

## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis is focused on the activity of the Peace Corps in Africa during the presidency of John Fitzgerald Kennedy and under the conduct of its first director Robert Sargent Shriver. The thesis researches and evaluates the process of the Peace Corps establishment, its activities and its role within this period of time. The question whether the Peace Corps was a purely voluntary organisation or whether it fulfilled any political goal in the concept of the Kennedy's foreign policy is the main research question to which the thesis tries to find an answer. Firstly, the thesis deals with the Peace Corps establishment and the problems related to it. Furthermore, the thesis deals with the structure of the Peace Corps and its purpose as well as the profile, the experiences and the motivation of its volunteers to join the Peace Corps. It also covers the training programs of future volunteers. Last but not least, the thesis will focus on the activities of the American volunteers in particular African countries that are Somalia, Tanganyika and Nigeria. The closing chapter is concerned with the John F. Kennedy's foreign policy and the Peace Corps' role in its conduct on the African continent in the Cold War context. There is shortly discussed the reaction on the Corps' activities within the communist world.