

László Kránitz Master's Thesis

Title

The connection between the Visegrad identity and the acts of the Visegrad countries in the European Union.

Abstract

The so called Visegrad Group consisting The Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Poland have been in the focus of the recent years in the European Union due to their diverging stances on some crucial issues influencing the alliance. Many studies have been trying to find the reason behind it, but few have tried to connect it with the Visegrad identity. In this thesis I will try to showcase how this newly emerging identity based on the sovereignty of the region started to emerge following the 2015 migration crisis. As the whole “Visegrad Group idea” is based on the cooperation of the national governments, the identity construction was an elite driven project as well with certain decision-makers and political actors trying to legitimize their acts based on a shared identity. Once exploring this process, I will bring examples to legitimize my claim that even if this newly constructed identity was not the main reason behind the changed stances of the Visegrad countries in the EU it certainly added another layer to the phenomenon. In my thesis I will analyse the time period between 2015 and 2022 as the migration crisis in 2015 was a formative moment in the life of the cooperation. Since the Russian aggression in Ukraine and due to the government changes in the Visegrad countries the Visegrad alliance seem to move away from each other, that is why my examination will not expand to the history after 2022.

Keywords:

Visegrad Group, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, EU, Collective Identity, Regional Identity, National Identity, Migration, Norms, Decision-Making

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