

The thesis deals with the process of reconciliation in Polish-German relations after 1945. Lily Gardner Feldman's invented a concept which defines the prerequisites for the reconciliation process. In her concept she defines four essential pillars of the reconciliation process – history, leadership, institutions and international context. Although Polish-German relations have undergone a long development and both sides have built up a stable and firm mutual relationship, it is possible to see changes within the four categories mentioned. The aim of this thesis is to outline the process of reconciliation in Polish-German relations after 1945 and capture the qualitative changes in mutual relations during the first rule of the Law and Justice party between 2005 and 2007, which represented a critical point in Polish-German relations and a change in the Polish foreign policy towards Germany since 1989. In the first part the thesis discusses the development of the Polish-German relations until the end of the 1990s, and in the second part of the thesis, the concept is applied to the Law and Justice party government's "critical" period (2005-2007), focusing on the four categories mentioned and on the most discussed topics. In the final part of the thesis there follows an evaluation of the validity of the used concept and its functionality, and the chapter answers the question whether the relatively stable foundations of Polish-German relations has “stood the test” during the rule of the first Law and Justice party between 2005-2007.