Abstract

The Bachelor’s thesis deals with the changes of the U.S. counterterrorism strategy during the presidency of George W. Bush and Barack Obama. The main purpose is to compare the pre-emption strategy with the diplomatic one, regarding the fight against terrorism. After the 11/9/2001 attacks, the threat of terrorism became the number one priority to all U.S. federal institutions responsible for ensuring security. The terrorist organization responsible for the events of 9/11 was Al-Qaeda, therefore it’s activity is main subject for this analysis. Since then, the American counterterrorism strategy went through major changes and during the analysed period it went through further development. The text records mainly the period of 2001 – 2015. The main sources are doctrinal documents published frequently by each administration, and legislation released as a response to 9/11. The conclusion tries to evaluate, which part or parts of counter-terrorism strategy of each president were different from their rhetoric and whose approach was more convenient.

Keywords

counterterrorism, president, Bush, Obama, Afghanistan, security, threat, Al-Qaeda