

Agnieszka Bielawska

Keywords: : Angela Merkel, crisis, refugees, “open door” policy, *CDU*

The article aims at tracing Angela Merkel’s open door policy in the course of the immigration crisis. The topic is encapsulated in several subsections which elaborate on the Chancellor’s most frequently enunciated solutions that would allow to end the crisis. These concepts are analyzed in the aspect of their origin, impact on Merkel’s position in her own party (CDU) and in the context of the 2017 elections to the Bundestag.

Joanna Ciesielska-Klikowska

Keywords: Germany, China, 16+1 cooperation, Central and Eastern Europe, the Belt and Trail initiative

Cooperation between China and Germany is becoming increasingly difficult because of China’s growing activity on the European continent. Berlin is aware of the need to create a common EU policy toward China and therefore seeks opportunities to build one in a situation of deepening cooperation between China and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Germany perceives the 16+1 cooperation as a means of securing a larger number of Chinese investments in Europe and its broader neighborhood. However, Berlin is disturbed about the potential of the initiative as it can contribute to a deterioration of the EU’s investment principles and diminish the political unity of those member states which seek Chinese investments. Moreover, the Chinese initiative to advance cooperation with the countries of Eastern and Central Europe is seen in Berlin as an attempt to weaken Germany’s position as an advocate of the interests of Eastern and Central European countries on the European and global arena.

Ewa Godlewska

Keywords: immigration policy, Germany, Austria, Angela Merkel

The article presents the basic premises of the immigration policy of Germany and Austria after the Second World War, considering the evolution it has undergone in the second half of the 20th century. The issues are presented as a context of later developments connected with the immigration crisis in Europe. Emphasis is placed on the reaction of the government in Vienna to the crucial decisions taken by Angela Merkel.

Germany and Austria have for many decades based their activity in the domain of immigration policy on the same premises. In recent years, however, growing differences can be observed in this respect, as diverse visions of resolving the current immigration crisis have been proposed. The Austrian government has become more critical of the measures put forward by Angela Merkel. The article attempts to answer the question about the reasons of this state of matters. Does the criticism concern only proposals pushed by the German Chancellor at the EU forum or other issues as well? The conducted analysis will help verify the thesis that Austria’s negative attitude to Angela Merkel’s immigration policy in recent years follows from differences in the adopted legal solutions.

Monika Jania- Szczechowiak

Keywords: displaced persons camp, transition camp, concentration camp, Konstantynów Łódzki, prisoners, veteran benefits

The object of the article is the presentation and analysis of endeavors undertaken by the former prisoners of the German camp in the occupied Konstantynów Łódzki to requalify the name of the camp from a displaced persons camp to a concentration camp. The article briefly outlines the history of the camp, its place in the Nazi camp system and the conditions that pervaded the camp. This is followed by a presentation of the arguments and counterarguments used in the polemics of the former prisoners with public institutions. The status of the former prisoners of the *Konstantinow* camp is examined in the context of the Veteran Act and the accompanying regulation. The issue of financial compensation paid out to the victims of Nazi Germany by the Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation is also discussed. The article provides an impulse for reflection on the topic of the treatment of transition camps in two categories: *de iure* and *de facto*.

Karol Janoś, Jacek Kubera

Keywords: Germany, France, European Commission, EU, euro area, Economic and Monetary Union

The object of the article is to present the stance of Germany on the issue of transformations within the euro area proposed by France and the European Commission in the period from the presidential election in France (which ended on May 7, 2017) to the summit of the European Commission (March 22-23, 2018). The authors analyze the reaction of the representatives of the FRG government to proposals of reforms of the euro area in the above mentioned period, with a focus on the four most frequently debated issues: creation of a separate budget of the euro area or a special budget line dedicated to the euro area as part the general budget of the European Union, transformation of the European Stability Mechanism into a European Monetary Fund, the completion of a banking union, and the creation of the office of a euro area finance minister or an EU economy and finance minister. A hypothesis was adopted that the government of the FRG in its reactions to those proposals upheld the postulates presented in previous years concerning the necessity of respecting budget discipline and introducing structural reforms in the countries of the euro area, at the same time expressing skepticism toward risk sharing across members of the euro area through, among others, a European deposit insurance scheme. It was also assumed that Germany pursued the adoption of solutions which would prevent the possibility of increasing divisions between member states. The source base of the study consists of official documents of the German government and the European Commission as well as public utterances of the main political actors responsible for shaping the economic and financial policy at national state level and the EU level.

