

**Oryginalna praca badawcza**

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## **SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ENSURING GERMANY'S NATIONAL SECURITY THROUGH THE PRISM OF MODERN PROCESSES**

## **SPOŁECZNO-EKONOMICZNE ASPEKTY ZAPEWNIENIA BEZPIECZEŃSTWA NARODOWEGO NIEMIEC PRZEZ PRYZMAT WSPÓŁCZESNYCH PROCESÓW**

***Abstract:*** National security is an important aspect of the functioning of any country, determining the stability and prosperity of society. This article examines the socio-economic aspects of ensuring Germany's national security in the context of modern processes. The definition of national security, the current situation in Germany's security system, the peculiarities of the formation of national security, Germany's role in NATO activities, the dynamics of the main state expenditures, problems and prospects for the development of NATO and Germany's national security are considered.

The general conclusion is that ensuring national security in today's world requires an integrated approach, covering economic, social and military aspects. Germany, as a strong economic and political state, plays an important role in ensuring stability in Europe and the world through active participation in international organizations, in particular NATO, and systematic improvement of its national security system.

***Zarys treści:*** Bezpieczeństwo narodowe jest ważnym aspektem funkcjonowania każdego państwa, determinującym stabilność i dobrobyt społeczeństwa. W artykule

przeanalizowano społeczno-ekonomiczne aspekty zapewnienia bezpieczeństwa narodowego Niemiec w kontekście współczesnych procesów. Rozważana jest definicja bezpieczeństwa narodowego, obecna sytuacja w niemieckim systemie bezpieczeństwa, specyfika kształtowania bezpieczeństwa narodowego, rola Niemiec w działaniach NATO, dynamika głównych wydatków państwa, problemy i perspektywy rozwoju NATO i bezpieczeństwa narodowego Niemiec.

Ogólny wniosek jest taki, że zapewnienie bezpieczeństwa narodowego w dzisiejszym świecie wymaga zintegrowanego podejścia, obejmującego aspekty gospodarcze, społeczne i wojskowe. Niemcy, jako państwo silne gospodarczo i politycznie, odgrywają ważną rolę w zapewnianiu stabilności w Europie i na świecie poprzez aktywne uczestnictwo w organizacjach międzynarodowych, w szczególności w NATO, oraz systematyczne doskonalenie swojego systemu bezpieczeństwa narodowego.

**Keywords:** security, NATO, defence, economical security, GDP.

**Słowa kluczowe:** bezpieczeństwo, NATO, obrona, bezpieczeństwo ekonomiczne, PKB.

National security is an important aspect of the functioning of any country, determining the stability and prosperity of society. This article examines the socio-economic aspects of ensuring Germany's national security in the context of modern processes. For this, it is important to consider the definition of national security, the current situation in Germany's security system, the peculiarities of the formation of national security, the role of Germany in the activities of NATO, the dynamics of major government expenditures, problems and prospects for the development of NATO and Germany's national security.

On 14 June 2023, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz presented the first National Security Strategy "Strength. Stability. Integrated security for Germany."<sup>1</sup> This document, as well as the very fact of its creation, marked the most radical turn in German foreign policy in recent decades. The plan is based on an ambitious, all-encompassing approach that highlights the need to strengthen Germany's defence readiness, resilience and sustainable resource usage. Additionally, this is the first time that Russia has been acknowledged as a direct threat to Germany

<sup>1</sup> N. Busse, *Strategie mit Beigeschmack*, Frankfurter Allgemeine, p. 5, <https://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/inland/deutsche-sicherheitspolitik-strategie-mit-beigeschmack-18964047.html>, (accessed 20.06.2023).

and its allies. The text also emphasizes Germany's commitment to collective defence and the importance of NATO. The ruling coalition has realized that it has to clarify its security policy direction more clearly. Simultaneously, the approach reflects the limited agreement amongst the coalition parties on several issues. However, because of the absence of clear goals and instruments, insufficient money and unsolved issues with policy coordination, this approach can only be used as a springboard for more debates<sup>2</sup>.

National security is a set of measures aimed at protecting territorial integrity, political stability, economic well-being and security of citizens of the state<sup>3</sup>. In the case of Germany, given its history and geopolitical position, national security also includes interaction with other European countries and participation in international associations such as the European Union and NATO.

At the same time, Germany has the largest contingent of conventional armed forces in Europe within the framework of the North Atlantic Alliance.

National security is a key component for the stability and prosperity of any country. Germany is one of the leading countries in Europe and the world, ensuring its national security means protecting the interests, territory and well-being of its population. This includes not only the military aspect, but also the socio-economic components that determine the state of society.

