

Abstract

The topic of this master thesis is the Relationship of the Federal Republic of Germany to the intervention in Libya. The aim of this master thesis is to answer the research question: "Why did not Germany support the intervention in Libya?". After the abstention on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, Germany was for not continuing human rights protection. The decision, to reject the intervention, has confirmed that Germany is still very skeptical regarding the involvement of its military personnel and assets abroad. The decision of the Security Council is not only a milestone in German history, but also a milestone for the international community. For the first time has the United Nations Security Council agreed to use military forces against a functioning state with the aim of protecting civilian population. This master thesis is a single case study; through which the author examines a very specific situation when Germany decided not to participate in the voting process regarding the intervention in Libya. The theoretical part of the thesis is based on the constructivist theory, furthermore the thesis focuses also on the concepts of civilian power, multilateralism, culture of restraint, and the protection of human rights. All these terms have significant influence on German foreign and security policies. The theoretical part also deals with the concept Responsibility to Protect. The aim of this thesis is to identify the main reasons which could have played a role during the German decision process; whether to support, not to support or to abstain in the vote. There are four main reasons to be taken into account. Among the reasons that influenced Germany, was that Germany tried to behave as a civilian power supporting multilateral measures. Furthermore, culture of restraint, internal political and economic reasons played their role as well. The thesis also attempts to identify which factors have played the most important role in the decision.