



Main titles from the study:

- *German security policy after the Cold War*
- *The White Paper on Security Policy*
- *The international role of the Bundeswehr in the fight against terrorism*
- *ACTIVE ENDEAVOR*
- *Afghanistan (ISAF)*
- *Summary*
- *Bibliography*

Annotation

The end of the Cold War also brought important changes in the situation of the united Germany. As a result of unification, it became Europe the strongest state economically and demographically. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the dominant threat that had previously posed the greatest menace to (West) German security, had disappeared. Germany's new strategic position was expressed very precisely in General Klaus Naumann's analysis.

In this new strategic and security environment, it became necessary to formulate new goals for German security policy - and this was also a serious problem. The security policy of a country is significantly influenced by the country's own self-definition. In this respect, Germany also differs from its main European allies, London and Paris. France and Britain have constant and clear visions of their place in the world, their role in international relations and, consequently, their goals in security policy are also clear.

In contrast, Germany has not developed a definitive concept in these areas for a long time and, as a result, no clear answers on its own role in security policy. Germany had more opportunities and choices in the field of self-definition of security policy.

In the past decades, the German political elite has always sought to strike a balance between these two options, but if it had to make a choice, relations with the United States were a priority. Washington's position as a key partner in security policy was virtually the result of a broad consensus within the German political elite. This situation has been shaken over the past year as a result of a strategic decision by Chancellor Schröder's government to replace a strict pro-Atlantic policy with a much more pro-European or 'pro-French' one. It is questionable whether the changes that have taken place are the consequences of a specific, far-reaching strategic decision, as it is evident that German domestic political processes often have a decisive influence on German foreign and security policy.