

GERMAN PROBLEMS

Jan Barcz, On the 25th anniversary of the Polish-German Treaty. A few reflections

The Polish-German Treaty of Good Neighbourship and Friendly Cooperation became a symbol of a new foreign policy of the independent Poland after the systemic changes of 1989. Its significance has a bilateral dimension in relations with the unified Germany and a general dimension as well. As concerns the former aspect, the Treaty together with the confirmation of the Polish-German border opened the way to building a Polish-German community of interests in all political areas and in interpersonal relations. As to its general import, the “big” Polish-German Treaty was the first major signal of a turn in the foreign policy of the independent Poland towards aspiration to membership in the then European Communities (later the European Union) and the North Atlantic Alliance. Thus, it paved the way to initiating Poland’s cooperation in all the basic areas of relations with the Western Europe of those times.

Marta Götz, Piotr Trąpczyński, The Investment Development Path – a bilateral perspective of Germany and Poland

This paper aims to explore the pattern of foreign direct investment (FDI) between Poland and Germany. It focuses on the bilateral aspects of the Investment Development Path (IDP) which so far seems to have been a rather neglected research area. Evolution along the IDP has been, with some exceptions, studied mainly globally without differentiating between partner countries. The conducted analysis sheds light on mutual Polish-German investment relations by putting them in the context of the IDP concept. The obtained findings can be supportive in formulating policy guidelines.

Jürgen Wandel, The role of Germany in the eurozone crisis – pragmatic rescuer or power-hungry torturer? An “Austrian” perspective

Germany’s role in the eurozone crisis is a subject of debate. Does Europe’s largest economy act pragmatically and lend a helping hand to the crisis countries or does its fixation on austerity and structural reforms prevent their discovery? This article discusses this question using the business cycle theory of the Austrian School of Economics as normative benchmark. It is argued that Germany’s insistence on fiscal discipline and market-oriented reforms is basically in line with the normative conclusions of this theory, while the reforms suggested for the monetary system fail to adequately solve the crucial problem which is seen in the high politicization of this sector. It is shown that Germany only partially succeeded in implementing its policy preferences in the eurozone’s anti-crisis policy. This only holds for its claim for austerity and structural reforms, whereas it has not been influential enough to prevent the European Central Bank’s counterproductive ultra-loose monetary policy and its enlargement of power. It is contended that in the eurozone crisis Germany has so far performed the role of a pragmatic rescuer rather than of a merciless tormentor.

Piotr Kalka, Innovativeness of the German economy in comparative aspect

The article has two aims. The first is to evaluate the innovativeness of the German economy and the second consists in analyzing innovative weaknesses of this economy. The author comes to the conclusion that German economy is stronger in respect of innovativeness than other big European economies (economies of France, Great Britain, Italy and Spain). He explains the complex causes of this phenomenon and shows some innovative weaknesses of the German economy as well. In his opinion they will not be eliminated even in the long term scale.

Tomasz Budnikowski, German economy vis-à-vis a mass influx of migrants

One of the factors restricting the economic growth rate of Germany are the persistently unfavorable demographic trends. Therefore, in the opinion of many economists, the mass influx of refugees from the countries of the Near East and Africa must be seen as an “opportunity of the century”. This does not mean, however, that immigration carries no problems. The reception of foreigners implies the necessity of incurring substantial expenses in the period preceding their introduction to the German labor market. Expenditures include accommodation, sustenance, participation in language courses and vocational training schemes.

Maria Wagińska-Marzec, Music as a tool for the integration of refugees in Germany

The recent influx of refugees to Europe on an unprecedented scale especially in the second half of 2015 has met with varied, generally very skeptical responses in the host countries or countries of their potential relocation. For Germany, which is the destination of the largest number of refugees (mainly from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran) who have fled from persecution and terror, the situation poses a great challenge. The German society responded with considerable openness to the needs of the immigrants and initiatives for the benefit of refugees were also joined by cultural and artistic circles. Surprisingly many projects and grass roots initiatives have been undertaken with the aim of assisting the newcomers to get accustomed to the new environment and integrate through music. The impulse came both from professionals and amateurs, young people (mostly music school students) as well as renowned public figures. The text presents a broad spectrum of different types of activities and joint initiatives undertaken by individual people and organized groups (choirs, bands, societies, associations, etc.) for the benefit of refugees and together with them in order to enable them to participate actively in performing music, to help them master the German language (through learning songs and musical games), to give them an opportunity to relax from the treadmill of day to day existence by inviting them to involve in concerts organized specially for them and above all to facilitate their integration with the German society.

