

## **Abstract**

This master's thesis examines the stance of two French presidents towards a multilateral solution to the Malian crisis between 2012 and 2022. Specifically, it examines the presidential term of François Hollande and the first presidential term of Emmanuel Macron. This corresponds to the culmination of the Malian crisis, followed by the launch of Operation Serval, and the decision to withdraw French troops from Mali. The research focuses on presidential discourse in the form of 46 selected presidential speeches related to African policy towards Mali. Based on the characteristics of the French political system, the French president is a key actor in foreign policy, and his discourse therefore represents a relevant resource for examining the French stance towards multilateral cooperation in resolving the Malian crisis and the French position in its framework. From a methodological point of view, the thesis is a case study consisting of two cases of the two presidential terms mentioned above. Both presidential discourses are analysed using the method of critical discourse analysis. By identifying the key discursive elements referring to unilateral or multilateral perceptions of the French presence in Mali, the thesis defines the prevailing framework of the discourse of the two presidents and thus also answers the questions of how the multilateralization of African policy towards Mali is reflected in presidential discourse and how France's position in the resolution of the Malian crisis is perceived. The conclusions of this thesis then show that the approach to the multilateralization of the Malian crisis resolution has gradually changed during the period examined. President Hollande still perceived France as the main actor intervening in the region and did not assign the same importance to multilateral cooperation. E. Macron, however, already saw the presence in Mali and the whole Sahel region in a multilateral framework and considered its individual actors as an essential part of a collectively functioning international apparatus.