

KALMUN'24
GERMAN BUNDESTAG COMMITTEE
STUDY GUIDE

Table of Contents

- 1. Letter from the Secretary**
- 2. Introduction to the Committee**
- 3. Key Terms**
- 4. Timeline of the Key Events**
 - A. Foreign Policy of Germany before German Reunification**
 - a. Division of Germany into East and West**
 - b. Adenauer Era**
 - c. Construction of The Berlin Wall**
 - d. Economic Miracle**
 - e. Peaceful Revolution**
 - f. Fall of the Berlin Wall**
 - B. Foreign Policy of Germany after German Reunification**
 - a. German Reunification**
 - b. Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany**
 - c. Integration of East and West Germany**
 - d. Enlargement of the European Union**
- 5. Major Parties Involved**
 - A. Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)**
 - B. Christian Democratic Union (CDU)**
 - C. Alliance 90/The Greens**
 - D. Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS)**
 - E. Free Democratic Party (FDP)**
- 6. Bibliography**

1. Letter from the Secretary

Dear Esteemed Delegates and Honorable Advisors,

It is with immense pleasure and great honor that we extend a heartfelt welcome to all participants of the 10th session of KALMUN.

Our team, with unwavering dedication and passion, has once again devoted countless hours to curate an unparalleled Model United Nations experience. As acknowledged by the United Nations Secretariat, our mission at KALMUN is clear: to equip each and every one of you with the knowledge necessary to shape a future characterized by solidarity, prosperity, and lasting peace.

Model United Nations conferences offer an unparalleled opportunity for students to delve into the complexities of global affairs, to share their ideas, and to engage in constructive dialogue with their peers. At KALMUN, we recognize the transformative power of this experience, and we are committed to providing a platform where students can refine their diplomatic skills, articulate their perspectives, and collaborate effectively towards innovative solutions.

In preparation for this year's conference, the academic team at KALMUN has studied international history and politics to identify agenda items that are not only relevant and distinctive but also aligned with the principles of the UN Charter and fundamental human rights. Our theme, "UN|foreseen consequences," underscores the importance of addressing the unforeseen challenges that confront our world today, and we are confident that our agenda items will inspire fruitful debate and meaningful dialogue.

Furthermore, our academic team has developed comprehensive study guides and provided the chairboard with the necessary tools to facilitate engaging and productive discussions. We are committed to ensuring that each delegate has the support and resources they need to make the most of their KALMUN experience.

As we embark on this journey together, let us embrace the spirit of collaboration, empathy, and understanding that lies at the heart of the MUN community. Together, we have the power to effect positive change and build a brighter future for generations to come.

Once again, welcome to KALMUN'24. We are excited to embark on this journey with you and look forward to the inspiring discussions and meaningful connections that lie ahead. We hope that you are as excited as we are.

Sincerely,
KALMUN'24 Secretariat

2. Introduction to the Committee

The Bundestag and the Bundesrat are the two main assemblies making up of the German Parliament, the main legislative body of Germany. The German Bundestag, also referred to as Deutscher Bundestag, was established on September 7th, 1949 and serves two primary functions: development of the most significant laws and policies impacting the nation overall and the election of the head of the state, the President. German Bundestag is a governmental body that was formed after World War II as a result of the division of Germany into two sovereign states, East and West, and has been in continuous operation since then.

The mixed-member proportional representation system allows representatives in getting elected and allocated seats in the Federal Diet on a fair basis. Political parties and a specific constituency are provided with representation that is in an equal manner through its implementation. Therefore, a mixed proportional system ensures that the Bundestag serves as a forum containing a variety of voices and perspectives, which is essential for maintaining the transparent nature of German society.

Election to the Bundestag signifies a mandate to represent the interests of the people, embodying the principles of representative democracy set in the Basic Law. Nonetheless, members are required to carry out and fulfill specific constitutional obligations, which include maintaining the majority in the legislature, choosing capable public officials, reviewing executive activities, passing legislation, and approving the budget. Stated differently, the Bundestag, which is the elected chamber of the people, is the sole body in Germany that is directly empowered by the constitution. As a result, its members are responsible for shaping the nation's overall societal structure and system of governance.

The Presidium, the Council of Elders, the Permanent Committees, and the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces are among the primary bodies that make up the German Bundestag. These bodies hold various duties, such as managing the Bundestag's administrative operations, organizing its legislative efforts and offering specialized knowledge on major policy matters. Together, they assure the Bundestag's accountability and efficient operation as the nation's representative assembly.

Representing the best interests of the German people in their entirety is the German Bundestag's main aim. Legislation is drafted and passed, the executive branch is supervised, and advice and consent is provided regarding presidential appointments and treaties in order towards achieving this objective. The Bundestag promotes democratic governance ideals and enhances the welfare and prosperity of the country and its people by fulfilling these fundamental responsibilities.

3. Key Terms

a. Basic Law

A Basic Law of a country is the legal document that frames the principles and organization of a government. It is known to be the highest legal authority and is an alternative for 'constitution' in various cases.

