

Abstract

This thesis is dedicated to analyzing the topic of influencing the foreign policies of post-soviet states by the Russian Federation. Specifically, this research is based on case-studies of two states, Georgia and Belarus, which are being examined using the comparative case study research method. While studying both examples, the focus is put on Russian soft power used to support the main foreign policy goal of Russian federation in the context of these states – preventing a NATO membership of Georgia and Belarus. The theoretical background to this thesis has been mainly provided by the works of Joseph Nye and other international relations scientists who worked on the topic of soft power. As it was the core part of this thesis, we've their take on its use in international relations and the question of its effectivity.

We analyzed which soft power methods have been used in both cases, regarding security, political and economic matters. Furthermore, how effective they were, what was the final outcome of their application and whether Russia used hard power in these cases as well or not. Then we proceed to compare both cases, analyze results of these methods and in case that the results differed, we try to provide the answer why. Subsequently we construct our own theory based on this comparison and previous research. This theory aims to answer on based on what Russia chooses different kinds of soft and hard power methods of influencing foreign policies of other states. In order to test the applicability of this theory, we then proceed to testing it on a third case. As a third case we chose Ukraine. Finally, we assess the theory based on both the case of Ukraine and decide whether it might be applicable on a broader scale as well.

Key words

Post-soviet region, soft power, security, Russian foreign policy, propaganda, Russian Federation.