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NATIONAL IDENTITY OF AUSTRIA AND GERMANY IN ENSURING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

The article examines the role of national identity in ensuring national and international security, using Austria and Germany as case studies. National identity is considered a strategic intangible resource that influences social cohesion and the state's institutional and economic resilience, including its capacity to pursue long-term economic priorities and to strengthen strategic autonomy. The national identity models of both countries and their relationship to contemporary security challenges are analysed. The study substantiates the relationship among national identity, economic resilience, and international stability. Its scientific novelty lies in considering national identity as a factor of the state's strategic capacity. It is determined that national identity can strengthen national security, economic resilience, and the state's ability to respond to contemporary challenges.

Keywords: national identity, national security, international security, social cohesion, economic resilience, Austria, Germany.

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НАЦІОНАЛЬНА ІДЕНТИЧНІСТЬ АВСТРІЇ ТА НІМЕЧЧИНИ У ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННІ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ ТА МІЖНАРОДНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ

У статті досліджено роль національної ідентичності у забезпеченні національної та міжнародної безпеки на прикладі Австрії та Німеччини в умовах сучасних глобальних і геополітичних трансформацій. Метою дослідження є визначення особливостей формування національної ідентичності обох країн та обґрунтування її взаємозв'язку із суспільною згуртованістю, інституційною й економічною стійкістю, а також із безпековою спроможністю держав. Автором розглянуто національну ідентичність як комплексний соціально-економічний феномен і як стратегічний нематеріальний ресурс держави. Проаналізовано особливості формування національної ідентичності Австрії та Німеччини, вплив історичних, інституційних і соціально-економічних чинників на її сучасний зміст, а також роль європейської інтеграції та глобалізації в трансформації моделей ідентифікації. Наукова новизна дослідження полягає у системному розгляді національної ідентичності як стратегічного чинника національної безпеки, який через механізми суспільної згуртованості, інституційної довіри та економічної стійкості впливає на здатність держави зберігати стратегічну спроможність в умовах нестабільності. Практичне значення отриманих результатів полягає у можливості їхнього використання під час формування державної політики у сферах національної безпеки, соціальної інтеграції, економічної стійкості та стратегічного розвитку. Порівняльний досвід Австрії та Німеччини може бути використаний для визначення інструментів зміцнення внутрішньої стійкості держави без протиставлення національної ідентичності процесам європейської та міжнародної інтеграції. У результаті дослідження встановлено, що національна ідентичність в умовах сучасних безпекових викликів може бути важливим нематеріальним ресурсом державної стійкості. Виявлено, що спільною для Австрії та Німеччини є необхідність поєднання національної ідентичності з ширшими європейськими та демократичними цінностями, тоді як відмінності в історичному досвіді та інституційних моделях зумовлюють специфіку відповідних ідентифікаційних процесів.

Ключові слова: національна ідентичність, національна безпека, міжнародна безпека, суспільна згуртованість, економічна стійкість, Австрія, Німеччина.

Problem statement. Modern global and geopolitical transformations are substantially changing the conditions for ensuring national and international security. Growing international interdependence, technological competition, economic instability, the transformation of the international order, and the increasing number of external and internal challenges have intensified the search for factors that determine the internal resilience

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and strategic capacity of states. Under these conditions, not only material resources, economic potential, and military capabilities are of particular importance, but also intangible factors that can ensure social consolidation and the coherence of long-term national priorities.

One such factor is national identity. Under contemporary conditions, it may be regarded not only as a socio-cultural characteristic of society but also as an important element of a state's internal resilience. National identity is shaped by historical experience, societal values, political and social institutions, and economic processes, influencing the patterns of societal self-identification and attitudes towards national interests and strategic development goals.

In this context, national identity acquires not only socio-cultural and political but also economic significance. Shared fundamental values, perceptions of national interests, and long-term development goals can contribute to social consolidation, strengthen trust in state institutions, and enhance their capacity to implement strategic decisions. In turn, institutional resilience and social cohesion create important preconditions for developing a state's strategic autonomy and for the consistent prioritization of national interests in economic policy.

