

Diploma thesis „British security policy: between USA and Europe, 1998-2003“ analyses British foreign and defence policy since British Prime Minister Tony Blair started to engage in European defence in 1998 until the aftermath of the Iraq war in 2003. Special emphasis is given to Blair’s strategy of transatlantic bridge whereby he seeks to maintain and increase British influence on American foreign and defence policy as well as on European matters. The principle of the strategy embraces a belief that the traditional alliance with the USA can be used to boost British influence in Europe and at the same time a stronger British position within European union can amplify British voice in Washington. Therefore implementation of the strategy includes efforts to reinforce British relations with the USA and with European states, and to ensure transatlantic concordance over main issues. The work pursues Blair’s exertion of the strategy and evaluates its success and efficiency in terms of the extent of British influence achieved on both sides of the Atlantic.

The work concludes that Blair’s efforts to mediate transatlantic consensus turned out to be, despite his remarkable determination, unsuccessful. The strategy of transatlantic bridge appears to lack efficiency while it remains increasingly demanding in terms of its execution. The attractiveness of the strategy found itself on its decline in the light of more fragile transatlantic relations of recent years.