

Abstract

This thesis deals with reparations from Germany after World War II. The issue of post-war reparations has again become relevant in recent years, mainly due to Poland and Greece, two states occupied by the Third Reich during the war. Today, these states express dissatisfaction with the ration of reparations they received as dictated by the victorious powers after 1945. Moreover, since 2018, the Polish and Greek Reparation Commissions are cooperating in an effort to exert joint pressure on Germany. The subject of research of this bachelor thesis are the differences in the way in which states proceed with their reparation demands, what arguments they use and how the legitimacy of these claims is viewed by objective international law. Furthermore, the position of the government of Germany on this issue is briefly mentioned. In its first, theoretical part, the thesis contains a thorough description of the concept of reparations and describes the establishment of the reparation system after 1945, in order to clarify some important aspects of reparations after the Second World War. Emphasis is placed on developments in Poland and Greece. These examples also show differences in the two separate reparation mechanisms of East and West. The author presents essential information and knowledge from literature and primary sources in the form of international agreements and treaties. The second part includes the core of the research: the comparison of the above mentioned aspects of the development of the reparation issue in Poland and Greece between 1990 and 2019. Firstly, the development of the reparation demands of both states during the mentioned period is described. Afterwards, these demands are interpreted and an objective commentary by expert committees in accordance with applicable international law is added. In addition to the opinions and reports of several governmental commissions, the author also works with specialized literature and news articles. The results of the comparison are then summarized at the end of the thesis. The author comes to the conclusion that Greece is more vocal in demanding reparations than Poland, since, unlike Poland, it sent a diplomatic note to the government of Germany twice and the first efforts to obtain reparations started already in 1990. Poland, on the other hand, sent no diplomatic notes on the topic of reparations, and the debate about a possible reparation debt did not start until 2004. Moreover, Greece is, from the perspective of international law, more likely to have a right to German reparations, since, unlike Poland, it has never explicitly rejected them. Instead, it was forced to await the signing of a peace treaty with a united Germany. This happened in 1990 with the signing of the 2 + 4 Treaty, which, however, does not deal with reparations. Thus, the legitimacy of the Greek

reparation claims is not entirely clear. By contrast, the Polish declaration of termination of all reparation payments is legally valid to this day.