In economic terms, this refers to a state's ability to ensure the resilience of the national economy, reduce critical external dependencies, support strategic sectors, and create long-term conditions for stable economic development. Thus, national identity can indirectly influence a state`s economic resilience and strategic capacity through mechanisms such as social consolidation, institutional trust, and the alignment of societal and national priorities.

In turn, economic resilience, institutional stability, and a state's ability to independently determine its strategic development priorities form an important foundation for national security. In an interdependent international environment, the internal resilience of individual states may also affect the stability of the broader regional and international environment. Therefore, the study of national identity as a factor in social consolidation, economic resilience, and strategic capacity is particularly relevant in the context of contemporary global and geopolitical transformations.

In this context, the experience of Austria and Germany is of particular scientific interest. Both countries are developed European states deeply integrated into the European and international economic environment; however, their models of national identity formation differ significantly in historical and institutional terms. The study of these models makes it possible to identify how national identity can be integrated with European integration, democratic values, and openness to international cooperation while retaining its significance for the state`s internal resilience and strategic capacity.

Thus, the research task is to identify the specific features of national identity in Austria and Germany and substantiate its significance for social consolidation, economic and institutional resilience, strategic capacity, and the maintenance of national and international security under conditions of contemporary global and geopolitical transformations.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The issue of national identity is interdisciplinary and has been explored in political science, sociology, history, cultural studies, and national security research. In academic literature, national identity is understood as a complex phenomenon encompassing awareness of belonging to a particular nation, a shared historical experience, culture, values, political institutions, and perceptions of a common future. Denys Sladkyi, summarizing the main theoretical approaches, distinguishes between the cultural and civic-political components of national identity and emphasizes its importance for social consolidation and the formation of the architecture of national and international security [3].

An important area of research concerns the relationship between national identity and globalization processes. Yu. Holoven and H. Bukanov note that globalization has a dual impact on national identity: on the one hand, it promotes the economic, political, and legal integration of states, while on the other, it highlights the need to preserve national cultural, social, and political characteristics. The authors emphasize that this interaction is directly related to political stability, the ability of states to adapt to global change, and social cohesion [1].

A separate group of studies examines national identity through the prism of national interests and security. O. Levchuk and V. Kovalenko associate the definition and implementation of national interests with ensuring economic security, state sovereignty, and long-term socio-economic development. In their view, national interests are shaped by the history, traditions, cultural characteristics, and value orientations of society and serve as guidelines for determining the strategic priorities of public policy [2].

Contemporary international research has increasingly focused on the relationship between national and European identities. Studies of European societies show that national and European identities are not necessarily in conflict; for a considerable proportion of citizens, these identities coexist simultaneously. The content and strength of national identification may influence attitudes towards European institutions, integration processes, and common European policies [14].

Particular interest for the present study lies in research focusing on Austria and Germany. Martin Tschiggerl demonstrates that modern Austrian national identity was largely shaped after the Second World War through the construction of a distinct Austrian national narrative and a process of differentiation from German identity. This historical experience has significantly influenced the specific characteristics of the contemporary Austrian model of national self-identification [11]. In contrast,

Eric Uslaner's research demonstrates differences between Austria and Germany in contemporary understandings of national belonging, political identity, and attitudes towards nationalism. The author primarily associates these differences with the distinct historical experiences of the two countries after the Second World War [12].

At the same time, an analysis of the existing academic literature indicates that the economic dimension of national identity and its relationship with national security remain insufficiently explored. Most studies focus on the cultural, political, historical, or social aspects of identity, while the potential influence of identity on social consolidation, institutional trust, strategic autonomy, economic resilience, and the capacity of states to respond to external challenges has been examined only in a fragmentary way. Comparative analyses of Austria and Germany also remain insufficiently developed, despite the fact that these countries share a closely related historical and cultural context while demonstrating different models of national identity formation and their interaction with European integration.

This research gap determines the direction of the present study, in which the national identities of Austria and Germany are considered not only as socio-cultural phenomena but also as potential strategic resources that, through social cohesion, institutional resilience, and economic capacity, may influence the provision of national and international security.

