

## SUMMARY

**Subject of the thesis:** «Soft power» in foreign policy of the modern Federal Republic of Germany.

**Author:** Ionova Yaroslava Vadimovna

**Academic Adviser:** Adamova M.A., Assistant Professor, PhD, Political Science

**Organization:** School of International Relations, Chair of International Relations, Political Science and World Economy, Pyatigorsk State University.

**Relevance of the research issue** is explained by the fact that today "soft power" plays an increasingly prominent role in international relations, and with skillful use can be very effective even for a small state. At this stage, one of the countries actively expanding their resources of "soft power" has become the Federal Republic of Germany. As one of the strongest states in the world, Germany has its own practice of applying "soft power" in its foreign policy course, which is of particular interest because, with the help of "soft" means, the state restored its economic and international position on the world stage after World War II. Despite the lack of resources of Germany's "hard power" it became possible to become a major European power after the unification of 1990, Germany managed to increase its tools and resources of "soft power" at times, which subsequently served to solve the tasks of domestic and foreign policy. The state has become the recognized leader of the European integration, whose opinion is considered in the emergence of crisis processes not only in the European region, but also within the framework of international organizations in which Germany plans to occupy a leading position.

**The object of research** is the phenomenon of "soft power" and the means of its implementation.

**The subject of research** is the peculiarity of the German application of the mechanisms of "shaping its attractiveness" in favor of solving the tasks of the foreign policy course of the country.

**The purpose** of the study was to reveal the specifics of using the instruments of the "soft power" of the FRG in its foreign policy.

**Research objectives:**

- explore conceptual approaches to the concept and essence of "power" in the foreign policy strategy of states;
- characterize the peculiarities of the German approach to the use of resources of cultural and humanitarian influence, the decisive tasks of foreign policy;
- identify what tasks and objectives the German government has, what perspective they are directed to, with the use of "soft power";
- determine what resource potential in the sphere of "soft power" is possessed by the FRG, and to describe the instruments of "soft power" that promote their own interests in the international arena;

**Scientific novelty** is reflected in the following provisions:

- revealed a special German understanding of the concept of "soft power", its theoretical and practical significance in the foreign policy strategy of the state;
- determined that without the implementation and wording in official government documents that will include the concept in strategic goals, Germany successfully applies all its soft power tools available to it, and also identifies the positive and negative aspects of applying the soft power strategy for Germany's policy.

**Structure:** the thesis consists of an introduction, two chapters, four paragraphs, conclusion, appendix and a bibliographic list consisting of 225 sources, in which literature was used for writing work in English, German, Russian. The total amount of work is 99 pages.

**Summary:** In foreign policy, the components of "soft power" were used even before the description of the concept of «soft power». With the help of them, the state was able to restore its position in the world arena, after the defeat in the world conflict in 1945. After the unification of the country, the "soft power" was designed to solve long-term, ambitious tasks - strengthening the position of leadership in Europe, changing the German international legal status. The solution of these problems would allow: to develop the German economy, increase the political importance of Germany and prevent negative social and political development in other states, recognized in Germany as one of the threats to national security.

Cultural influence through the popularization of language contributes to an increase in economic expansion, which further leads to the creation of good conditions for increasing labor resources and expanding the market. Science and education also contributes to economic development, and they also represent a means to form a worldview and values similar to the European style of thinking. In these areas, the use of Germany's "soft power" resources can be both positive and negative. This means that the practical application of "soft power" can be easily adapted to any actor in world politics, but it cannot be a universal key that solves all problems of international processes, and in some cases, causes these problems. The experience of using FRG of "soft power" shows that its negative contribution is revealed when one line is taken as a basis and others are cut off, or the government chooses a certain line from which it can no longer refuse to form a positive image of the state. Thus, a foreign policy vector based on positive qualities, such as fulfilling state promises, maintaining stability and peace, and observing international legal norms and legality, creates a predictable and stable way for that given course of state movement, which sometimes negatively affects the relations of countries.

One of the main sources of the "soft power" resources of the FRG is civil society. When making foreign policy decisions, the political elite uses civil society as a way to legitimize the government's actions and to gain an additional source of trust in German politics from foreigners. Another feature of the application of the concept of "soft power" by Germany is the fact that civil society sometimes acts as a "soft power" for the German leadership, which is not typical of other countries,

using "soft power" exclusively in their foreign policy course. The vector of the direction of force "inward" is necessary for the effective practical application of the concept, which can be achieved by matching the opinions of citizens both within the country and broadcasting the same opinion at the international level.

Some German organizations that are engaged in the implementation of "soft power" are NGOs established and functioning on the initiative of civil society. State financial support of these organizations does not affect their status. They have a wide range of freedom to perform their tasks.

The concept of "soft power" for the Federal Republic of Germany became a mechanism for changing the international status of the state, from the negative, aggressive image of the country that responsible for the Second World War, in favor of an attractive image of an economically successful, politically influential and highly developed democratic state.