

Abstract

The thesis deals with the development of EU-Australia relations from their beginning in the 1950s and 1960s to the present day. The aim of the thesis is to introduce the topic in a historical and contemporary context, to portray the current form of these relations and to present the development of the related legal and institutional framework of bilateral relations, as well as some of the sub-issues that have accompanied or continue to accompany the development of these relations. The main research question is the following one: Has the quality of EU-Australia relations changed over the course of their historical development? The thesis will continuously apply 3 selected theories of international relations, namely realism, liberalism and constructivism. In order to analyse the topic, the methods of induction and deduction, analysis, synthesis and comparison will be used within the case study of the EU-Australia bilateral relations. The thesis is therefore structured into 6 separate chapters, each with its own specific purpose. The first chapter presents the three basic dimensions of the relationship - political, economic and social. The second chapter aims to present the basic features of the 3 selected theories of international relations. The third chapter presents the methodological framework of the thesis. Thus, the fourth chapter presents the very first part of the case study, namely the development of EU-Australia relations from the 1950s until about the mid-1990s. The fifth chapter develops the analysis of the relationship from 1997 until 2017, when the last comprehensive international agreement between the two parties was negotiated so far. Chapter six then discusses the contemporary shape of the EU-Australia relationship, i.e. the Framework Agreement, as well as the negotiating process of the FTA.