The purpose of the article is to identify the characteristics of national identity in Austria and Germany and to substantiate its role in ensuring national and international security in the context of contemporary global and geopolitical transformations. To achieve this purpose, the following tasks are defined: to clarify the theoretical relationship between national identity, social cohesion, and institutional and economic resilience; to examine the specific features of the formation of national identity models in Austria and Germany; to determine the influence of historical, institutional, and socio-economic factors on their contemporary content; to analyse the relationship between national identity, economic resilience, and the strategic capacity of the state; and to identify its significance for strengthening national security and the stability of the international environment.

Presentation of the main research findings. National identity in contemporary conditions should be regarded as a complex social phenomenon that extends beyond cultural and historical self-identification. Its significance for the functioning of the state is determined by its capacity to shape a shared understanding of fundamental values, societal priorities, and long-term development goals. Where there is a sufficient degree of commonality in identification patterns, national identity may serve as a factor in social cohesion, creating conditions to strengthen institutional trust and foster interaction between the state and society [7; 13].

This relationship becomes particularly important in the context of growing global instability and increasing security challenges. A state's ability to implement long-term strategic decisions depends not only on the availability of material resources but also on the level of public support for such decisions, trust in institutions, and the willingness of different social groups to align their own interests with broader national objectives. National identity may be regarded as one of the intangible resources contributing to the formation of a state's strategic capacity.

At the same time, the mechanism of such influence is not direct. National identity does not automatically ensure a higher level of security or economic resilience. Its potential is realised through a number of interrelated social, institutional, and economic mechanisms. Social cohesion can strengthen trust in public institutions; institutional trust can enhance the state's capacity to pursue consistent policies; and the alignment of societal and national priorities can create conditions for long-term strategic planning.

In the economic sphere, this mechanism manifests in the state's capacity to define and consistently pursue its own strategic priorities. Public support for long-term economic decisions creates favorable conditions for the development of strategic sectors, investment in human and technological capacity, the reduction of critical external dependencies, and the formation of a more resilient national economic structure [10]. Thus, economic resilience in this context is not only the result of effective economic policy but also a manifestation of the state's overall strategic capacity.

The interrelationship between these components can be presented as a sequential mechanism in which national identity creates the preconditions for social cohesion, while the latter contributes to strengthening institutional trust and the state's capacity to pursue long-term priorities. At the economic level, this creates conditions for strengthening strategic autonomy and economic resilience, which, in turn, enhances the state's ability to withstand internal and external threats. In a broader sense, a state's internal resilience creates the conditions for its stable participation in the international environment and may contribute positively to regional and international security. The proposed mechanism linking national identity, economic resilience, and state security is presented in Figure 1.

Austria and Germany represent a particularly interesting case for a comparative analysis of national identity. Both countries share close historical, cultural, and linguistic ties, are developed democratic states of the European Union, and are characterized by a high degree of integration into the European economic and political space. At the same time, the formation of their contemporary national identities took place under different historical and institutional conditions, resulting in differences in the content of national self-identification, attitudes toward the state, the historical



Figure 1. Conceptual model of the impact of national identity on strategic capacity and state security

Source: developed by the author

past, and European integration. Research also shows that national identity is not a homogeneous characteristic: its specific configurations may be associated with support for European integration and broader forms of political identification in different ways (Table 1).

Historical experience is of decisive importance for understanding the specific features of national identity in both countries. In Germany, the formation of contemporary national identity has largely taken place through a reassessment of the consequences of the Second World War and the experience of National Socialism. In the post-war period, democratic values, constitutionalism, the protection of human rights, and a responsible approach to the historical past acquired particular importance. Researchers note that the German model of state and political identity is largely based on a commitment to liberal democracy and the constitutional order [12].

The Austrian model of national identity developed along a different trajectory. Its formation took place under conditions of transformation following the dissolution of the multinational Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and, in the second half of the twentieth century, through the gradual consolidation of a distinct Austrian national consciousness. Statehood, neutrality, democratic traditions, and social partnership became important elements of Austrian identity. Academic research emphasizes that Austrian identity has historically developed in close connection with the specific features of state formation and the country's institutional development [11].

