

# Abstract

In spite of the existence since almost seventy years, the State of Israel still has not reached the state of security. There are still many threats in its environment at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it has to face. This causes that a big part of Israel's policy is subordinated to eliminate their sources. Amongst the most important threats one can mention, above all, the development of Iran's nuclear program, the activity of anti-israeli terrorist groups, or the continuously unsolved Palestinian issue, which creates the tensions between Israel and the Palestinian Autonomy and Arab countries. The Israel's policy is also shaped and influenced by its strategic culture, or the significant role of army in decision making system.

This doctoral thesis aims to present the main determinants of Israel's security policy at the beginning of the 21st century – their analysis, finding the correlation between them and their explanation. Therefore, the primary research subject of the dissertation is the question: how and why this determinants influence the actions taken by the Jewish State to prevent, react and eliminate them. The author intends to verify the hypothesis which argues the following: the most significant influence on the Israel's security policy at the beginning of the 21st century has the strategic culture, shaped in the previous centenary, because the rest of the internal factors are its product, or reproduce it, whereas the external ones are perceived through its prism and strengthen it or cause its slow change. As a consequence, the main theoretical approach of the dissertation is based on the concept of the strategic culture, and the primary method used in the thesis is the system analysis.

The dissertation is divided into five parts. The first chapter presents the terminological and theoretical framework of the thesis, with a special focus on the essence of security and the dominant theoretical currents in the international relations – realism, liberalism, and constructivism. In the consecutive part the author focuses on the genetic explanation of the historical determinants of Israel's security in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The next two chapters constitute the main part of the dissertation and portray the internal – regarding the decision making system (chapter III) and external – which come from the environment of the system (chapter IV), determinants of Israel's security policy at the beginning of the 21st century. In each of them the author describes and analyses the correlations between this factors and their relations to the strategic culture of the state. The fifth part presents the potential

scenarios of the development of the Israel's security determinants. The dissertation's structure is subordinated to the explanation of the strategic culture's genesis, its main elements and its impact on the decision-makers' perception of threats, and as a consequence to explain the shape of the security policy.