

Summary of the Doctoral Dissertation

The Greens in the European Parliament: Ideology, Political Program, and Vision of European Integration from 1979 to 2024

The aim of this dissertation was to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the ideology, political program, and vision of European integration of the Greens group in the European Parliament from 1979 to 2024. The research focused on three main hypotheses: (1) the ideology of ecologism is paramount over national differences, (2) the political program of the Greens has evolved from an anti-system agenda to a pro-system one, and (3) their vision of European integration is based on the idea of federalism.

The analysis is based on examining the Greens' programmatic documents (such as election manifestos from 1984-2024) and case studies. A neoinstitutional approach was used.

Although ecologism integrates the European Green parties, national differences lead to internal divisions, particularly on economic, social, and European integration issues. Examples include differences between the German Greens, who support a federalist vision, and the Greens from the British Isles and Scandinavia, who are more skeptical of integration. These differences stem from diverse political traditions, histories, and the economic specifics of individual countries.

The political program of the Greens has evolved from an anti-system agenda to a pro-system one, encompassing all areas of European Union policy. Initially, the Greens were Eurosceptic, criticizing integration for promoting neoliberal economic policies. In the 1990s, there was a shift towards pro-European views, driven by the need for coordinated actions at the European level. The Greens began to promote reforms for greater transparency, democracy, and sustainable development. Over the years, they have become one of the most pro-European groups, advocating for the European Green Deal and the democratization of decision-making processes.

The Greens see federalism as a solution to many of the structural problems of the European Union, promoting deeper integration and strengthening the European Parliament. Their vision of federalism involves a balanced division of competencies between the European, national, and regional levels, with strong transnational cooperation on key issues.

The dissertation demonstrated that the ideology of ecologism was crucial for the Greens' activities, although national differences still play a significant role. The political program of the Greens has evolved towards pro-European stances, and their vision of European integration consistently aims for federalism. The Greens are playing an increasingly significant role in European politics, influencing the shaping of EU policies and promoting sustainable development.

The future of the Greens in the European Parliament looks promising, especially in the context of the growing importance of climate and environmental issues. They have the potential to increase their influence by further promoting pro-ecological solutions, building coalitions, and engaging civil society. However, maintaining authenticity and effective communication with voters will be crucial in the face of growing competition from other political groups that also incorporate environmental issues into their programs. The Greens must maintain their position as pioneers of ecological policy while collaborating with other parties to achieve common goals, effectively addressing global challenges.