German legislation defines a number of principles for the organization of the system of bodies that ensure safety<sup>4</sup>:

1. distribution of functions of intelligence, counter-intelligence and police bodies;
2. the obligation to define by law the tasks and competences of each body, as well as operational methods and means that they can use;
3. intelligence and counter-intelligence activities are separated from operative-investigative activities;
4. a mechanism for ensuring the coordination of all bodies that ensure the security of the state – the presence of special bodies and a legal framework;
5. a system of parliamentary and governmental control over the activities of special services, which checks whether they operate within the framework of the

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<sup>2</sup> L. Gibadło, J. Gotkowska, *Germany's first national security strategy: the minimal consensus*, OSW Centre for Eastern Studies, <https://www.osw.waw.pl/en/publikacje/osw-commentary/2023-06-26/germanys-first-national-security-strategy-minimal-consensus>, (accessed 20.01.2023).

<sup>3</sup> V. A. Lipkan, *National security of Ukraine. Studyguide*, "Condor" 2006, p. 52.

<sup>4</sup> *Was in der Nationalen Sicherheitsstrategie steckt*, Tagesschau, <https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/innenpolitik/nationale-sicherheitsstrategie-106.html>, (accessed 20.06.2023).

law and helps ensure that external security is ensured by intelligence agencies and internal security is provided by counter-intelligence and police agencies.

The Federal Security Council is responsible for the direct development of the concept of state security and the development of proposals for the strategic directions of the external and internal security of Germany.

So, we can state that national security is not only an internal issue, but also the result of foreign policy and international cooperation.

Today, Germany is at the centre of attention both in Europe and in the world. On one hand, the country enjoys a stable economy and a high standard of living, but on the other hand, it faces internal social challenges, in particular, the management of mass migration processes and the integration of new socio-cultural groups.

Russia's actions in neighbouring countries and growing cyber security threats present Germany with the task of strengthening its defence capabilities and improving its response system to unforeseen events.

Germany faces complex challenges that require integrated strategies and effective risk management.

The formation of national security in Germany is based on the principles of democracy, the rule of law and effective management. In particular, the state concept defines the role of the state in protecting the population and infrastructure in emergency situations. In addition, cyber security strategies and participation in joint defence projects of the European Union indicate Germany's willingness to actively cooperate at the international level.

According to the report of the Federal Ministry of Economy and Energy of Germany, the strategy of ensuring national security includes the development of innovations, stimulation of economic growth and reduction of dependence on the import of energy resources. Germany is actively shaping its national security based on the principles of democracy and cooperation.

Germany is a key member of NATO, an alliance created to ensure the collective security of its members. The country actively promotes joint efforts in solving global threats, in particular, participation in peacekeeping operations and joint exercises. Germany, as a member of NATO, plays an important role in ensuring the collective security and stability of the national members of the alliance. Preservation of international cooperation and participation in military operations is key aspects of Germany's role in NATO.

The National Security Strategy places a strong focus on NATO's function as an alliance for collective defence, of which Germany hopes to be a major player. The phrase "NATO's eastern flank" is not included in the text, and no particular priority

has been mentioned in this context. The notion that Berlin wants to increase political-military cooperation with partners other than the US is another startling truth in the memo. Germany's efforts to modernize the Bundeswehr, execute NATO regional defence plans, agree on allocating particular soldiers to these plans and improve NATO military exercises, among other things, will determine how well it lives up to the objectives outlined in the strategy.

However, there has recently been a discussion about the percentage of German defence spending relative to GDP. Some partner countries have expressed concern that Germany's contribution should be greater to ensure the effectiveness of the alliance. Germany's role in NATO is important, but there are contradictions regarding the level of defence spending. There are numerous signs that the choice to set it at 2% of the country's Gross domestic product is by and by being tested in Germany, because of multiple factors.

Analysis of the dynamics of public spending is important for assessing the financial support of national security. Over the past five years, defence spending in Germany has grown, in particular, due to reforms in the defence industry and increased readiness of the army.

However, there is a question about the cost effectiveness and the distribution between different areas of security. A key requirement is to ensure transparency and cost effectiveness to improve the country's preparedness for various types of threats. Over the past five years, Germany's spending on national security has undergone changes in the context of the growing threats and needs of the modern world. The increase in the budget for military and cyber security expenses shows the country's awareness of the importance of effective provision of national security.