At the same time, a common characteristic of Austria and Germany is the need to combine national identity with a broader European dimension. Contemporary research indicates that national and European identities are not necessarily mutually exclusive. The influence of national self-identification on citizens' attitudes toward European integration depends not only on the strength of such identification but also on the specific content and type of national identity [5]. Thus, national identity can be combined with support for supranational cooperation when it is predominantly civic, democratic, and inclusive in character.

Importantly, the differences between Austria and Germany do not indicate the existence of fundamentally different models of national resilience. On the contrary, both countries demonstrate that under contemporary European conditions, national identity is shaped at the intersection of historical memory, democratic institutions, social trust, and European integration. At the same time, their different historical trajectories influence the mechanisms of social cohesion, attitudes

Table 1

National Identity and Institutional Characteristics of Austria and Germany

Criterion	Austria	Germany
Historical prerequisites for the formation of contemporary national identity	Formation of a distinct Austrian national identity following the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and, particularly, after the Second World War	The formation of contemporary identity was largely shaped by a reassessment of the experience of National Socialism, the division of the country, and its subsequent reunification
Dominant character of national self-identification	A combination of cultural and historical characteristics, statehood, neutrality, and European belonging	Predominantly a civic-political model closely associated with democratic and constitutional values
Attitudes toward the historical past	A prolonged transformation of public perceptions of Austria's role in the events of the twentieth century	Active and institutionalized reassessment of historical responsibility
Institutional foundations of identity	Federalism, social partnership, democratic institutions, and the tradition of neutrality	Constitutional democracy, federalism, the rule of law, and a strong culture of democratic institutions
European dimension	National identity coexists with European identification, although attitudes toward deeper integration may vary	European integration is an important element of post-war political and state identity
Key contemporary challenges	Migration processes, social differentiation, political polarization, and the transformation of traditional identity models	Migration, regional differences, political polarization, and debates over the content of contemporary German identity

Source: compiled by the author based on [8–9]

toward national interests, and the nature of interaction between the national and supranational levels.

National identity can be viewed not only as a set of cultural, historical, and symbolic characteristics of a particular community but also as an important intangible resource that affects the internal resilience and strategic capacity of the state. Shared basic values, perceptions of national interests, and long-term development goals can contribute to social consolidation, the development of trust in state institutions, and society's readiness for collective action in conditions of crises and external challenges [13]. In this context, national identity becomes one of the factors that indirectly influences the quality of governance, the consistency of strategic policy, and society's ability to support long-term national priorities.

The economic dimension of this relationship lies in the fact that social cohesion and institutional trust create favorable conditions for the implementation of a consistent economic policy. Where there is a shared vision of the state's strategic interests, the potential to establish long-term priorities in industrial, technological, innovation, and investment policy increases. This, in turn, can help strengthen strategic autonomy, develop domestic economic capabilities, reduce critical dependencies, and enhance the state's economic resilience.

An important mechanism of this influence is institutional trust. A high level of trust between society and state institutions facilitates more effective coordination of actions in crisis situations, increases society's willingness to support necessary strategic decisions, and reduces internal fragmentation. From a security perspective, this strengthens the state's capacity to mobilize resources and coordinate social and economic processes in response to external challenges.

At the same time, national identity should not be viewed as a factor of economic or political isolation. Under contemporary conditions, its strengthening can be combined with a state's participation in international and regional integration. This is particularly important for Austria and Germany, where national identity models operate in close interaction with European identity and shared democratic values. Identification at the European level can contribute to the development of international cooperation, the strengthening of political and economic ties, the diversification of foreign economic relations, and, consequently, the enhancement of stability across the broader regional space.

The main mechanisms underlying the relationship between national identity, economic resilience, and state security are summarized in Table 2.

As shown in Table 2, the impact of national identity on economic and security resilience is predominantly indirect. It is realized through a system of interconnected mechanisms, among which social cohesion, institutional trust, the ability to identify common strategic priorities, and readiness for collective responses to crises play a particularly important role. Thus, national identity can provide a societal foundation for the development of consistent state policy and the strengthening of the strategic capacity of the state.

