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Summary of the Doctoral Dissertation entitled: „Protection of the border of the Republic of Poland with the Federal Republic of Germany after 1990. Political and legal study.”

The dissertation is a study of the analysis of the legal, political, and social aspects affecting the security of Poland's border with Germany, as well as the processes associated with the described border. The dissertation adopts a two-pronged perspective, that considers the border as both a normative tool and a social phenomenon. In addition, it is worth mentioning that two contexts of its study allow the conclusion that the border is a dynamic structure. In this dissertation, border protection is understood not only through the prism of a systemic view of border regime or border infrastructure but also as a process determined by cooperation with a neighbouring state, as well as a dynamic model influenced by external factors, as well as the perception of borders themselves and the phenomenon of their polysemicity. The dissertation was based on the analysis of national (Polish and German) and international legal regulations, the achievements of social and political sciences, and selected trends of border studies. The chronological framework of the dissertation covers the period from 1990 to the outbreak and development of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

The thesis set the research task of using the border as an analytical tool to examine the construction of its protection. The implementation of the goals was preceded by posing the main research question, which corresponded to the topic of the dissertation and was: How is the spectrum of protection of the German-Polish border shaped?

The primary research method used in the dissertation is analytical studies of scholarly literature in law, social sciences, and political sciences. The dissertation using the desk research method mainly analyzed literature, statistics, and analyses regarding borders, as well as press

materials. The dogmatic-legal method was also used by analysing the norms of Polish and German law. Due to the diverse issues described in the dissertation, the historical method was also used in the second chapter. The dissertation also carried out a comparative legal study of analogous regulations regarding border protection in Polish and German law, in which mixed comparative methods were used.

The dissertation consists of five chapters divided into subsections, an introduction, a conclusion and a list of the legal acts, literature and other sources used.

In the first chapter, considerations focus on the analysis of the issue of the border as a subject of border studies. The purpose of the chapter is to discuss how borders can be examined and to develop the necessary set of concepts for consideration in the rest of the dissertation.

The second chapter is an analysis of the concluded treaties, agreements and issued decrees regarding the Polish-German border between 1945-1990. It is presented chronologically. The aim of this chapter is to indicate what and how determined the course of today's border between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The third chapter was devoted to border protection and security and security threats on the Polish-German border. This part of the dissertation describes trends in research on border security and the subjective sphere of this area of security. It describes the evolution of ways of border protection, starting from traditional border walls to smart borders. The next part of the chapter is a systematic discussion of the competences and role of entities shaping security in border areas in the territory of the Republic of Poland.

Chapter four of the dissertation concerns the construction of security on the Polish-German border built on the basis of interstate cooperation. Chapter four presents a historical outline of the formation of security cooperation between services, i.e. international police cooperation. In the following part of the chapter, considerations are narrowed down to an analysis of collaboration between the border services of Poland and Germany. The introduction to the issue is a historical outline of cooperation between services of neighbouring countries. A principal part of the chapter is the identification of the services between which there is cooperation and the presentation of structural and organisational differences between the border services of Poland and Germany, also taking into account their different state structure. An important element of the chapter about the German border services is the distinction between the federal level and the state level. The fourth chapter also describes the legal nature of the cooperation of border, police, and customs services between Poland and Germany, taking into account successively signed treaties, agreements, and

accords. Chapter four also describes Polish-German cooperation in the field of combating natural disasters and cross-border cooperation in the field of medical rescue services.

Chapter five was devoted to the situation related to the epidemiological crisis caused by COVID-19, which began in 2019. This trend was contributed to by the fact that borders (or, more precisely, closing them or restoring border control) have become one of the instruments in the fight against the pandemic. This chapter describes the intensive reborderization forced by the development of the pandemic. The last chapter describes how these measures were used as an element of the strategy to fight COVID-19. The last chapter also examines the contextual process of securitization of health and borders that took place during the pandemic, and emphasizes the turn to territoriality prompted by the dynamic transmission of the disease. The last chapter also discusses the issue of the legal basis for the reintroduction of border controls and border crossing restrictions in relation to Poland's borders. The subject of consideration in the last chapter is also the question of how protected Germany's borders were during the COVID-19 pandemic, including how the situation with Poland developed. The restrictions resulting from these regulations have significantly affected the functioning of the Polish-German border community, and this situation is considered in the next part of Chapter Five. Notable attention was paid to the social groups that were most affected by these regulations and related restrictions.

This part of the dissertation also pays attention to initiatives aimed at restoring the free movement of people across the Polish-German border. The last part of the chapter presents the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic brought to the Polish-German borderland in the social sphere, ~~in~~ the economic sphere, and the consequences that it brought to cross-border cooperation. The dissertation pointed out the negative effects caused by the health crisis. At the same time, it was pointed out that the pandemic can be a time, to learn lessons that can contribute to beneficial effects, among others, in the form of creating resilience in the Polish-German borderland.

The summary of the dissertation indicates conclusions and recommendations as well as potential directions for the development of border security issues.

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