

ON MILITARISM, ITS MANIFESTATIONS AND CAUSES IN POLAND
SEVENTY YEARS AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR:
CULTURAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS
OF SPENDING ON ARMAMENTS

Piotr Żuk

This paper asks why, seventy years after the Second World War, spending on armaments has been on the rise in Poland. The author grounds his analyses and reflections on his own quantitative studies performed on a representative sample of the Polish people. The paper shows Poles' opinions on foreign missions in which Polish troops participate, planned increases in spending on armaments, the stationing of American troops in Poland, and alternative models, such as remaining a neutral country. Regarding Poles' acceptance of armaments policies, the paper notes a correlation between the respondents' economic standing and their education: the worse their economic standing and the lower their education level, the higher their scepticism towards the government's armaments policies. One reason why it has been relatively easy to build social acceptance for military spending is because Poland is still considered a "semi-peripheral country." The Polish media and political elites have argued that spending on armaments is a part of modernization and a way of engaging with the rich West.

EUROPEAN PACIFISM

The European Union, which was originally seen as the panacea for all the ills of the 1939-45 conflict and guarantor of peace in Europe, does not have a common strategy for solving today's armed conflicts. In addition,

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