

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the behaviour of the largest world superpowers, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China, in terms of internet freedom. The aim is to examine in what manner and to what extent these countries limit or protect their citizens' right to freedom of expression on the internet. The resulting data should reveal or disprove significant discrepancies between the character of the political regimes which the selected countries represent, and their real practices towards the freedom of speech on the internet. The subject of the analysis is to compare these countries' data which were presented in the *Freedom on the Net 2011-2015*, a series of reports by the independent non-profit organisation of *Freedom House*. The data are compared through comprehensive graphs and charts, which help to illustrate and map the development of the individual countries' behaviour in time. The thesis is complemented by a chapter focusing on the historical development of internet, illustrating who participated at its birth and who has a major influence on its current form.