

Title: Ideologization of Argentine foreign policy under the National Reorganization Process 1976-1983

Author: Magdalena Lisińska

The main objective of the thesis is to analyze the phenomenon of ideologization of Argentine foreign policy during the last military dictatorship 1976-1983, also known as the National Reorganization Process (NRP). Its characteristic features were the domination of the armed forces at all levels of governance, as well as the ideologization of Argentina's policies. The military who seized power in 1976 had a very strong ideological identification, similarly to the whole Argentine power elite at this time. In the thesis, the ideology they adopted is defined as pragmatic nationalism. The nation was the main point of reference for the generals at that period, and their actions were aimed at strengthening the Argentine national organism. The ideology allowed them to justify changes in political system, which was a response to political, social and economic problems resulting from the weakness of the previous Argentine governments. Adopting such an ideology brought consequences not only for the domestic but also for the foreign policy. The influence of pragmatic nationalism on Argentine foreign policy was visible on several levels. Firstly, on the personal level, reflecting on the particular choices of the personnel responsible for the creation of foreign policy. Secondly, on the decision-making level, so the mechanisms of creation of the foreign policy. Thirdly, the level of political practice, related to the activities in traditionally established circles of Argentine foreign policy.

The main hypothesis of the thesis is that the Argentine foreign policy during the last military dictatorship 1976-1983 was determined by the ideology of pragmatic nationalism. The dissertation is based on the theory of structural functionalism by Gabriel Almond and Bingham Powell. The foreign policy of Argentina is analyzed from the domestic level, focusing on the decision-making process within the political system.

The thesis consists of six chapters. The first one discusses theoretical and methodological issues. The second chapter focuses on the ideology of pragmatic nationalism. The third chapter presents structural characteristics of the National Reorganization Process, as well as analyses its foreign policy decision-making mechanisms. The next three chapters form the main part of the dissertation, focusing on the most important foreign policy decisions during the National Reorganization Process. The analysis is divided into three main parts corresponding to the chapters: the political and diplomatic dimension of the foreign policy,

the military dimension of the foreign policy and the economic dimension of the foreign policy.

Keywords: Argentina, foreign policy, Latin America, ideology, military dictatorship