

Abstract

The focus of this thesis is on Rosatom, a Russian state-owned enterprise, and its role in Russian foreign policy, with particular attention paid to its influence on the Czech Republic's energy sector, specifically its efforts to influence the tender for the completion of the second unit of the Dukovany nuclear power plant. The State Atomic Energy Corporation Rosatom is an important instrument for Russian foreign policy. Its potential for use as a tool of coercion is considerably lower than for commodities such as oil or gas, but Rosatom nevertheless provides Russia with the possibility of long-term influence in countries with which it concludes a contract for the construction of a nuclear power plant.

The thesis analyses in detail how Rosatom, through cooperation with Czech companies such as Škoda JS and with the support of some Czech industrial and political leaders, including then President Miloš Zeman and then Minister of Industry and Trade Karel Havlíček, tried to influence the tender for the completion of the second unit of the Dukovany nuclear power plant. It also examines what techniques and strategies Rosatom used to this end, and how the support of Czech companies and politicians was manifested.

The thesis also focuses on the potential problems that would arise in the event of Rosatom winning the tender, such as risks related to contractual conditions or the emergence of long-term dependence on fuel supplies from authoritarian Russia. A Rosatom victory could result in the Czech government having limited decision-making power on issues related to Russia in international and domestic politics and would represent a significant instrument of pressure of Russia.