

Abstract

This thesis deals with the change in Denmark's approach towards the EU and NATO in the context of its security and defence policy since the end of the Cold War. Denmark was one of the founding members of NATO in 1949. Despite not being a neutral state, Denmark chose to opt out from the Common Security and Defence Policy of the EU following a failed referendum in 1992, in which the Danish citizens rejected the Maastricht Treaty. Denmark then pursued a closer relationship with the U.S. and supported the American out-of-area operations within NATO, which were often considered controversial among the other European members. This approach positioned Denmark as an *Atlanticist* and cautious EU member that stood against further integration. Nevertheless, in 2022, Denmark decided to abolish the defence opt-out and participate in the CSDP. This thesis follows Denmark's security and defence strategy since the end of the Cold War. This thesis uses Role Theory as a theoretical framework to examine external and internal factors that led to the decision to abolish the opt-out. It also analyses whether Denmark changed its role in the EU and NATO over the monitored time frame and what the extent of this change was.