

Abstract

The thesis “Sweden and European Integration in the Field of Security” deals with the Swedish role in the military dimension of the EU’s Common Security Policy.

The thesis applies the concept of “Integration Dilemma” that forms the basis of the theory of national integration policy formulated by Nikolaj Petersen. The thesis draws on Petersen’s premise that all states involved in integration sooner or later experience an integration dilemma constituted by difficult choices between preserving autonomy and exercising influence on other participants. According to Petersen the salience of the integration dilemma differs among states depending on their influence capability, stress sensitivity and degree of identification with ideological sources of integration. Petersen argues that to handle the dilemma, national governments will most likely use adaptive strategies typical for the ‘balancing policy’ mode. Petersen also predicts that countries characterised by high stress sensitivity, limited influence capability and aloofness from the ethos of European integration will perceive the dilemma as highly salient. Petersen assumes that integration policies of those countries will also include strategies characteristic for the ‘acquiescent’ or ‘quiescent’ mode.

Petersen’s hypotheses are tested in the analysis of the integration policy pursued by Sweden that can be considered the most probable case. The thesis deals with the security field of integration, which is closely associated with state sovereignty and national identity. This instrumental case study determines whether Sweden experienced any serious integration dilemma during her involvement in the common security policy of the European Union. Due to space limitations the thesis analyses only responses to major military initiatives on the European level, focusing on adaptive strategies applied by Swedish governments. The initiatives analysed in detail comprise proposals for the inclusion of the Western European Union’s functions into the Amsterdam Treaty; the mutual defence clause in the Constitutional Treaty; military peace enforcement operations; and the concept of EU Battle Groups. Finally conclusions about validity of Petersen’s hypotheses for the Swedish case are made.

Keywords

European integration, Sweden, national integration policy, integration dilemma, adaptive strategies and modes, European security and defence cooperation, Swedish security policy, neutrality, military non-alignment, state sovereignty.