Joanna Dobrowolska-Polak, Germany's leading role in managing the EU migration crisis

The article discusses the role of Germany in managing the EU migration crisis of 2015-2016. Its scale, legal basis and political framework governing refugee movement in Europe are discussed. Analyses concern the measures adopted by the EU and European countries in the face of the rising tide of migration. Special attention is paid to the agreement concluded between the European Union and Turkey (18.03.2016), whose fundamental assumption is the recognition of Turkey as the so-called "safe third country" for refugees. This recognition, in the light of international humanitarian standards, appears to be faulty. Despite this, however, the EU-Turkey agreement has been implemented and constitutes the basis for EU remedial action.

Elżbieta Roszko-Wójtowicz, Continuing vocational training in the EU against the backdrop of current demographic and economic conditions

Continuing education, vocational education and training included, has gained in significance over recent years. The increasing economic and social importance of innovations implies a growing demand for qualified personnel. Today the process of lifelong education determines the possibility of assuming various roles on the labor market and the quality of everyday life of adults and their families. The object of the study is to discuss the role and significance of continuing vocational education and training against the current backdrop of demographic and economic conditions in the EU. The article bases on the statistical data published by the European Statistical Office Eurostat. The economic and social indexes discussed by the author come from the period 2004-2014. Besides, the results of the Continuing Vocational Education and Training Survey (CVTS) from 2010 are also presented and compared to the earlier 2005 edition of the survey.

From the conducted analysis it follows that the two biggest challenges which Europe must face are changes in population structure caused by aging and the ongoing economic crisis. The qualifications of the population living in the EU are an answer to both of these problems.

Dariusz Wojtaszyn, Austria vs Germany. Anschluß-Spiel as an Austrian place of memory

On April 3, 1938, roughly a month after the Anshluß (annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany) the Prater Stadium in Vienna hosted a football match between teams representing Austria and Germany. The Game, which ended with a 2-0 score to Austria, became an event that had a major role in shaping the national consciousness of the Austrian society. The aim of this article is to portray developments related to the above-mentioned sporting event considering its peculiar social and political conditions as well as to highlight the mechanism of instrumentalizing the match by the Nazi authorities. Against this backdrop, the author reveals how particular elements of the event were mythologized leading to its becoming a significant symbol of remembrance in Austria today. Therefore, special importance is attached in the text to the postwar interpretation of the match, which served as a tool to forge local identity and to culturally separate Austrians from Germans and Germany. Furthermore, the author of the article attempts to debunk the myths and legends that have built up around this particular sporting event.

Rafał Jung, On the “Water Battle of Frankfurt”. The political dimension of the Polish football performance at the World Cup’74

The match between the national teams of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) during the 1974 FIFA World Cup organised in Frankfurt am Main, is often called the “Water Battle of Frankfurt” and plays a significant role in the collective imagination of Poles, in their historical memory. The only event comparable to it is the draw scored by the Polish footballers in the game with England at the Wembley stadium in October 1973, which led to the first Polish advance to the World Cup since 1938, namely to the 1974 contest organised in West Germany.

The legend of the “victorious draw” had become a myth only in terms of sport, while the Frankfurt game also carried political connotations. The latter was strongly connected to the political context of the Polish performance at the 1974 FIFA World Cup, created by the communist government of that time.

The success achieved by Kazimierz Górski’s team was politically taken advantage of by the environment of the I Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party, Edward Gierek. This was done on the one hand to implement a crucial domestic propaganda project, but on the other hand to enhance the pursuit of current political goals in relations with the FRG.

Ewa K. Czackowska, The role of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński in the creation of the Letter of the Polish Bishops to the German Bishops. Unknown documents in the archives of the Primate of Poland

The role of Primate Stefan Wyszyński in the creation of the Letter of the Polish Bishops to the German Bishops of 18 November 1965 was significantly more substantial than has so far been presented in the literature of the subject. He not only approved the composition and contents of the letter but was one of its co-authors. Primate Wyszyński was an active participant of the creation of the letter of the Polish bishops to the German bishops. He was not only informed about the proceedings of the episcopates of Poland and Germany in drafting the Letter and the response to it, but by meetings and talks with the members of the respective episcopates had genuine influence on the contents of the document. What is interesting, after the Letter was delivered to the German bishops but before the publication of their answer he met Cardinal Julius Döpfner, President of the episcopate of Germany. Information confirming the thesis of Primate Wyszyński’s co-authorship of the Letter of the Polish Bishops to the German Bishops of 18 November 1965 is to be found in the source materials stored in the Warsaw Archdiocesan archive and a majority of those materials are so far unpublished. Among them one particularly valuable source is the diary of Primate Stefan Wyszyński titled Pro memoria from 1965.