Katarzyna Jedynakiewicz-Mróz

Keywords: Rüdiger Jutta, *BDM*, German women in Third Reich

The article presents the life, the public activity and the political views of Jutta Rüdiger, the leader of Nazi organization Union of German Girls (Bund Deutscher Mädel, *BDM*). The text consists of two parts: biographic and analytical. In the biographic one the main stages of Rüdiger's life are shown: youth (1910-1933), the period of the activity in *BDM* (1933-1945) and the career and public activity after the Second World War (1945-2001). The main problems of the presentation were: the conditioning of the political choices of Rüdiger, the specificity of her work as a leader of *BDM* and her professional as well as public activity after 1945. In analytical part of the article the main elements of an outlook of life of Rüdiger were considered, in the context of their influence on Rüdiger's political attitude after the war. The source base of the presentation and of the analysis were the memoirs of Rüdiger and her „*BDM* good name defense” published as a book-disclaimer (*Richtigstellung*).

Barbara Jurkowska

Keywords: transborder cooperation, Poland, Germany, regional development

Transborder cooperation is an important factor in establishing stable relations between regions and countries in Europe. The development of this type of cooperation depends largely on the formal and legal possibilities for regions and local communities to undertake initiatives on a scale that goes beyond their borders. The unity of Europe and maintaining peace within its boundaries will considerably depend on good and friendly international contacts, including transborder ones. That is why close attention should be paid to the significance of border regions in the development of Poland and Germany. The article presents the results of questionnaire surveys on the factors and barriers of transborder cooperation, carried out among units of local government in the Gorzów subregion

Jadwiga Kiwerska

Keywords: Merkel, G.W. Bush, Obama, Trump, American-German relations

American-German relations are an important pillar of the USA's involvement in Europe. However, they underwent a period of slump during the presidency of G.W. Bush, when G. Schröder was the Chancellor of Germany. Chancellor Angela Merkel not only renewed close relations with Washington, but also – seeing them as a factor strengthening the position of Germany on the international arena – managed to build an American-German partnership. Her relations with President Bush can be considered good, but with President Obama - excellent. The latter regarded Merkel to be his best partner and an outstanding leader. The Trump presidency, in turn, is a difficult experience for the German side, arousing concern about the future of mutual relations.

Bogdan Koszel

Keywords: Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Peer Steinbrück, Martin Schulz, Social Democratic Party of Germany, Chancellor candidates

In the article the author analyzes the election campaigns to the German Parliament of three SocialDemocratic candidates (P. Steinbrück, F.-W Steinmeier, M. Schulz) in the years 2009-2017. The author describes the political career of the candidates, focusing especially on the preparation for and progress of the successive election campaigns in 2009, 2013 and 2017. The main hypothesis was to verify the claim that although the candidates were well prepared and showed personal commitment, they had no chance of winning in confrontation with the experienced Chancellor Merkel. Their election defeat was an outcome of an all-European crisis of the social-democratic formation with a shrinking social (working-class) backing. In this respect SPD did not differ much from the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) or the crumbling Socialist Party of France. Besides, CDU cynically took over the social slogans of the left and lifted them on its own banners. Merkel did not hesitate to take over from SPD the postulate of a minimum per hour wage of € 8.50, or the idea to close down nuclear power plants, which was the main driving engine of The Greens' election campaigns. In the article the descriptive, comparative, decision and statistical research methods were used.

Piotr Kubiak

Keywords: Germany, election for the *Bundestag*, party system, great coalition

The author analyzes the results of the election for the *Bundestag* with special emphasis on the ongoing changes in the German party system. The elections of September 24, 2017 brought about significant changes on the German political scene: a strong representation of the right-wing Alternative for Germany (*AfD*) made its debut in the *Bundestag*, six factions have formed in the parliament, the position of the great *Volksparteien* (*CDU/CSU* and *SPD*) has weakened, while the middle-sized parties (*AfD*, *FDP*, *Die Linke* and The Greens) have gained in strength. This is an effect of the growing fragmentation and polarization of the German party system. Such an election outcome caused problems with forming a stable federal government. In the author's opinion, the results of the last election for the *Bundestag* were heavily influenced by the migration crisis, which deepened and accelerated the processes underway in the German party system and contributed to a good result of the anti-immigrant *AfD*

