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## Europeanization and Poland's Foreign Policy: the First Decade

Book Review: Joanna Kamińska, *Siła zmiany. Polska polityka zagraniczna po 2004 roku*. Toruń: Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek 2014 (pp. 321). ISBN 978–83–62363–99–5. Price: 36,23 PLN.

Twelve years ago Poland accessed the European Union, fulfilling a strategic goal of joining an economic and political powerhouse of the European project. Polish foreign policy after the end of the Cold War has been an understandable focal point of many studies both for academics and policy-makers alike. The 2004 – a year of accession - has rightfully been treated as a symbolic changing moment for the country's foreign policy. Given the recent changes inside the European Union and outside its borders; Poland's internal evolution and its shifting role in the EU, a need for a detailed assessment of Warsaw's policies should not require any additional explanations.

Therefore, a title and (to some degree) content of Joanna Kamińska's book seem to be equally apt and timely. Dr. Kamińska holds a PhD from the Royal Holloway College, University of London and her policy background includes positions in the European Council and the European Parliament. In her book, as an EU-insider she focused not only on the Polish foreign policy processes but also on a broader question of the European policies; including its Eastern dimension and relations with the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The book is divided into seven chapters, the first dealing with an introduction to Polish foreign policy and the last capturing work's key conclusions. In between them there are five chapters that deal predominantly with questions of the Poland's role

in the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Chapters third (on negotiating new cooperation framework between EU and Ukraine), fourth (on EU-Russia relations) and fifth (on Poland's role in establishing the Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy) constitute the core of the book. In addition, chapter number six gives readers a short overview of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2011.

This book seeks to analyse in what degree Poland's membership in the European Union and its participation in Common Foreign and Security Policy influenced an *Europeanization* of its foreign policy. Author reminds readers right from the very beginning that Poland has undergone an enormous policy transformation, "from the country that was at a core of the Soviet Bloc, towards loyal NATO member" (p. 9). The EU accession topped the age of change in Polish foreign policy and began an adjusting period. As Kamińska correctly argues in order to fully comprehend an impact of the European Union on foreign policy of Poland, one needs to look into institutional structures' changes as well as domestic and external factors of its policies. (p. 10). The main concepts the author implements to rest her arguments in the book include *Europeanization*, *uploading* and *downloading*.

This reviewer found two issues with Kamińska's book for which however the author should not bear responsibility. First, the title of the book: *Force of change. Polish Foreign policy after 2004* does not match its content. It seems clear that the author concentrates on Polish role vis-à-vis European Union and its Eastern policy towards Ukraine and Russia. However, judging from the title, a reader might be expecting more global overview of Poland's external relations including transatlantic security and NATO topics; Warsaw relations with the United States and other powerful states, to name just a few. And those are not to be found in Kamińska's work, albeit the title could be suggesting otherwise. Second quibble concerns timeframe of the subjects discussed in the book. Most of them, deal with years 2004–2012 which appropriately chronicles Poland's first years and challenges it faced during these times. Yet, the year 2014 – with the Russian annexation of Crimea, and its war in Eastern Ukraine – indicated not only a farewell to the "old" Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy but also a striking alternation of Poland's foreign policy. In this regard, Kamińska's book might be slightly outdated but yet again this is a danger every scholar that undertakes contemporary topics needs to face.

Overall, the book presents a balanced account of Poland's first decade within the European Union. Its strengths lie mostly in author's smart combination of academic knowledge and policy-oriented experienced gained within the EU institutions. The

book's principal and by no means disqualifying flaw is its misleading or mistranslated title. Nevertheless, Kamińska's book focuses on vital policy areas and examines one of the most important periods of contemporary Polish foreign policy. It is recommended to students, academics and practitioners alike.

**References:**

Kamińska, J. (2014). *Siła zmiany. Polska polityka zagraniczna po 2004 roku*. Toruń: Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek.

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