In West Germany, the term 'Basic Law' was used to indicate that the Basic Law was provisional until the ultimate reunification of Germany. Many of the principles are consequent from human rights abuses committed between 1933 and 1945 during the National Socialist rule. The Basic Law places a strong emphasis on fundamental rights in order to prevent the atrocities of the Nazi era from ever occurring in the future. However, in 1990, when the German Reunification became a reality, no new constitution was adopted and instead the Basic Law was adopted throughout the entire German Territory.

The current version of the Basic Law of Germany, referred to as the Grundgesetz, established on May 23 1949, is the constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany and has functioned effectively for over 70 years.

The Basic Law of Germany , with its 141 articles, takes various matters in concern including human rights, personal freedom, equality, freedom of faith, freedom of expression, marriage and school system.

Conscious of their responsibility before God and man,

Inspired by the determination to promote world peace as an equal partner in a united Europe, the German people, in the exercise of their constituent power, have adopted this Basic Law.

Germans in the Länder of Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein and Thuringia have achieved the unity and freedom of Germany in free self-determination. This Basic Law thus applies to the entire German people.

1. Human dignity shall be inviolable. To respect and protect it shall be the duty of all state authority.

2. The German people therefore acknowledge inviolable and inalienable human rights as the basis of every community, of peace and of justice in the world.

3. The following basic rights shall bind the legislature, the executive and the judiciary as directly applicable law.

b. Cold War

The Cold War was an era of geopolitical tension and rivalry between the Eastern Bloc and the Western Bloc that had been continuous for 44 years. The Eastern Bloc included the Soviet Union and its allies, while the Western Bloc contained of United States and its NATO allies. Even though there was no visible military attacks between the components, it was a characterized ideological, political and economical war.

The Cold War was a significant political and diplomatic conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States, arising from longstanding disagreements following the 1917 Russian Revolution. The Soviet Communist Party, led by V.I. Lenin, aimed to replace existing political orders worldwide. American diplomatic recognition of the Soviet Union came in 1933, but suspicions persisted. During World War II, the two countries allied to counter the Nazi threat. At the end of the war, antagonisms resurfaced, with the United States advocating open trade to promote economic growth and stability. The Soviet Union, despite downplaying its historical tradition of centralized, autocratic government, was determined to rebuild and protect itself from another conflict.

c. Ostpolitik

Neue Ostpolitik, shortened as Ostpolitik, was a policy pursued by the West Germany during the Cold War era. It represented the normalization between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic beginning in 1969.

Ostpolitik was a political and diplomatic policy of West Germany towards Eastern Europe and the USSR, which sought closer ties economic and politically between the two and recognition of the current boundaries, including the German Democratic Republic as a state, in the hope of a long term 'thaw' in the Cold War and eventual reunification of Germany.

Politicians had a choice. Try and work together, or move to the extremes of the Cold War. Ostpolitik was the result of an attempt to do the former, believing that finding agreement and moving slowly towards reconciliation was the best way to solve the issues finding the Germany's. The policy is most

closely associated with West German Foreign Minister, then Chancellor, Willy Brandt, who pushed the policy forwards in the late 1960s/1970s, producing, among others, the Moscow Treaty between West Germany and the USSR, the Prague Treaty with Poland, and the Basic Treaty with the GDR, forging closer ties.

It's a matter of debate how much Ostpolitik helped end the Cold War, and many English language works put the emphasis on the actions of the Americans (such as Reagan's budget troubling Star Wars) and the Russians. But Ostpolitik was a bold move in a world that was facing a split to the extremes, and the world did see the fall of the Berlin Wall and a reunited Germany, which has proved very successful. Willy Brandt is still very well regarded internationally.



d. The Thaw

The Thaw of Khrushchev, a period from the mid-1950s to mid-1960s, a time when censorship and oppression were lessened in the USSR; this was Nikita Khrushchev's policy of de-Stalinization and of peaceful coexistence with the world. Freedom of information in media, arts, and culture was released through the Thaw that supported the foreign films, uncensored books, new forms of entertainment on national TV, and the visit of numerous foreign delegations. Yet, Leonid Brezhnev, who succeeded Nikita Khrushchev and implemented a reform of economy by Alexei Kosygin in 1965 and the trial of Yuli Daniel and Andrei Sinovskiy in 1965 marked the end of the Thaw and reversion of the country to the previous conditions.

e. Weimar Republic

The Weimar Republic, officially known as the German Reich, was a period of Germany from 1919 to 1933, during which it was a constitutional federal republic for the first time in history. The republic faced grave problems such as hyperinflation and political extremism, leading to isolation, reduced diplomatic standing, and contentious relationships with great powers. By 1924, monetary and political stability were restored, and the republic enjoyed relative prosperity for the next five years.

The Great Depression of October 1929 severely impacted Germany's progress, leading to high unemployment and social and political unrest. President Paul von Hindenburg used emergency powers to back Chancellors Heinrich Brüning, Franz von Papen, and General Kurt von Schleicher, leading to a surge in unemployment. In January 1933, Hindenburg appointed Adolf Hitler as Chancellor, but Hitler's far-right Nazi Party held two out of ten cabinet seats.