Marlena Piotrowska

Keywords: women, political socialization, Germany, *CDU/CSU*, political leadership

The *CDU* and *CSU* parties play a unique role in the political system of Germany, and more and more women from Christian democratic parties perform key political functions in the country. This phenomenon is an inducement to reflect upon the paths of career that lead women to the highest political positions. The main aim of the article is an attempt to answer the question

on the influence of the family on the political career of the female leaders from the *CDU* and *CSU* parties. The group of persons studied included 53 female party members who in the years 1990-2017 performed leading functions in the two parties, political factions, the *Bundestag* and the federal government. In the course of the study the following sources, among others, were analyzed: interviews with the leading women politicians, the contents of their memoirs and websites as well as press publications about selected persons.

Radosław Potorski, Rafal Willa

Keywords: public participation, civic initiative, law-making, Poland, European Union

A high level of public participation is a much desired state of affairs as it entails numerous benefits for the participants of the political system. Citizens gain access to legislative procedures, can express their opinions often backed by expert knowledge, have a sense of co-responsibility for the ongoing developments, etc. The authorities, in turn, without any serious weakening of their monopoly on decisions, gain access to, among others, expert knowledge, the possibility to build a broader social consensus around their actions and in this way avoid the danger of political turbulence in the form of mass protests. The problem, however, lies in the fact that such participation both at the EU and domestic level is far below the desired degree – for very different reasons citizens do not join in those processes. This inadequacy has in a way forced decision-making centers to undertake various initiatives aimed at improving the state of things. The article is an attempt to answer the question: which of the remarks and conclusions related to the introduction of two essential mechanisms of participation at the EU's supranational level can be implemented into the state system of the Republic of Poland.

Maria Wagińska-Marzec

Keywords: *Barenboim-Said-Akademie* in Berlin, *Pierre-Boulez-Saal*, musical education, integration, understanding among nations

The aim of the article is to present an original initiative (whose originator and animator is the Argentine-Israeli pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim) to create in Berlin a college with a musical-humanistic profile as an institutional platform for dialog and understanding among young people coming from war ridden countries of the Middle East (Syria, Israel, Palestinian Authority, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon). The academy is expected to educate around 90-100 young musicians from Middle East countries. The establishment of an experimental cultural-educational institution, the *Barenboim-Said-Akademie* (8 December 2016) deserves attention for a variety of reasons: political, cultural, educational, social. It is an interesting phenomenon because of the many functions to be performed by the academy itself (its fundamental task being education and learning: tutoring in music and humanistic subjects), its students (perfecting their professional skills and learning the history and culture of another nation through music), and last but not least the institution as a music center (offering Berlin and its citizens an original concert hall). The study attempts to communicate the message and main assumptions of the initiative with an emphasis on the support it has received in Germany from different institutions ranging from the *Bundestag*, through the federal government (especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the government of the FRG for culture and

the media) to other bodies cooperating in the creation of the Academy. Thanks to the determination and unfailing endeavors of one individual it was possible to create a music college dedicated to performing, on a neutral ground, educational, integrative and political functions for people from other cultural environments. Germany is a country with an openness to other cultures and a favorable socio-political climate for the development of artistic personalities and initiatives towards integration and peace.

The indirect observation method was used in the study; it was based on information and materials collected by the analyzed institution as well as on interviews and utterances of competent politicians.

Jürgen Wandel

Keywords: Germany, economic policy, social market economic, political economy

The paper takes stock of the economic policy balance sheet of the era Angela Merkel. It analyzes to what extent the positive economic indicators of her chancellorship is related to principles of economic policy Ludwig Erhard stood for and explains Merkel's economic policy choices from a public choice perspective. The study shows that economic policy under Angela Merkel has drifted increasingly away from the legacy of Ludwig Erhard's free market policy towards socially and ecologically motivated interventionism. It is contended that Germany's current positive economic development is, therefore, actually the result of the labour market reforms of the previous chancellor Gerhard Schröder and the undervalued euro. The paper argues that Angela Merkel's policy choices have been favoured by the incentive structure of the political system and the prevalence of the widespread belief of the population in the need and good of market regulations and redistribution. Yet, because of their stifling effects on economic dynamism these policies make Germany increasingly ill-equipped to tackle urgent economic challenges.