

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the topic of the U. S. Peace Corps and its possible areas of improvement in the third millennium. The aim of the thesis is to research available documents and to determine and analyze possible areas of improvement during the administrations of George W. Bush and Barack Obama. The thesis focuses on African continent with regards to the Peace Corps presence in individual host countries. The main research questions of this thesis are: “What are the possible areas of improvement within the U. S. Peace Corps organization in the third millennium?“, and “Is the agency and the political debates concerning the reforms of the agency reflecting experiences and feedback of the volunteers?“. The answers to these questions are sought with the help of research in documents as well as with the help of the analysis of author’s one hundred collected surveys from current and former volunteers. Moreover, the areas of the Peace Corps training, recruitment, and support of the volunteers are researched in this thesis alongside with the Washington bureaucracy, mission of the agency, safety and security of the volunteers, sexual assault response, and whistleblower reforms. There are four chapters in the thesis and several subchapters. The first chapter elaborates on the origins of the Peace Corps, and the agency between years 1961 and 1989. The second chapter is devoted to an analysis of the agency between 1989 and 2001, while the third chapter deals with the agency between 2001 and 2016 and an analysis of individual possible areas of improvement. Furthermore, the fourth chapter is devoted to a control study that analyzes the results of one hundred surveys.