

## **Abstract**

This thesis focuses on the role and influence of rising powers on global governance. Two case studies, two crises from recent years, were used to analyze this relationship. These are the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The analysis focused mainly on the BRICS and the SCO and the subsequent comparison with EU and NATO states in this time frame. The aim was to examine the ability of states to cooperate and adopt new policies during these crises and the subsequent impact of new policies on the structure of global governance, the organization itself, and the status of rising powers. The thesis is divided into two main chapters: the COVID-19 pandemic, which focuses on the functioning of the BRICS, and the role of China, the leading actor in this crisis. In the second chapter, devoted to the war in Ukraine, the thesis focuses on the role of Russia as the leading actor in the whole conflict with Ukraine, the role of the SCO, and the cooperation between China and Russia. The resulting analysis suggests that the Western countries are capable of greater cooperation and coming up with a common approach that overlaps at the global level, i.e., global governance structures. The paper concludes that the rising powers have been and are weakened by these two crises as they have failed to enforce their practices and policies at the global level. Equally, their cooperation has been weakened by differing approaches, beliefs, and lack of interest in joint action. Organizations such as the BRICS or the SCO have often been paralyzed and unable to unite their members, a significant difference from NATO or the EU, where the opposite has occurred.