**Berivan Ceyhan**

**Women in the Bundeswehr - On the Changing Role of Women in the Nation**

A possible voluntary service for women in the Bundeswehr has long been controversially discussed. When the legal framework was created in 2001 and it became possible for women to join the service, the number of women in the service increased considerably. Did this put an end once and for all to the discussion about the role of women in the nation as an entity to be defended? Or, with the integration of women into the armed forces, was the "passive" role of women broken once and for all? Until 1973, women were only allowed to serve in the Bundeswehr as "medical orderlies. Were the feminist voices that became louder and louder in the 1990s, and which also made themselves heard in the form of the institutionalization of gender studies, successful in their quest for broad social change? Or were there other reasons for this? This thesis deals with the question of whether the role of women in the nation has fundamentally changed, how the framework conditions for women in the Bundeswehr have changed, and which measures contributed to the fact that the Federal Republic was prepared to take the step of a voluntary armed service of women in 2001. In doing so, it will also address the question of whether feminist currents are fundamentally compatible with national aspirations and, if so, how they may have permanently altered the social norms of the German nation.