

Abstract

This diploma thesis compares the foreign policy of the three Presidents of the Republic of Korea based on information listed in the annual reports of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea from 2008 to 2022. The work focuses on politics towards the US, DPRK, Japan and the PRC, as they are the most relevant countries in foreign countries Politics of the Republic of Korea.

The aim of the thesis is to test the hypothesis that conservative Korean presidents have sought to strengthen the strategic security alliance with the US and Japan and to remedy the relationship with the other countries, while the progressive president was more accommodating towards the DPRK and Communist China. The presidents whose politics is analysed are Lee Myung-bak, Park Geun-hye and Moon Jae-in, as they are the last three presidents who have already completed their presidency at the time of writing of this paper.

This paper uses the method of comparative analysis, which focused on both the quantitative evaluation of the development of the relationships of individual politicians, as well as the quantitative evaluation of the numerical data regarding the diplomatic meetings, summits and development of business relations as provided in the annual reports.

The author of the comparison concludes that the assumption as a whole does not apply in the examined cases. Partially, however, the hypothesis is correct. The author of the research found that in relations with the US, the hypothesis was correct in the case of conservative presidents, but in the case of the progressive president it did not apply. In relations with the DPRK, the hypothesis was confirmed. In relations with the PRC, the author of the work did not make concrete conclusion, as the approaches of the Presidents to the PRC were complex and could not be easily compared. In relations with Japan, the hypothesis was confirmed in case of the conservative president Lee Myung-back and also in the case of progressive President Moon Jae-in. In the case of the conservative president Park Geun-hye was the hypothesis not confirmed.

Another important finding of this study was also the finding that the annual reports of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea are not the best source for objective analysis, as all relevant information is not listed in them and the reports are not created the same. Often, some data were not listed, even though it should be.

Key words

Foreign policy, Korean republic, comparative analysis, DPRK, People's Republic of China, United States of America, Japan, case study