

Abstract

The Islamic revolution in 1979 led to the end of the Shah's regime in Iran and the establishment of the Islamic republic. Also, this revolution have had a crucial impact on the foreign policy of the new regime. Under Khomeini's regime, the diplomatic relations with the United States were cancelled. The U.S. lost major ally in the Gulf region and the US influence in the Middle East was threatened. Also, the Islamic revolution led to the deterioration of relations with Iraq, whose leader Saddam Hussein undertook a military intervention to Iran in September 1980. The United States had supported the Iraqi regime from the beginning of the conflict. The main question of this thesis is what reasons led the U.S. to support Hussein's regime, which was seen by the U.S. as hostile regime until the outbreak of this war, and what were the main intentions of the US foreign policy during the conflict. Based on the analysis of the role of the US in this war, this thesis conclude that the main motives for US involvement were the loss of main ally, the fear of spreading the Islamic revolution, and also Soviet influence, and the protection of US oil interests in the region. Furthermore, the thesis analyzes the evolution of American strategy, which was focused on protecting US interests in the region, strengthening its influence and prevent the expansion of the Soviet Union. These factors led the US administration to balance against both sides in the conflict, which caused the extensive support of the Iraqi regime together with the secret cooperation with Iran.