

Magdalena Balczyk, Asymmetry of compensations for Polish citizens for the losses incurred during the Second World War in relation to compensations paid to citizens of other countries

Keywords: compensation, reparations, II World War, Germany, Poland

After the Second World War, Germany was obliged to pay reparations to the countries participating in the winning coalition. Among other things, due to the fact that the states on both sides of the Iron Curtain ceased to collect them, the question of financial compensation for the losses incurred by natural persons in connection with international crimes committed by Third Reich officers was not resolved.

The main aim of this paper is a dogmatic, historical and comparative analysis of the legal foundations for payment of compensations to citizens of Germany, Western European countries, Israel, the United States and Central European countries and also an assessment of these legal solutions, especially from the Polish perspective.

The legal solutions adopted led to a blatant dual asymmetry in terms of compensation for natural persons: 1. between German citizens and the citizens of occupied countries, 2. between citizens of Western European countries, the United States of America and Israel on the one hand and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe on the other. This asymmetry contradicts the principles of human dignity, equality before the law and the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of national origin, which were developed after the Second World War in a framework of the international human rights protection systems.

Damian Bębnowski, Germany as a fiscal state in the institutional and historical-economic Perspective (1990-2015)

Keywords: constitution, political system, fiscal state, public finance, formal institutions, economic history of Germany

Three goals were formulated in the article. First of all, the analysis of the Basic Law of Germany as a formal institution, in accordance with the proposal provided by the institutional economics, as well as the approximation of those provisions of the Constitution which concern

the fiscal system of Germany. Secondly, the reference of these constitutional rules to one of the political goals arising from the Constitution, which is the fiscal state, but this issue has been narrowed down to public finance in Germany. Thirdly, to discuss the changes that took place in this sector in the years 1990-2015 from a historical-economic perspective.

The importance of the constitutional rules for the functioning of the German public finance system after unification was considered to be a research problem. The starting point is the statement that the Basic Law of Germany as a formal institution determined the framework for the functioning of the German economy in the analyzed period, including the public finance sector.

The research method was based on a critical analysis of normative and statistical sources as well as selected literature.

Nawojka Cieślińska-Lobkowitz, Looted and removed art, provenance research – together or *separately*?

Keywords: Polish-German cultural relations; cooperation of Polish and German art historians and museologists; restitution of removed cultural assets; Nazi theft of works of art; Jewish art collectors; provenance studies; the Berlinka collection of the Jagiellonian Library; Washington Conference 1998 on Nazi-Confiscated Art, Teresin Declaration 2009, the Gurlitt affair

The aim of the paper is to present the relevance of scientific research on the provenance of works of art and cultural assets looted during the reign of the Third Reich (1933-1945) as well as those removed in consequence of World War II. It postulates to commence Polish-German cooperation in this field, and appeals to the Polish and German circles of art historians, museologists, librarians and archivists to undertake joint studies within the area of broadly understood provenance of works of art and cultural assets unlawfully appropriated as a result of Nazi persecutions prior to and during world War II.

The research problem is to identify the factors which following the downfall of communism and reunification of Germany hindered such cooperation. Besides contradictory stances of the two states: Poland and the FRG concerning “mutual restitution of removed works of art” these factors included mutual resentments and the mindset of both the German and the Polish professionals engaged in public collections, for whom studies of the provenance of “suspicious” objects played a marginal role. The author shows the gradual change of the attitude

of German professionals to the problem of provenance studies in the last 20 years. Consequently, those studies began to receive political and institutional support and have even been recognized as a research discipline. No similar process and accompanying change of the “professional” mindset occurred in Poland; here the group of professionals who appreciate provenance studies is still very small.

Meanwhile, the development of provenance research in Germany (likewise in Austria, Holland, France and the USA) has contributed to a marked increase of specific and general knowledge on the Nazi theft of cultural assets and its far reaching consequences. This enhanced knowledge, however, does not pertain to Eastern Europe and Poland, where German occupation lasted the longest and whose territory became a testing ground of mass Nazi looting of public collections and private property. As regards the three and a half million community of Polish Jews, Nazi plunder was of a total nature, anticipating directly the holocaust of 90 per cent of them.

This acute research deficit calls for cooperation and cross-research based on broadly understood issues of the provenance of those works of art and cultural assets whose fate in the years 1933-1945 and the post-war period locate them within the scope of German or Polish history of art. Harbingers of such research can already be seen among Polish as well as German scholars but to date there have been no common undertakings and only they can be fruitful.

The following research methods have been used in the article: systemic analysis, institutional-legal analysis and decision-making analysis.

