# Portfolio Kaliningrad Oblast

**The so-called «Germanization Issue» in the Kaliningrad Oblast:**

I want to write an essay about the role of “Germanization” in the Kaliningrad Oblast. To analyze why the issue of perceived «Germanization» occurred in recent years, one needs to take a closer look at the region's general political and economic development. The analysis would focus on what makes the Kaliningrad Oblast a unique case among the different regions of the Russian Federation (e.g., the geopolitical situation as an exclave, German history, economic problems, etc.) and, as a result, would try to find out, why the (local) authorities build up the issue of a «Germanization» in the region. My hypotheses would be that they constructed this issue to undermine possible voices for the independence of Kaliningrad and enhance the Russian identity of the region to chain it closer to “mainland” Russia.

**Literature:**

Domańska, Maria et al. 2019: Fortress Kaliningrad – Ever closer to Moscow, in: OSW – Center for Eastern Studies, <https://www.osw.waw.pl/sites/default/files/Report_Fortress_Kaliningrad_net_0.pdf>.

*This source is crucial for the paper. It describes the political and economic situation in the Oblast very detailed. It also refrains from the identity issue of Kaliningrad and the germanization issue. The source also connects the germanization issue to the economic and political situation and development and analyzes the reasons for it.*

Easton, David 1965: A framework for political analysis, in: Englewood Cliffs, pp. 124-125.

*Easton states that identity is a relevant concept for supporting a political system in the sense of diffuse support. This is important for the essay to state that identity problems are relevant to the political system and situation in the Kaliningrad Oblast.*

Egorenko, Sergey et al. 2020: Sustainable development goals in the Russian Federation, in: Statistical handbook/Rosstat – M. <https://eng.rosstat.gov.ru/storage/mediabank/imr28Lkv/SGD_2020_ENG.pdf>.

*The paper gives statistical data about the Kaliningrad Oblast, for example the income-rate or life-expectancy etc. This data will be used to compare the situation in the Oblast with the general situation in the Russian Federation.*

Goble, Paul 2014: From Siberia to Kaliningrad: the fledgling independence movements gaining traction in Russia, in: The Guardian, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/15/russia-fledgling-independence-movements>, [03.04.2023 | 11:58].

*The article discusses potential voices in Kaliningrad, calling for independence or at least for more federalization. This is particularly important, because the article is from 2014 and the political situation since then has shifted dramatically, but the facts that Europe seems more familiar for young Kaliningraders than Russia, remains a fact.*

Golosov, Grigorii 2009: Regionalwahlen in Russland: Wahlergebnisse nach Maß, in: Russland-Analysen, vol. 180, pp. 2-6, <https://www.laender-analysen.de/russland-analysen/180/RusslandAnalysen180.pdf>.

*This source gives a general overview on regional elections in Russia with the example of the 2009 regional elections. It shows what kind of role the governors play in the elections and the general role of regional elections in Russia and the de-politization of them.*

Karasińska-Vogenbeck, Joanna 2017: Wahl ohne Qual – Die Gouverneurswahlen in Kaliningrad, in: Russland-Analysen, vol. 340, pp. 9-13, <https://www.laender-analysen.de/russland-analysen/340/RusslandAnalysen340.pdf>.

*The source gives an overview over the governors and their elections since governor Boos in 2010. The paper describes their relationships to the Kremlin and the Kremlins positions. It also gives a detailed picture of Anton Alikhanov and his relationship to the Kremlin. This is particularly important for the essay, to discuss the political development in the light of the Germanization topic.*

Licata, Laurent 2000: “National and European Identities: Complementary or Antagonistic?” 'Europeanization and Multiple Identities', EUR (67), pp. 7-8, <https://www.academia.edu/1362236/National_and_European_Identities_complementary_or_antagonistic>.

*The paper explains that national, regional and European identities are not antagonistic, but can be compatible with each other. This is relevant, because the local authorities in the Oblast try to play the German/European identity off against a Russian identity.*

Menkiszak, Marek et al. 2016: Kaliningrad Oblast 2016 – The Society, Economy and Army, in: OSW – Center for Eastern Studies, <http://aei.pitt.edu/83351/1/raport_in_the_kaliningrad_net.pdf>.

