

ABSTRACT

During 2015, the series of crises Europe has faced during the past years was followed by a Middle East refugee crisis. As the crisis has evolved, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel's active policy in managing the crisis has met strong pressure and opposition, both from the CDU/CSU key political figures and society. However, she repeatedly defended her open policy initiated on September 5th 2015 for all refugees. By using the theory of perception that advanced by Ole R. Holsti, this thesis seeks to understand how belief system and value are formed in Angela Merkel's perceptions, and may affect her as a decision-maker to continue the open door policy in Germany despite political cost. To gain an understanding of the Merkel's perception, a content analysis method is carried out, extracting personal characteristic, as portrayed in her statement and political behavior.

Keywords: Angela Merkel, Refugee Crisis, Open Door Policy, Perception.