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Strategic Culture of the Czech Republic

Abstract

The aim of the dissertation is to define in a complex manner the strategic culture of the Czech Republic. Strategic culture is at first analysed as a conceptual phenomenon both in relation to strategy itself and to the theories of international relations. The dissertation introduces the different streams of thought about strategic culture and then studies the approaches of the key involved authors with a special focus on the discussion between the first and the third generation of strategic culture scholars. Concerning the fact that the strategic culture has been originally created for the study of the behaviour and strategic thought of major powers, the author analyses the historical and geostrategic peculiarities of a small state in the Central Europe and then defines own conceptual and methodological framework.

Using the method of grounded theory, the important symbols and narratives from the Czech history as well as the most important moments in the Czech political and strategic thought and decision-making are being examined. The historical narratives re-appear and influence the decision-making, thinking and argumentation of the key actors in the Czech security community. The research of the key decisions and historical moments after the 1989 is divided into four chapters: The Transformation of the Foreign and Security-Defence Politics, Czech Republic Entering the NATO and its Role in the Alliance, Operating within the International Organizations and The Strategy of the Czech Republic in Relation to the War on Terror. The author observes through the study of the debates, texts and thoughts of the security community, content of the officially adopted strategic, military and security documents and the international and historical context the adoption of the important strategic decisions. In the dissertation the various strategies of defence and the form of usage of military power in foreign missions are being examined.

The author places the obtained knowledge, facts, historical narratives and repeated models of behaviour on the cognitive map. Based on the cognitive map, twelve principles of the Czech strategic culture are then defined.