

## Streszczenia w języku angielskim

**Joanna Ciesielska-Klikowska**

**Keywords:** Germany, China, interest groups, think tanks, business associations, media, public opinion

The purpose of this article is to explore the multi-faceted dynamics of interest groups in the process of shaping Germany's foreign policy toward China. The analysis focuses on understanding the role of various interest groups and their influence on decision-making, as well as showing the complexity and implications of this influence in the context of a democratic society.

The main thrust of the text is to understand how various interest groups in Germany influence its foreign policy toward China, particularly in the context of mutual economic benefits and the development of political relations. The study focuses on identifying key interest groups and analysing the mechanisms and implications of their impact on decision-making processes.

The text poses several research hypotheses: 1) interest groups, such as business associations, research institutes and think tanks, the mass media and the general public, as well as the Chinese diaspora in Germany, play a significant role in shaping Germany's foreign policy towards China; 2) the mechanisms of interest groups' influence stem from their ability to channel social interests into the political system and take advantage of institutional opportunities for participation; 3) the varying distribution of power among competing interest groups in Germany, may be explained by indicating that power is not concentrated within a small privileged elite but is rather fragmented among different groups. The role of expert knowledge, the importance of the Chinese diaspora and the interest of the public and the media are all significant factors.

The article uses literature analysis and qualitative research based on expert interviews with academics, researchers, think tank representatives, and government officials. These interviews provide valuable information on the mechanisms of interest groups' effect on German foreign policy.

The article demonstrates that interest groups play an important role in shaping Germany's foreign policy toward China and that this influence results from their capacity to represent public interests and take advantage of institutional opportunities for participation, which is consistent with the liberal paradigm of international relations. A pluralist perspective

on analysis emphasizes the importance of competitive politics and citizen participation in decision-making processes. Maintaining democratic integrity and transparency in Germany's international operations requires an understanding of these complex relationships.

### **Katarzyna Gelles**

**Keywords:** Alternative for Germany, Eastern Germany, new federal states, *AfD* Voters, Politics of Fear, public discontent, electoral success

Since its formation in 2013, Alternative for Germany (*AfD*) has achieved a rapid success which is rather uncommon in politics. Within ten years of its operation, its political profile has undergone a considerable transition. From a Eurosceptic organization, it has evolved into a party of social protest, bringing together citizens who are critical of the functioning of the federal government. In terms of its political platform, it has gone sharply to the right, but it has also done so literally as its area of interest has migrated to the east of the country.

The aim of this article is to discuss the phenomenon of *AfD* on the German political scene. The main hypothesis states that *AfD* finds favourable conditions for its political activity in the new Lands due to the residents' declining spirits. The reasons for this situation stem from the disappointment of citizens with the political, economic and social development of this part of Germany following the reunification in 1990. This is also the result of the recent events (including the war in Ukraine, rising costs and inflation, the mass influx of refugees) and underlying concerns about the situation getting worse in the future. According to the research, *AfD* leaders skilfully prey on the uncertainty and lack of self-efficacy of East Germans, effectively handle their discontent, and turn it into another electoral success.

This article examines the factors influencing East German voters' support for *AfD*. The study, for the most part German-language based, in addition to the source literature refers to documents, statistical data, opinion poll results, experts and politicians' commentaries, as well as press articles.

## **Katarzyna Kamińska-Korolczuk**

**Keywords:** cybersecurity in the Baltic States, information policy of the Baltic States, information policy towards national minorities, disinformation, cybersecurity Estonia, cybersecurity Latvia

The article presents the solutions introduced by Estonia and Latvia to make the digital infrastructure they use to carry out state information policy and deliver public services more secure. The study aims to analyze the implemented regulations and assess their efficiency. The thesis of the article is that the authorities of both countries prioritize efforts to ensure cyber security.

To achieve the aim of the study and to confirm the thesis, the following measures were helpful: 1. findings based on direct observations and field research; 2. analysis of sources and existing data along with a systematic literature review (Fink, 2005: 17) and the institutional and legal method consisting in the study of normative acts (Żebrowski 2012: 32-33) in order to analyze changes occurring in the legal order. This is a review article, and it is organized as follows: analysis of the key issues related to the shape of information policy implemented by Estonia and Latvia through the media; presentation of activities related to strengthening cyber security; conclusions.

The analysis shows that Estonia and Latvia operate effectively in the digital sphere, but it requires ongoing monitoring of the destabilizing actions performed by Russia, their largest neighbor. The information policies of both countries take into account the preservation of relations between national minorities and their countries of residence. Actions taken by the Estonian and Latvian authorities in the area of cybersecurity have been ongoing for a long time and they represent a strategy whose effects are well reflected in the media sphere. The strategy awaits full implementation to ensure an increasingly higher level of cybersecurity.

## **Wojciech Łysek**

**Keywords:** Angela Merkel, foreign policy, Germany, political adaptation, Russia, war in Ukraine

The article focuses on the analysis of the attitude of Germany towards Russia as an example of political adaptation. The paper's aim is to verify the hypothesis that Germany's attitude towards Russia is characterized by a political adaptation process, which means that Germany strives to adjust to the changes in the regional environment as well as influence it.

The author attempts to answer the following question: What strategies of political adaptation were adopted between 2005 and 2021?

The article is divided into several parts. In the first one (apart from the introduction), the author discusses the concept of political adaptation. The second part focuses on describing German-Russian relations before 2005. Subsequent parts analyse the period between 2005 and 2021. The author emphasizes the turning points of 2008 and 2014. The last section is a summary and forecast for the coming years. The article was prepared on the basis of official documents, speeches and actions of politicians, press materials and analyses.

**Michał Paszkowski**

**Keywords:** energy security, Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline, Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, political thought, political parties, Law and Justice Party

The Law and Justice Party (PiS) has voiced specific opposition to the construction of the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines. Politicians of this party have repeatedly negatively assessed Russian-German energy cooperation, raising the possibility that Central European countries may become reliant on Russian Federation energy supplies. Under these circumstances, they emphasized the necessity of implementing projects (such as the LNG terminal in Świnoujście and the Baltic Pipe pipeline) to diversify the sources and routes of natural gas supplies to Poland and Central European countries. The aim of the article was to analyse the political thought of Law and Justice on the construction of Russian-German gas pipelines Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 and the impact of these investments on the energy security of Central European countries.

The starting point of the analysis was the thesis that Law and Justice viewed the construction of the Russian-German gas pipelines as posing a serious threat to Poland and other Central European countries' ability to secure their energy supplies and took active measures to mitigate that threat.

The study, for the most part, analyzes the statements of representatives of various political parties, including those made during sessions of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and in interviews with the media.

**Zenon Wiśniewski**

**Keywords:** short-time work, Germany's economy, COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment, labour market policy

Short-time work schemes are government initiatives that allow businesses experiencing financial difficulties to temporarily reduce the hours worked while providing their employees with income benefits from the state for the hours not worked. This enables management to swiftly adjust labour inputs and costs to shifting business conditions. The aim of the study is to analyze significant changes in the structure of short-time work programmes in Germany within the framework of the evolution of labour market policy, the function of short-time work schemes during the crisis, and to discuss potential impacts in light of prior empirical findings. In the study, focus was given on the functions of this instrument and changes in regulations in the 1970s and 1980s, after the reunification of Germany, during the financial crisis in 2008/2009 and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Achieving the set goals and solving the research problem required the use of descriptive and analytical methods.

The hypothesis that short-time work is an effective tool of labour market policy in Germany was favourably validated in the study. Short-time work schemes helped stabilize employment and prevent the loss of many jobs, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.