According to the NATO report, in 2021 the total defence expenditure of NATO countries amounted to 1.069 trillion US dollars, which was 2.2% of their total GDP. This rate was slightly lower than in 2020 (2.26%), but higher than in 2019 (2.12%). Among NATO countries, the USA (US\$778 billion), Great Britain (US\$69.8 billion) and France (US\$60.8 billion) had the largest defence expenditures in 2021. The lowest level of defence spending was in Estonia (2.2% of GDP), Latvia (2.1% of GDP) and Lithuania (2% of GDP)<sup>5</sup>.

In 2022, the total defence spending of NATO countries increased by 7.6% and amounted to 1.150 trillion US dollars. This growth was caused by several factors,

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<sup>5</sup> NATO, *Defense expenditures of NATO countries (2014–2023)*, [https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2023/7/pdf/230707-def-exp-2023-en.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2023/7/pdf/230707-def-exp-2023-en.pdf), (accessed 20.04.2023).

in particular: the growth of the external threat associated with the war in Ukraine and the improvement of the economic situation in many NATO countries.

Among NATO countries, the USA (US\$801 billion), Great Britain (US\$71.3 billion) and France (US\$62.2 billion) had the largest defence expenditures in 2022. The lowest level of defence spending was in Estonia (2.3% of GDP), Latvia (2.2% of GDP) and Lithuania (2.1% of GDP).

In 2023, the total defence spending of NATO countries increased by 10.2% and amounted to 1.276 trillion US dollars. This increase was caused by several factors, in particular: the further increase in the external threat associated with the war in Ukraine and the further improvement of the economic situation in many NATO countries.

Among NATO countries, the largest defence expenditures in 2023 were in the United States (US\$813 billion), Great Britain (US\$73.6 billion) and France (US\$64.2 billion). The lowest level of defence spending was in Estonia (2.4% of GDP), Latvia (2.2% of GDP) and Lithuania (2.1% of GDP).

Based on the data for the last three years, several main ways of development of the process of growth of defence expenditures of NATO countries can be distinguished: further growth of defence expenditures in all NATO countries and the Baltic countries, focusing efforts on the modernization of weapons and military equipment, increasing cooperation in the field of defence between NATO countries.

The increase in defence expenditures of NATO countries can have a positive effect on the economy of these countries. In particular, it can lead to an increase in the production of military equipment and services, as well as to the creation of new jobs. However, rising defence spending may also lead to an increase in public debt and budget deficits.

As we can see, the dynamics of public spending shows that Germany is ready to adapt to modern challenges and invest in its security. The dynamics of public spending shows the growing attention to security issues, but requires careful analysis.

One of the main problems is social tension associated with mass migration processes. The German government must find effective solutions for the integration of immigrants and reduce the risks of social conflicts. In addition, it is important to focus on maintaining economic growth and stability. The problem of cyber security is also important, in particular due to constant cyber attacks on the energy industry and information and communication systems. Ensuring

a high level of protection and response to cyber threats is a critical task for ensuring national security.

In our opinion, the current problems of Germany's national security include social and cyber security aspects, which requires comprehensive strategies and effective risk management.

In the context of European and global security, the development of NATO remains a key task. In particular, it is important to strengthen the collective defence capability and ensure greater interaction between the members of the alliance. NATO must also adapt to new threats such as cyber security and hybrid warfare. The development of NATO requires the concerted efforts of its members. Strengthening cooperation, modernization of defence capabilities and ensuring cyber security are key directions for the future of the alliance. It is also important to expand partnerships with other international organizations and new participating countries.

In the conditions of constant geopolitical changes and economic turbulence, national security becomes the most important aspect of stability and development of any country. In this context, Germany, acting as a key player in Europe and the world, is facing numerous challenges that require balanced strategies and effective measures to ensure its national security<sup>6</sup>. In this article, we will consider the main aspects of modern national security challenges in Germany and possible ways to solve these problems.

#### 1. Geopolitical and international aspects:

The change in the world order and geopolitical conflicts are becoming a serious challenge for Germany's national security. Participation in international alliances, in particular NATO, is an important element of the country's strategy. Preservation of international stability and observance of international norms is a key task for preventing conflicts that may affect national security.

Geopolitical challenges require active participation and cooperation within the framework of international organizations to preserve global stability.

#### 2. Economic aspects and global challenges:

Ensuring economic stability is a necessary condition for national security. Increasing global challenges, such as pandemics and economic crises, require balanced strategies to preserve economic well-being. Dialogue with other economic

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<sup>6</sup> S. Stewart, *Consolidating Germany's Russia Policy. Refine existing approaches and clarify trade-offs*, "SWP Comments" 2023, no. 30, p. 20, [https://www.swp-berlin.org/publications/products/comments/2023C30\\_Germanys\\_Russia\\_Policy\\_Web.pdf](https://www.swp-berlin.org/publications/products/comments/2023C30_Germanys_Russia_Policy_Web.pdf), (accessed 20.04.2023).

powers and active participation in international economic organizations are key factors in solving economic challenges. Global economic challenges require joint efforts and flexible strategies to ensure sustainability.

