

This Master's thesis is concerned with the decision of American president George W. Bush to intervene in Iraq in 2003 and the differing attitudes towards this conflict- which emerged within NATO, especially between the USA and Great Britain on the one hand and France and Germany on the other before the Second Iraq War. Several chosen realistic concepts, for example changing the balance of power or security dilemma, were used to analyse these topics. This Master's thesis examines the relation of the USA to the Iraqi crisis in 2003 from the wider perspective of the new security context, which has appeared after the terrorist attacks on the September 11th, 2001.