

Abstract

In 2022, Russia launched a full-scale war against Ukraine, which put Russia's ally Kazakhstan in a strange position. On the one hand, it had to try to maintain stable relations with its northern neighbour; on the other hand, it could not look like a clear supporter of the war. Thus, the thesis will focus on the analysis of Kazakhstan's foreign policy, for which the official foreign policy concept of Kazakhstan serves as a basis, which the thesis considers as a source of clearly expressed preferences and goals of the state. This doctrine is then compared with reality, i.e. with how Kazakhstan has actually behaved on this issue in the international arena. Another assumption that the thesis operates with is a basic characteristic of political regimes, namely their desire to survive, for which purpose the regimes in question then adopt different sets of measures and strategies. In the case of Kazakh foreign policy, these efforts are manifested by an emphasis on a so-called multi-vector foreign policy, which aims at establishing stable relations with the most important actors. These actors are both those neighbouring the Central Asian region directly, i.e. China and Russia, and those not neighbouring it, located much further away, i.e. the United States and the European Union. The main sources of the work are thus official documents, contributions and government statements. Other sources are articles in the media and professional periodicals. At the same time, this analysis of foreign policy will be complemented by a discursive analysis of Tokayev's speeches and contributions in particular, in order to reveal the argumentative strategies and narratives he employs in relation to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and how he uses them to shape the wider political discourse.