

Summary

This doctoral dissertation presents a comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon of illegal border crossing in the context of migration, combining criminal law and criminological perspectives. The research was initiated in response to the events on the Polish-Belarusian border since 2021, which have exhibited characteristics of a hybrid warfare operation using migratory pressure as a tool of state destabilization. The main objective of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of applicable criminal law provisions—particularly Articles 264 and 258 of the Polish Penal Code—in combating illegal migration and the activities of organized criminal groups. The work also explores geopolitical, institutional, and systemic factors that influence the state's capacity to respond to these challenges. An interdisciplinary methodological approach was adopted, combining doctrinal legal analysis with empirical research, including case law reviews and examination of materials from international institutions. The dissertation is divided into ten chapters covering, among others, the genesis and typology of migration, international and national legal frameworks, judicial practice, the etiology of the phenomenon, the structure and modus operandi of smuggling networks, and threats to internal security. The findings point to significant gaps in existing criminal legislation, inadequate preparedness of law enforcement agencies to address transnational threats, and the need for *de lege ferenda* legislative reform. Particular attention is given to the instrumentalization of migration as a form of coercive influence employed by authoritarian regimes against the sovereignty of EU member states.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'Z' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.