

Abstract

German cybersecurity has undergone a significant development over the past two decades. This thesis asks whether there have been qualitative changes in the cybersecurity framework during the period under study. Specific examples from the discipline of cybersecurity are used to answer this question. The attribution of cyber-attacks is given the most prominent consideration. It is first theoretically grounded and then examined through specific examples of significant cyber attacks. The thesis also introduces the concepts of civilian power and securitization, which are operationalized for cyberspace. Based on appropriate criteria and through the analysis of significant strategic documents related to cybersecurity, this thesis introduces the concept of civilian power in cyberspace. Based on the methodological framework, it is then determined whether and to what extent Germany fulfils the ideals of a civilian power in cyberspace. The thesis comes up with the finding that, especially due to the impact of the war in Ukraine, Germany has deviated from the concept of civilian power also in cyberspace. This concept is, therefore, currently not applicable to Germany. The period under study also saw the securitization of cybersecurity. German cybersecurity thus largely replicates the behaviour of German foreign and security policy.