

Abstract

The thesis *Russian-Israeli Relations after the Dissolution of the Soviet Union* looks at the relations of these countries in the period from the end of 1991 to 2022 from the perspective of the neorealist balance of power theory. The main aim of the thesis is to answer the question of how the geopolitical interests of the two countries are inscribed in their diplomatic relations. At first glance, some diplomatic interactions between Moscow and Tel Aviv may give the impression of very warm relations. However, the two countries are fundamentally at odds over their interests in the Middle East. Russia's interests, as could be deduced from the balance of power theory, derive from its efforts to counterbalance the USA. Israel's interest is to survive surrounded by enemies, which it seeks to achieve through its alliance with the USA. The thesis is based on two case studies: Iran and Syria. I analyze both geopolitical interests and diplomatic relations using qualitative and quantitative research methods. In the case of geopolitical interests, I draw on official government documents, military doctrines, statements by top politicians, the formation of military-strategic alliances, energy cooperation, and Russian, Israeli, and U.S. votes at the United Nations in the cases of Iran and Syria. I analyze diplomatic relations based on foreign trips, proclamations, expulsions or summonses of diplomats, and UN votes.