

Germany's Africa Policy

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This paper is interested in how Germany has defined and calibrated her Africa policy since the foundation of the G7 in 1975. With reference to West Germany (before 1990), and guided by key questions emanating from more general IR theory debates, this paper will look into the question of what exactly determines decision-making processes in a heteronom actor set-up; what drives continuity and change in German Africa policy (especially after unification of the two German states in 1990); how Germany relates to external powers in the G7 (such as the United States and France, and with general emphasis on external role expectations); and what exactly constitutes 'interest' in this policy realm. Based on empirical research, the 'civilian power' concept of Kirste/Maull (1990) will be tested in a comparative perspective as, in the past, this concept has also been applied to countries such as Canada, Italy and Japan. With regards to the 1990s and the 2000s processes of policy harmonization among G7/8 members will be analysed, especially in the area of peace and security.