

Abstract

The dissertation analyses the threats to economic interests of EU in Latin America – mostly focused on MERCOSUR's countries. Both regions share history, cultural and social bonds which were interrupted by the Cold War. During this period was Latin America a natural zone of interest of the United States (similarity with East Europe and USSR). The fundamental event is the end of bipolarity. The dissertation is mostly focused on one decade between 2003-2013. The three main chapters define the concept of economic security, the relationship between the EU-Latin America on the background of the historical insight and third main chapter analyses China's engagement in Latin America. In the post-Cold War period came a significant paradigmatic shift in the perception of economic security/vulnerability. Considering the asymmetry of relations between the two regions, we analyze a historical background, including the so-called "shared values" that partially (but not entirely) can be challenged. Relations between the two regions are viewed as highly pragmatic with a strong emphasis on trade ties. China as a new element in the region, where traditionally has competed the United States and Europe, is the core topic of the main third chapter. Latin America isn't perceived as a single region, but it is consider in a broader view of economic interests. For this reason, the region is understood as an important source of primary industrial inputs. The case studies of economically important countries of South America reflect mentioned topics.

Key words: Latin America, South America, European Union, China, economic security, economic interests, raw materials, inter-regional relations.