Patterns and values are the essence of every political culture. In the dissertation author presents selected patterns and values of the political culture of the West German society. The criteria for which these particular patterns and values were selected for the dissertation are: most of all, the role that they have played in the formulation of conclusions about the typical characteristics of the culture of the so-called Bonn period, that is in the years of 1949-1990 as well as validity criterion for the formation of a liberal democratic society. Among the research questions, there are to be found: "German national character" as a foundation for cultural phenomena, historical determinants of German political culture, the impact of "zero hour" (i.e., the surrender of Germany in 1945) on the political culture, public history as a source of information about political culture, national myths and stereotypes, the German issue of identity and multicultural society, "constitutional patriotism" as a substitute for traditional patriotism, the German understanding of the nation and the postulated "guiding culture", changes in political culture in general and distinctive moments of these changes, elements of the old political traditions as present nowadays in the political culture, and the attitude of the Federal Republic of Germany to democracy. The dissertation is to be a contribution to the understanding of these values, ideas, attitudes and behavior of citizens of the Federal Republic which relate to the world of politics.

The dissertation is intended both for students and researchers, as well as others dealing with German studies from the Polish perspective. It can be a valuable resource in comparative studies of national political cultures.