Justyna Kijonka, Contexts and motives of post-war migrations from Upper Silesia to Federal Republic of Germany and transformations of consciousness of Polish Aussiedlers

Keywords: sociology of migration, *Aussiedler*, Federal Republic of Germany, Upper Silesia, Polish diaspora

The aim of the article is to present the problems of emigration from Poland to Germany in the historical context and in the context of the changes that have taken place in both countries. The paper presents the opinions of people who emigrated to West Germany and obtained the *Aussiedler* status, about the changes that have taken place in Germany since they decided to emigrate there from Poland.

The article attempts to present, as the main problem, the fate and opinions of the individuals in this group, the reasons for their migration, their first encounter with the FRG and their opinion about the decision to migrate. In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the possibility of emigrating to West Germany from the Polish People's Republic was the dream of many Polish citizens. The migration was accompanied by great expectations and hopes that not all migrants have managed to fulfill. As in every migration process, there have been winners and losers. The reality of German capitalism, language barriers and unemployment were the most frequent problems encountered by the emigrants.

The paper is based on various qualitative research methods, especially on interviews with people who migrated to the Federal Republic of Germany between 1970 and 2000 and obtained the *Aussiedler* status there. The problem of this migration has not yet been the subject of an in-depth study in Poland.

Michał M. Kosman, German political parties towards Russia against the backdrop of the conflict in Ukraine in the years 2014-2018

Keywords: Germany, Russia, Ukraine, European Union, Crimea, conflict over Crimea, Donbass, sanctions, German political parties

Germany has shown in its history great interest in Central and Eastern Europe. This approach did not change after the reunification in 1990. The Eastern policy of Germany focused on such activities as strengthening political and economic cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and supporting their aspirations for membership in the European Union and NATO; wide-ranging cooperation with Russia; supporting Russia's involvement in cooperation with organizations from the Western world; financial support for economic transformation in Russia. From the perspective of Germany, Russia was perceived as one of the most important partners in the process of strengthening international security. In turn, the Orange Revolution of 2004 drew Germany's greater attention to Ukraine. The conflict in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, initiated in 2014, became the cause of deep concern in Germany.

The article aims to discuss Germany's attitude to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in 2014-2018 - the position of the German government and the main political parties. The author mainly

refers to official documents as well as statements of politicians, mostly taken from the press and websites of German political parties.

The research problem raised in the article is the attitude of German political parties to Russia following the annexation of Crimea and support of separatist activities in the East of Ukraine.

The author verified two research hypotheses:

- Traditional political parties, rooted for several decades in the party system of West Germany, show a high degree of principled attitude to the observance of international law. The consequence of such an approach is a critical position at the official level on Russia's actions in Ukraine. This does not interfere with the phenomenon of pluralism of views on this issue within particular parties.

- The political circles of the Eastern federal states, irrespective of the party colors, due to the economic interest tend to lean towards a more flexible approach to Russia's policy, including limiting or abolishing the sanctions regime.

In implementing the goals of the article, the author used appropriate research methods. He decided to resort primarily to elements of institutional and legal analysis, which was used in the examination of documents. In addition, he applied the comparative method, indispensable for comparing the attitude of German political parties to the title problem.

Bogdan Koszel, The role and place of the Federal Chancellery in shaping Germany's European policy in the 21st century

Keywords: Germany, Federal Chancellery, German European policy, 21st century

The aim of the article is a survey of the legal and informal competences of the Federal Chancellery in Germany with a focus on the European policy of the Federal Republic.

As the research problem the author sets himself the task of demonstrating in a scientific argument that the Federal Chancellery effectively performs the function of coordinator of Germany's European policy, closely cooperating with the ministries (especially the Federal Foreign Office) and the Permanent Representation of Germany to the European Union.

The hypothesis has been adopted that the Federal Chancellery plays the role of mediator between the government and the parliament, the federal states, social organizations and representatives of foreign states. It provides the Chancellor with current information and various analyses pertaining to the functioning of the European Union.

. The article uses the following research methods: systemic analysis, institutional-legal analysis and decision method analysis.

Marta Ratajczak, , In an echo chamber of history - Kresy and Silesia as the memorial sites of the Polish-German community of memories in the novel *Katzenberge (Cat's Mountains)* by Sabrina Janesch

Keywords: culture(s) of memory, generational memory, communicative memory, a silent event, region-specific nature of war memory, Silesia and Polish Eastern Borderlands as memorial places

The purpose of this paper on the novel *Katzenberge (Cat's Mountains)* by Sabrina Janesch is to locate it in the context of a debate on the German memory culture(s) and its representation in German-language literary texts. This classification is justified by a specific regional and generational character of the war memories in the novel. Within this short observation, the author of the paper is interested not only in historical, sociological and cultural study questions, which are connected directly to this topic, but primarily and especially, in what way and using what means the pictures of Silesia and of Kresy were created as memorial sites in the novel *Katzenberge (Cat's Mountains)*, which is based on autobiographical motifs.

