

Abstract

The aim of this thesis, named *Geopolitics of contemporary unrecognized states*, is to analyze the factors influencing the international status of unrecognized states by identifying the geopolitical interests of external actors. For the aim of this thesis unrecognized states will be called the de facto states. The thesis is divided into two main chapters and several subchapters. The first chapter is devoted to introducing the main hypothesis, research questions, and conceptualizing the following concepts: de facto state, sovereignty, self-determination, secession, and international recognition. The second part of the thesis consists of case studies of following de facto states: Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Transnistria, Taiwan, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Somaliland. The aim of each case study is to answer the research questions and to verify the main hypothesis which reads as follows: International status of de facto states results from the geopolitical interests of external actors. The conclusion will be drawn at the end of the thesis. This thesis is an instrumental case study.