

Abstract – The thesis is focused on Swedish foreign policy during the period 1660 – 1675, the early years of Charles XI's reign. Although Sweden is considered as an empire practically all over the 17th century, from the economic point of view it was a weak country. Sweden was totally depending on financial help from its allies, especially during periods of peace, as it was the case between 1660 and 1675. This fact belongs to the main aspects influencing the Swedish foreign policy at this time.

Main part of the thesis is dedicated to relations between Sweden and other European states. The most significant were the relations with France and Denmark, since France was the ally which provided Sweden the needed finance. The role of Denmark was also essential because of its geographical position as neighbouring country to Sweden. The thesis indeed discusses relations to some other states that played an important role as well - England, the Netherlands, Brandenburg, other German states, Poland and Russia.

The aim of the thesis is not just to analyse the Swedish foreign policy, but even to answer questions if there was any alternative or if the way this policy was conducted was the only possible one and also, if such policy can be considered as success or failure. These questions are answered at the final part of the thesis, using arguments well-founded on the facts given in the foregoing chapters.

Key terms – Swedish Imperial Period, regency, Charles XI, Louis XIV, Elector Fredrick William, Scanian War