The research problem, which appears in this study, can be formulated as follows: In the Polish-German history of forced resettlements from the period of World War II, there are gaps whose existence in a more or less significant way distorts the perception of this issue, both at the level of historical reconstruction, in which certain aspects of common history are omitted, as well as at the level of reflection on them in literary texts. The article proposes a thesis that the novel *Katzenberge (Cat's Mountains)* by Sabrina Janesch fills an important gap in German-

language literature, which is the history of Polish refugees and people forcibly displaced from the Kresy to Silesia. Thus, the literary topography of this region expands, becoming a place where the fates of Polish Kresowians and German Silesians intersect and overlap, while the region itself assumes the form of a palimpsest.

The following research methods were used: narratology and hermeneutics. These research methods allow in-depth analysis of the structure and content of the text, as well as facilitate an attempt to interpret it in the context of the issues under investigation.

Karl Heinz Roth, The German politics and the Reparation Question after the Second World War: A critical survey with special regard to the conflict with Poland

Keywords: reparations, World War II, European countries, German

The aim of the article is to present the problem of reparations. The issue of reparations remains a controversial and explosive chapter in the history of Europe after World War II. Whereas the larger victorious powers received some compensation in the years immediately after the war, the smaller European countries, as well as numerous victim groups, largely came away empty-handed. One of these countries is Poland, which to this day is calling for reparations to compensate for the plundering of its economy and for the victims of the massacres under the Nazi occupation.

The article presents as a main problem the question, why to this day, the German elites have refused to pay reparations which take into account all victim groups and all the countries once occupied by Germany. In this article, the author explores the context, the strategic options and the tactics behind the German elites' approach towards compensation – an approach which culminated in the issue of reparations being removed from the de facto peace treaty of 1990 (the 'Two Plus Four Treaty').

The paper is based on various research methods, especially on survey of diplomatic documents and some studies published in Poland and Germany on the subject.

Michał Stefański, Settling scores with the generation of '68 in the texts of authors of the generation of '85

Keywords: 1968, generation of '68, generation of '85, generational conflict, Federal Republic of Germany, generational identity

The objective of the paper is analysis of the phenomenon of settling scores with the West German generation of '68 based on selected literary, (auto)biographical and essayistic texts of the authors belonging to the generation of their children, so called generation of '85. The article also aims to examine the process of building generational identity.

The main fields of settling scores are: new concepts of family, anti-authoritarian education, sexual revolution, ideology, the past and politics. Apart from mostly negative there are also some ambiguous and ambivalent evaluations in which the generation of '68 is not only criticized, but also admired and envied.

Text analysis shows the multidimensionality of the problem of settling scores with the generation of '68 and leads to the conclusion that through confrontation with the generation of their parents, the authors of the generation of '85 try to determine their own value system and to create their own generational identity. With its strong identity, the generation of '68 is a contrast plane for the generation of '85 that allows their self-definition.

The research perspective presented in this paper refers to the field of generational research (*Generationenforschung*) and is based on the methods of *close reading*, which focuses on the immanent text analysis and *wide reading*, which is oriented towards analysis of the historical and cultural aspects represented in the texts.

Sylwia Zawadzka, From soft power to smart power. French and German visions of EU military integration and their criticism

Keywords: smart power, Common Security and Defence Policy, The Permanent Structured Cooperation, European Intervention Initiative, EU army

The research problem presented in the article is an analysis of the proposals of France and Germany from 2015 to 2018 in the context of deepening military integration in Europe. The European Union, as an organization based on dialogue and international cooperation, has so far been defined in the political space through the prism of "soft" capabilities to influence the international environment. New threats and security challenges strengthened the conviction of the states' and EU authorities about the need to deepen cooperation in the field of defense and to develop a new approach in the context of defining the tools of EU foreign policy.

The aim of article is to explain to what extent French and German proposals contribute to the European Union becoming a smart power actor and in what direction the CSDP is developing. The hypothesis is based on the assumption that both France and Germany, forming the European "tandem", as well as the European Commission, are taking measures to do away with the image of the Union as a soft power actor through a gradual communitarisation of the defense policy and the creation of a European Defense Union, equipped with autonomous armed forces. The consequence of these initiatives is to provide the EU with "hard" (military) capabilities to exert political influence, which are important in the implementation of the smart power concept.

The main research method used in the article is the analysis of official documents of EU institutions and governmental institutions of France and Germany in the field of security and defense, as well as intergovernmental letters of intent, containing the assumptions of new cooperation initiatives. The comparative method was applied at the level of analyzing the approach of the German and French authorities to the issue of deepening military integration.

