

# **Afghanistan and Pakistan in the security policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2001-2019**

## **Summary**

Security is one of the basic human needs and one of the most important categories in the functioning of states and the entire system of international relations. The state's desire to obtain the state of security is the result of the feeling of increasing danger and the conviction that it is possible to eliminate the traditional threats known from history so far. In order to ensure national and international security, the state implements the assumptions of the security policy. The situation in the Middle East, including the policy pursued by the Islamic Republic of Iran after 2001, is of particular importance for international security. The changing geopolitical situation around Iran's borders since 2001 has determined its security policy, especially towards Afghanistan and Pakistan. The relationship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan and Pakistan is the result of centuries of conquest, the impact of which on the political, economic and social development of these countries is today very visible. Iran, in its policy towards Afghanistan and Pakistan, shows that it understands its international environment well and is trying to carefully set the directions of its security policy towards Kabul and Islamabad.

The main research objective of this dissertation is to present an essence and the evolution of the security policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2001-2019, including its determinants, main threats, applied measures and assessment of the effectiveness of the security policy. The years 2001-2019 are the period of work, but references to later years are also included. The work consists of five chapters. The first chapter deals with the theoretical aspects of national security and security policy. The second chapter deals with the internal and external conditions of the security policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The third chapter covers the general threats and priorities of the security policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2001-2019. The fourth and fifth chapters cover the main assumption of the work - the place of Afghanistan and Pakistan in Iranian security policy in the period from 2001 to 2019. An attempt has been made to characterize such determinants of Iranian-Afghan and Iranian-Pakistani relations as: bilateral relations until 1979, the significance of the Islamic revolution or religious conflicts. Attention has been paid to the activity of terrorist organizations, migration, drug trafficking and the problem of access to water as threats to security, separatist tendencies as a factor destabilizing the situation in the region, and the role of economic and

military cooperation in shaping the state security policy. Particular emphasis has been placed on discussing the importance of other actors in international relations and international organizations on Iran's security policy towards Afghanistan and Pakistan after 2001.

**Key words:** Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, security policy, international security, military conflicts