

REPORT

By founder and honorary president of the Prussian Society Berlin-Brandenburg e.V. Volker Tschapke on the dissertation of Alexandra N. RASTVORTSEVA on the theme:

Impact of the Crimean Crisis on Russian-German Relations 2014-2021 (Based on the materials of the German periodical press)

Submitted for the degree of candidate of historical sciences

Scientific speciality 5.6.7. History of International Relations and Foreign Policy

The dissertation of Alexandra Rastvortseva is devoted to the study of the Crimean crisis - one of the most important stages in the relations between Russia and Germany at the present stage, which made its adjustments in Russian-German and Russian-European relations in general. In the work much attention is paid to the reasons behind the deterioration of relations between Russia and Germany, the author shows the dynamics of relations since the end of the 20th century, which, in my opinion, is important for understanding the fact that the differences in relations between the countries did not arise out of nothing.

The author has studied more than 400 different sources, among which the vast majority are German language sources. I believe that this is a very important contribution of the author, as I am sure that many of these sources have not been translated before. I would also like to note the large number of German media reports, scientific articles, monographs, etc. The work clearly demonstrates the author's desire to show how the image of Russia was constructed in German discourse, what was reported about the causes of the Crimean crisis, what events were covered and what vocabulary was used.

The paper consists of three parts, each of which reveals the problem gradually. From the prehistory of the deterioration of relations, the author makes a logical transition to the development of the Crimean crisis, showing the discourse of the media, the scientific community, the opinions of politicians and the German government. Further, in the most voluminous chapter of the dissertation Rastvortseva A. shows what and how much the Crimean crisis affected Russian-German relations.

Such work, in my opinion, is an important contribution to understanding the origins of the disagreements between Russia and Germany, an attempt to understand the logic behind the West's actions, and a demonstration of the tools used in German media and research when considering and describing Russia's actions. Given the situation we see today, seeing the almost complete absence of constructive communication between once friendly countries, I would like to say that studying the current conflicts from all possible angles is the way that can be the basis for the renewal of good relations between Russia and Germany. The history of relations between Russia and Germany is not a

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simple one. In the past, there have been absolutely terrible periods between the two countries, but because of them, there are people in Germany today who are working tirelessly to ensure that Russia and Germany will no longer be in conflict and we will return to the peaceful times of Frederick the Great and Otto von Bismarck.

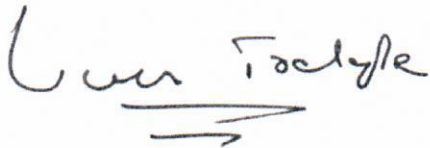
In Germany there are more and more of these people and their efforts are already bearing fruit. I myself have been traveling to Russia since 2018, I have been to Mariupol and Lugansk and I am doing everything in my power to improve Russian-German relations. So I was glad to read this thesis examining this difficult crisis.

The dissertation, in my opinion, demonstrates that the author seeks to understand the actions of the parties, tries to find reasons and explanations for the actions of Germany, thus trying to contribute to the study of the crisis situation, which is now necessary to avoid further escalation.

Founder and honorary president of the Prussian Society Berlin-Brandenburg e.V..

Volker Tschapke

28.12.2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Volker Tschapke". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the name, there is a horizontal line with an arrow pointing to the right.