

# CHARLES UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Institute of Political Studies

Department of Political Science

### **Geographical Factors vs. Geopolitical Agent in Geopolitical Analysis: Italy's Energy Reorientation from Russia to Africa after the Invasion of Ukraine**

Master's thesis abstract

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Study programme: Geopolitical Studies Programme (GPS)

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Year of the defence: 2023

#### **Abstract**

This thesis is focused on the Italian energy shift from Russia to Africa aimed at reducing Russian energy imports after the invasion of Ukraine under the Draghi administration. The selected theoretical framework is Neoclassical Geopolitics. This thesis aims to understand what factors led to that specific foreign policy outcome. Attention is devoted to decision-making process resulting from both systemic factors and geopolitical agents' behavior and perceptions. The research path starts with the selection and definition of those structural factors meaningful in the case under observation. After, it covers the identification and characterization of Italy's geopolitical agents, analysis of the Italian strategic culture and geopolitical agents' perceptions, discourse, network of relations, intentions, ambitions, and domestic power structure. In conclusion, the research outcome is presented and discussed in light of role played by geopolitical agents and geographical factors. Geopolitical agents appear decisive in determining a specific foreign policy trajectory and thus in affecting, more or less profoundly depending on the case, the dynamics of international politics. The results of this research provide us

with interesting and innovative insights into the role that geopolitical agents play in determining the behavior of a state. This, without wishing to exclude structural factors from analysis, those factors are fundamental but not exhaustive in explaining interactions between states.