

Abstract

This thesis examines the assumption about the threat posed by the actorness of the Big Tech in global politics. Critics of these corporations argue that they wield power over both citizens and nation-states. A group of academics, led by Shoshana Zuboff, warns of their unique characteristics and calls for limiting their power. This thesis tests this assumption by analysing the perceived power of a representative of Big Tech, Google, through the eyes of the EU and its member states. The theory of multinational corporate agency, established in the second half of the 20th century, was re-examined using data from qualitative content analysis of official documents and secondary sources concerning Google. The perception was analyzed in the context of three dispute cases between 2010 and 2024. The research results did not confirm the critics' assumption about large technology firms. Although the EU and its member states perceive certain aspects of multinational corporate power differently than Anders Uhlin, the basic theory from the late 1980s remains valid. The perception revealed developments in the mutual negotiation of power and emphasized the importance of cultural and social impacts, technological advancements, and tendencies to evade legislation. These findings create space for further research and indicate the need to update existing theory.