*This paper describes the political, economic, social and the security situation of the Kaliningrad Oblast in the year 2016. It further makes some expectations for further developments in the region.*

Muschter, René 2022: Armutsquote in der Oblast Kaliningrad und Russland von 2018 bis 2021, Statista, <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/1316339/umfrage/armutsquote-in-der-oblast-kaliningrad-und-russland/>, [03.04.2023 | 12:13].

*This source shows the difference in poverty rate between the Kaliningrad Oblast and Russia in total. It shows that the poverty rate in Kaliningrad is higher, than in the rest of Russia. It expresses the worse economic situation in the Oblast, in comparison to the rest of Russia. The source is relevant to show the connection between the economic situation of the Oblast and certain political development (e.g. germanization, centralization of power etc.).*

Paramonova, Yulia; Coalson, Robert 2018: Don't Look Back: De-Germanification Campaign Gains Steam In Russia's Kaliningrad, RadioFreeEurope RadioLiberty, <https://www.rferl.org/a/degermanification-campaign-gains-steam-in-russia-kaliningrad/29657884.html>, [12.04.2023 | 12:21].

*The article discusses the topic of anti-Germanization campaigns in the Kaliningrad Oblast and gives several examples of repression against people on the grounds of Germanization.*

Schielberg, Silke 2002, Abschottung oder EU-Mitgliedschaft? Vorstellungen zur Zukunft der Exklave Kaliningrad im Spiegel der lokalen Presse, in: SCHIFF-texte, vol. 65, [https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:0168-ssoar-218950](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn%3Anbn%3Ade%3A0168-ssoar-218950).

*Schielberg talks about the different possible future scenarios for Kaliningrad. She says the region will be more isolated or more integrated into the EU. The people who favor more isolation are mainly afraid of the Europeanization of the region. This parallel can be drawn to today’s fear of Germanization, where Europeanization and Germanization seem similar*

Vendina, O. et al. 2021: Identity of Kaliningraders: influence of social Beliefs on the Choice of Self-Identification, in: Regional Research of Russia, vol. 11, No.4, pp. 533-542, <https://doi.org/10.1134/S2079970521040195>.

*The paper describes the issue of identification in Kaliningrad and which factors affect self-identification. It also discusses the concept of Kaliningraders being “special Russians”.*

Wellmann, Christian 2000: Die russische Exklave Kaliningrad als Konfliktsyndrom, in: Berliner-Wissenschaftsverlag, vol. 75, No.3/4, pp. 389-406, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/23778715.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3A5725c7bc81388dca0fc12a9c6e9ece76&ab_segments=&origin=&initiator=&acceptTC=1>.

*This paper gives very interesting insights into the development of the Oblast since WW II. Still, more importantly, although it was written in 2000, it already describes the Germanization- and identity issue in Kaliningrad, although the issue mainly rose in 2016.*

Zieliński, Miłosz 2019: Kant´s Future: Debates about the Identity of Kaliningrad Oblast, in: Slavic Review, vol. 77, No. 4, pp. 937-956, <https://doi.org/10.1017/slr.2018.291>.

*The paper explores the identity issues of the Kaliningrad Oblast and puts them into context with the political development under the different governors and their particular roles. The paper also gives more profound insights into how the actual exploration of German history in Kaliningrad fits into the narrative of Germanization by the authorities.*

Приговор калининградским националистам по делу «БАРС» оставили без изменений 2021, Memorial, <https://memohrc.org/ru/news_old/prigovor-kaliningradskim-nacionalistam-po-delu-bars-ostavili-bez-izmeneniy>, [03.04.2023 | 11:55].

*This article by Memorial discusses the topic of the BARS (Baltic Vanguard for Russian Resistance), which is an interesting group regarding Germanization. The paper by Domańska et al. also discusses the group's activities. The BARS can be seen as political prisoners, which, regarding the actual threat they pose against the authorities, get too much attention. The authorities, therefore, frame them as a big, Germanized resistance group that forms a big threat.*