

This thesis strives to explain formation of German government's attitude towards NATO enlargement within the years of 1990-97. The approach presented is embedded in social constructivist theories of foreign policy and international relations, which emphasize the importance of values, norms and language and downplay the influence of material factors. A theoretical model for analysis of German foreign policy making is proposed, comprising of three essential steps: First, it is the identity that determines limits of states' behaviour. Second, different foreign policy roles arise and engage in a role conflict within discourse. Third, the actual decision is constituted under the influence of external factors. Further, key concepts of understanding the normative background of German foreign policy are put under examination, including the ideas of civilian power and strategic culture. The essence of this background in terms of norms and values is examined consequently. Evolution of different variants of Germany's position towards the enlargement issue is explained and key actors involved in the debate are identified, including their interpretations of German identity and the clash they involved themselves in. Finally, crucial external factors are described and their influence on the decision making process, peaking in 1994, is estimated.