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## **RELIGIOUS FACTOR OF ANTI-MIGRANT ATTITUDES IN GERMANY**

**Introduction.** At the present stage, the problems of Germany's migration policy are mostly caused by Muslim refugees from North Africa and the Middle East. This, in turn, causes religious conflicts in Christian Germany. This factor creates a negative image of a *migrant* in the German society.

The migration policy pursued by the government headed by A. Merkel, in the context of the refugee crisis, is subject to significant criticism from the opposition parties, which are supported by a fairly large number of the German population. Both in Germany and in European countries, nationalist and right-wing populist parties are gaining more and more popularity, in their rhetoric we can see manifestations of xenophobia, racism, etc. Such phenomena can seriously undermine the authority of the state or certain states in the international arena, because they call into question the main pillars of the liberal and democratic world order. One of the main factors in these contradictions is religion, namely Islam. It is one of the most “triggered” topics in the society nowadays. That is no matter how paradoxical it may seem, but in a state that is secular, in which citizens almost do not pay attention to confessional affiliation, one of the most dangerous things that can lead to a serious conflict is the *religion*, where belonging to Islam can cause serious bias against the person.

**Review of recent publications.** When characterizing the state of this issue having been investigated, it is worth mentioning that modern immigration to Germany, namely the problems associated with it, including religious ones, are the subject of research by both foreign and domestic scholars: K.J. Bade, R. Honcharenko, A. V. Kalinina, L. Kostiuk, D. Mitchal, V. Ments, A. Sukhova, M. Frost, A. S. Yakush and others.

**Objective of the paper** is to investigate the impact of immigration and religion on the policies of modern Germany and its positioning in the international arena.

**Results of the research.** German immigration policy is oriented towards the labor market: it has gone through a path of changes from the policy of attracting the masses of "guest workers" and reuniting them with their families to the orientation of immigration policy towards the needs of the post-industrial economy; from an ethnocentric state to the formation of a nation of co-citizenship [5].

The religious factor does not play a significant role in the country's immigration policy, through the atheistic nature of German society. It is more likely that discrimination in Germany exists on a national basis, which indirectly entails a religious factor. The modern migration policy in Germany is liberal, based on tolerance towards immigrants, has the character of a strong restriction of immigrants, rather than active control. That is why A. Merkel's migration policy has drawn considerable criticism from opposition parties, which finds a positive response among native Germans. Although, it can be argued that the Germans treat migrants with understanding, they are trying to find compromise solutions in solving problems. The Christian Church in Germany has a similar relationship to migration policy. The steps to defend their positions in the country on its part are quite modest, although effective [1; 4].

Germany, as one of the leading countries of the EU, has a great influence on the immigration policy of other European countries and the European Union as a whole. It is not known exactly whether the right-wing populist sentiment of the Germans found an echo in other EU countries, or it is a general European trend. It is increasingly difficult for Germany to maintain its position in the European political arena by adhering to a liberal, tolerant migration policy. As a leader, Germany sets migration rules guided by the security of the EU, but they are very reminiscent of measures for its own security, in which other EU countries do not want to take an unquestioning participation. After all, the government of each country must first of all take care of its citizens' interests [2]. Germany adheres to the established migration policy and insists that it will accept refugees from Syria; ordinary Germans warmly welcome tired people both psychologically and physically. Thus, a moral authority has appeared in Germany, which may prove to be a more powerful argument rather than political and economic arguments [2; 3].

**Conclusion.** The basis of the problem under consideration lies in an integrated approach on the part of politicians and state authorities, who must make every effort not to lose control over the situation. The problem is not anyhow important for Germany, which requires a quick solution, by creating educational programs, effectively attracting foreigners to the state system.

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## **THE ROLE OF THINK TANKS IN MODERN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Introduction.** Due to the rapid growth of think tanks in different parts of the world, their influence on world politics is also increasing. They focus scholars' attention upon the international issues in order to study the most important political, social, economic issues, as well as to present their ideas and recommendations to government agencies and international organizations, promote international dialogue