

## **Abstract**

This thesis „Relationship of the Russian Federation to the Russian minorities in the „Near Abroad““ deals with attitude of Russia to the minority, which was created after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The members of this minority are consisted of Russians who migrated within union state and after its breake up became a minority of the new succession states. During the 1990s the minority issue was integrated into the foreign policy discourse until it became, under Putin, one of the central elements of Russian foreign policy. The paper analyzes the government rhetoric in the statements and strategic documents published between 1991 – 2008 and confronts them with examples of Russian reaction to conflicts in post-Soviet states linked to Russian minority. The thesis is divided into three sections. The first part presents the position of minorities in the newly formed states and historical development of diaspora issue in the Soviet Union. The second part provides the overall picture of Russian foreign policy focused on the Near Abroad as well as a list of normative acts, which consist proposals to solution of minority issue. The last part analyzes the Russian stances during the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Baltics and the revocation of dual citizenship in Turkmenistan. Author also deals with differences in relationship of the Russian Federation to the minorities in this two regions. The thesis comes to a conclusion that the rhetoric of the Russian Federation in relation to the minority issue is more aggressive than the real behavior and that this relationship is significantly influenced by the development of internal policy.