For Austria and Germany, it is important that the strengthening of national identity takes place in the context of active participation in European integration processes. This demonstrates the possibility of combining national interests with broader mechanisms of international cooperation [14]. Accordingly,

Table 2

Mechanisms of the Impact of National Identity on Economic and Security Resilience

National identity	Mechanism of influence	Economic effect	Security effect
Shared values and societal perceptions	Social cohesion and readiness for collective action	Consistency of strategic economic policy	Institutional and domestic political stability
Awareness of national economic interests	Identification and prioritization of strategic development areas	Strengthening strategic autonomy and reducing critical dependencies	Enhanced economic security
Trust in state institutions	Increased capacity for coordination and response to crises	More efficient use of economic and societal resources	Enhanced national resilience and security
A combination of national and European identities	Development of international and regional cooperation	Diversification of economic ties and expansion of development opportunities	Strengthening international and regional stability

Source: compiled by the author based on [3–4; 6; 10]

contemporary national identity can perform a dual function: on the one hand, ensuring internal social and institutional consolidation, and on the other, creating the conditions for the state's constructive participation in international political, economic, and security processes.

Therefore, the relationship between national identity and security should be considered within a broader system of interaction among social, institutional, and economic factors. National identity in itself does not determine the level of a state's economic or security capacity; however, it can serve as an important intangible resource that contributes to social consolidation, the formation of strategic priorities, and the strengthening of institutional resilience. Taken together, these factors create the conditions for enhancing economic resilience and national security and, through the stability of individual states, may also influence the state of regional and international security.

Conclusions. The conducted research allows us to conclude that, amid contemporary global and geopolitical transformations, national identity is gaining importance as a strategic intangible resource of the state. Its influence extends beyond the sociocultural and political spheres to encompass processes of social consolidation, the formation of institutional trust, the determination of long-term national priorities, the maintenance of economic resilience, and the strengthening of the security capacity of the state.

A comparative analysis of Austria and Germany has shown that national identity in contemporary European states is shaped by a complex interaction of historical, political, socioeconomic, and integration-related factors. A common feature of both countries is the combination of national identity with democratic and European values. At the same time, differences in historical experience, state-building processes, and institutional development determine the specific characteristics of the national identity models of Austria and Germany.

The study has established that national identity can influence the state's economic and security resilience through several interconnected mechanisms. Shared basic values and perceptions of national interests contribute to social cohesion and increased trust in state institutions. This, in turn, creates conditions for greater consistency in state policy and the implementation of long-term strategic decisions. The alignment of societal and national priorities may also contribute to the development of strategic autonomy, the reduction of critical dependencies on external factors, and the strengthening of economic security.

The relationship between national identity and economic resilience is of particular importance. The ability of society to support long-term national goals, adapt to crisis situations, and maintain trust in institutions is an important prerequisite for the stable functioning of the economy. In this context, national identity can be regarded as one of the factors contributing to the formation of the state's internal capacity to ensure the consistent implementation of strategic economic, technological, and institutional priorities.

At the same time, the findings confirm that strengthening national identity should not be equated with isolationism or with setting national interests against international cooperation. The experiences of Austria and Germany demonstrate the possibility of combining national identity with European integration and participation in international economic and political processes. Under contemporary conditions, a multilayered identity can simultaneously strengthen the state's internal resilience and its capacity for international cooperation.

Thus, the scientific novelty of the study lies in the systematic examination of national identity as a factor in the strategic capacity of the state, which, through mechanisms of social cohesion, institutional trust, the alignment of national priorities, and economic resilience, helps ensure national and international security. The practical significance of the findings lies in their potential to inform the formulation of state policy in the areas of national security, social integration, economic resilience, and strategic development.

Future research should focus on developing a system of qualitative and quantitative indicators to assess the impact of national identity on the state's economic and security resilience, as well as expanding comparative analysis to other European countries. This would enable a deeper examination of the mechanisms through which national identity is transformed under conditions of increasing global interdependence, geopolitical instability, and changes in the contemporary international security architecture.

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