

## **Abstract**

The thesis „American Occupation of Japan: Goals and Means of American Foreign Policy During the First Term of the Occupation 1945-1947“ analyzes the way of implementation of the U.S. occupation of Japan between 1945-1947, its structure and development, and the diplomatic steps of the United States to ensure that it would be the main and in practice the only power deciding the course of the occupation. The goal of this analysis is to answer how important Japan was for United States: was it only a defeated enemy from whom the US tries to secure reparations, possible economic partner or was Japan considered as a possible strategic ally in Asia? What was the aim of the US in Japan? To answer these questions, it is crucial to look in detail at alternative scenarios of the occupation, why the U.S. decided to carry out the occupation of Japan in the fashion it did, and what means the U.S. used to reach their goals. To this end, the work will examine why the United States struggled to ensure that they were the only power with influence over the post-war reconstruction of Japan, and why they decided not to create occupation zones or why they did not cede responsibility to carry out the occupation to the League of Nations. Another goal is to examine from the U.S. perspective whether the occupation was successful.

The first part of the analysis focuses on American diplomacy in relation to Japan, examines the role other powers played in Japan, the absence of occupation zones, and if there existed any real international supervision of the occupation. The second part focuses on domestic development in Japan and the reforms Americans tried to implement in the first period of the occupation aiming to demilitarize post-war Japan and subsequently democratize it. Those reforms include new constitution, transition in the role of emperor, land reform, attempt to dissolve zaibatsu, reorganization of education system, or establishment of labor unions.

From the American perspective, I consider the occupation successful because the US reached its goal of demilitarization and party also democratization of Japan. The United States made Japan its strategic and economically strong ally, which goes beyond the expectations.