

Ali-Cina Fahimi

The truth behind Germany's intervention in Afghanistan

A case study on the ground



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Abbreviation Index

AQ	Al-Qaeda
ANA	Afghan National Army
ANSF	Afghan National Security Forces
ANP	Afghan National Police
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
DGAP	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)
DIW	Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IO	International Organisation
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
KSK	Kommando Spezialkräfte (Special Forces Command)
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
SWP	Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)
UN	United Nations

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Abstract

This book investigates Germany's real reasons for its involvement in the international Afghanistan intervention since 2001. The goal is to evaluate whether the main reason for the intervention is defending its security by combatting international terrorism as German authorities have been claiming or a decision that was made due to political and economic benefits. To follow this goal the research is based on an analysis of existing academic material together with official documents on the one hand and on findings coming from an empirical research trip to Afghanistan, where personal interviews with experts were conducted, on the other hand.

The main theoretical framework that underlies this research is Gramsci's contribution to Global Political Economy literature, which helps to explain structural reasons for Germany's decision to intervene in Afghanistan. Finally, the book concludes that Germany serves first of all its politic economic interests by its decision of intervening in Afghanistan. Although it also serves its basic security interests by strengthening its position in NATO and with regard on the changing security environment, it is not the security threat resulting from Islamic terrorism threat from Afghanistan, which can be used as the main reason for its intervention. Moreover, this research revealed that the source of Germany's decision to intervene in Afghanistan was a discrepancy between elites and the public. Consequently, this book suggests continuing to monitor whether the Afghanistan intervention with the support of Gramsci's theory about hegemony helped to implement consent in the civil society, which can be the basis that could drive also future German foreign policy decisions.