Abstract

This thesis deals with the security threat of Somalia and the U.S. strategies applied to counter this threat primarily in the period 2001–2011. The first descriptive part discusses developments in Somalia in the years 1991–2011, with emphasis on instability and confusion in the country to outline the scope of the security threat landscape. The paper then deals with the phenomenon of "failed state", analyzes the nature of Somali piracy and discusses the strategies applied in the U.S. struggle with the Somali threat. In its final part the paper summarizes and critically evaluates the possible alternatives of American foreign policy for the future.