red Army, namely the choice of targets. In the study I apply the rational choice theory and inspect whether group's targeting was rational and whether there was, during its thirty years of existence, a variation present in the choice of targets. The results suggest that the Army preferred soft, less guarded targets, and that this choice was influenced by the group's ideology but probably also by its earlier cooperation with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.