

## Summary

In the PhD thesis "The SPD in the process of Europe's integration (1945-2009)" the author demonstrates the role of one of the largest parties of the Federal Republic of Germany and the part it played in the integration of Europe that took place after the Second World War. The main argument of the thesis is that the Social Democratic Party of Germany was actively involved in the development and enlargement of European Communities/the European Union even though its understanding of integration has evolved.

The timeframe of the discussion covers the years 1945-2009, i.e. the period since the re-emergence of party political life until the end of the second grand coalition (SPD/CDU/CSU) and elections to the European Parliament. The SPD's approach to subsequent stages of integration is analysed, including attempts at economic, political and military integration. The author demonstrates the involvement of the SPD in the enlargement and development of EC/EU.

The thesis consists of five chapters. In chapter one, the author outlines the German ideas of integration developed over the years and discusses integration trends that emerged after the Second World War and were either promoted or criticised at different stages of Europe's integration. In chapter two, the intrapolitical and international factors that determined the SPD's foreign policy are analysed. Chapter three focuses on the evolution of the SPD's position on enhancing European integration through the reforms of the European Union institutions. Chapter four discusses the SPD's approach towards the enlargement of the EC/EU towards including further European countries. In chapter five the author presents the profiles of leading SPD politicians and describes their impact on the European policies implemented by the party and the government. The summary contains the key conclusions.

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