### 3. Cyber security and cyber threats:

In today's digital world, cyber security is becoming a priority for ensuring national security. The growing number and complexity of cyber threats presents Germany with the task of developing highly effective cyber measures, improving cyber defence technologies and promoting international cooperation in this area. Cyber security requires constant improvement and cooperation at the international level.

### 4. Social and migration challenges:

Large-scale migration processes are becoming an important element of social security. Integrating new arrivals, maintaining social stability and developing social policies that promote inclusion are important tasks to prevent social conflicts. Social challenges require humanitarian approaches and inclusive policies to ensure harmony in society.

### 5. Prospects and development strategies:

Germany is faced with the task of developing long-term strategies to ensure national security in the face of modern challenges. The development and implementation of new technologies in the field of cyber security, support for sustainable economic growth and an active role in international organizations are critical components of the future strategy.

Modern national security challenges in Germany require a comprehensive and multifaceted approach. Strengthening economic, social and cyber security, an active role in international organizations and continuous improvement of strategies are steps necessary to effectively ensure Germany's national security in today's world.

So, taking into account all of the above and the adoption of the National Security Strategy "Strength. Stability. Integrated security for Germany" should be considered in the context of the so-called *Zeitenwende* (German break, change of eras, turning point)<sup>7</sup>. This is how Chancellor O. Scholtz spoke about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which endangered the existing world order<sup>8</sup>.

Berlin's decision to support Ukraine and supply weapons demonstrated that Germany has fundamentally reconsidered its own role in European security. The

<sup>7</sup> V. Orlyk, *Osnovni polozhennya stratehiyi natsionalnoyi bezpeky Nimechchyny*, NISS, <https://niss.gov.ua/doslidzhennya/natsionalna-bezpeka/osnovni-polozhennya-stratehiyi-natsionalnoyi-bezpeky-nimechchyny>, (accessed 20.06.2023).

<sup>8</sup> N. Busse, *Strategie mit Beigeschmack*, op. cit.



provisions reflected in the strategy on the attraction of significantly greater resources in the spheres of security and defence, the radical restructuring of energy policy, adherence to strict sanctions and the curtailment of numerous formats of bilateral cooperation with the Russian federation testify to the full participation of Germany in the systematic containment of Russia's aggressive policy.

The key point of Germany's new security approach is the demonstration of readiness to increase defence spending, increase production in the defence-industrial complex and implement effective strategic planning mechanisms.

An important element of Germany's new foreign policy doctrine is the recognition of the fallacy of the concept of rapprochement through economic interdependence. First of all, this concerns the energy sector, as there are urgent needs for a full transition to other sources of energy supply, acceleration of the transition to renewable energy sources and protection of critical infrastructure objects from cyber attacks (after the Nord Stream explosion and direct terrorist attacks). The critical reduction in supplies of Russian energy carriers, primarily gas, has already caused a number of negative phenomena in the German economy, up to the technical recession recorded in the first half of 2023.

The general conclusion is that ensuring national security in today's world requires a comprehensive approach that encompasses economic, social and military aspects. Germany, as a strong economic and political power, plays an important role in ensuring stability in Europe and the world through active participation in international organizations, in particular NATO, and systematic improvement of its national security system. The country's development and international security are interrelated and effective responses to modern challenges determines Germany's future in the global context.

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## Summary

Germany, as a key player in Europe and the world, faces numerous challenges that require balanced strategies and effective measures to ensure national security. Ensuring national security in today's world requires an integrated approach, covering economic, social and military aspects. Germany, as a strong economic and political state, plays an important role in ensuring stability in Europe and the world through active participation in international organizations, in particular NATO, and systematic improvement of its national security system.

In the context of European and global security, the development of NATO remains a key task for Germany. In particular, it is important to strengthen the collective defence capability and ensure greater interaction between the members of the alliance. NATO must also adapt to new threats such as cyber security and hybrid warfare. The development of NATO requires the concerted efforts of its members. Strengthening cooperation, modernization of defence capabilities and ensuring cyber security are key directions for the future of the alliance.

However, increased defence spending may also lead to increased public debt and budget deficits. One of the main problems is the social tension associated with mass migration processes. The German government must find effective solutions to integrate migrants and reduce the risks of social conflicts. The issue of cyber security is also important due to constant cyber attacks on the energy sector and information and communication systems. Ensuring a high level of protection and response to cyber threats is a critical task for ensuring national security.