The Weimar Republic was Germany's government from 1919 to 1933, the period after World War I until the rise of Nazi Germany. The November Revolution of 1918 replaced Germany's constitutional monarchy with parliamentary democracy, and advocates of the Republic had to withstand pressure from radical forces of the Left and Right.

The party system of the Weimar Republic showed remarkable continuity in relation to the imperial system. The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD), with roots in the laboring classes, was the strongest political force from 1919 to 1932. The Centre Party (Zentrum) represented the interests of the Catholic population and provided the majority of the Chancellors. The German Democratic Party (DDP), a liberal party of the Centre-Left, had a great influence on the shaping of the Weimar Constitution and was also represented in most governments up to 1932.

f. Introduction of Legislation

The Federal Government and members of the Bundestag have the right to introduce bills for the Bundestag's consideration. Bills must be signed by at least 5% of members or a parliamentary group. About two-thirds of bills are introduced by the Federal Government, which is typical of the parliamentary system provided by the Basic Law. The Federal Chancellor is elected by the Bundestag, and the majority in the Bundestag forms the government. The Bundestag's control mainly concerns which legislative proposals will be adopted and which will be amended.

g. Debate and Amendment

The debate on a bill involves parliamentary groups forming opinions on the bill, with all members having the opportunity to form their opinions. The Council of Elders sets the date for the second reading, which is then placed on the agenda of the plenary sitting. The President chairing the sitting gives the committee rapporteur the opportunity to supplement the written report. The general debate begins, followed by debates on individual clauses or the bill as a whole. Amendments may be moved by parliamentary groups and individual Members of the Bundestag, but it is important for them to be taken seriously and not to be ignored. The opposition may present its views in motions for amendments, submitting them for debate and voting.

h. Final Remarks

Bills are drawn up by specialized divisions in relevant ministries, with information from the federal administration, affected groups, and other interested parties taken into account. Coordination between ministries and the cabinet ensures that bills conform to government policy and are compatible with the federal budget. The Bundesrat plays a crucial role in discussing bills, with the first reading informing the Bundestag and the public. The committee stage allows for additional expert opinions and political viewpoints to be taken into account, and hearings increase public awareness.

4. Timeline of the Key Events

A. Foreign Policy of Germany before German Reunification

a. Division of Germany into East and West

Following World War II, the separation of Germany became an unavoidable reality. This division led to the formation of two sovereign states, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), both established in 1949.

The Federal Republic of Germany “is a democratic and social federal state”.(Basic Law Art 201) West Germany was formed on 23 May 1949, with the three Allied zones of occupation held by the United States, United Kingdom and France and was continuous until the reunification of Germany. Prior to reunification, West Germany's foreign policy was distinguished by its firm commitment to Western integration, which was demonstrated by its participation in European integration initiatives and membership in NATO. Through diplomatic maneuvers and economic cooperation, West

Germany attempted to overcome the consequences of World War II by putting reconciliation with former rivals, particularly France, at the forefront of its efforts.

The German Democratic Republic, also known as East Germany, was formed on 7 October 1949 as a nation in Central Europe and existed until its reunification with West Germany. Amongst Cold War rivalry, East Germany's foreign policy was marked by its dedication to socialist unity, its role as a faithful ally of the Soviet Union, and its attempts to reclaim its autonomy.

b. Adenauer Era

Konrad Hermann Joseph Adenauer was a German statesman who served as the first chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1949 to 1963. From 1946 to 1966, he was the first leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), a newly founded Christian-democratic party, which became the dominant force in the country under his leadership.

As a devout Roman Catholic, Adenauer was a leading politician of the Catholic Centre Party in the Weimar Republic, serving as Mayor of Cologne (1917–1933) and as president of the Prussian State Council. In the early years of the Federal Republic, he switched focus from denazification to recovery, and led his country to close relations with France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. During his years in power, he worked to restore the West German economy from the destruction of World War II to a central position in Europe with a market-based liberal democracy, stability, international respect, and economic prosperity.

As a strong anti-communist, Adenauer was deeply dedicated to an Atlanticist foreign policy and restoring the position of West Germany in international affairs. In 1955 and 1956, Adenauer played a pivotal role in the restoration of West German national forces and intelligence services. West Germany joined NATO under Adenauer. As a proponent of European unity, he signed the Treaty of Rome in 1957. Adenauer is claimed as one of the "Founding fathers of the European Union".

c. Construction of The Berlin Wall

The most emblematic event of the Cold War era was the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1961, which signified the commencement of the division of the East and the West. A prime example of the so-called "threat" from the West that many critics referred to was the East German government's media disclosure that the Wall's primary purpose was to prevent citizens from defecting to the West.

Khrushchev's authorization for the building of the barricade was carried out rather rapidly. The barricade consisted of concrete blocks and barbed wire and took barely two weeks to accomplish. Prior to the Eastern and Western parts of Berlin being separated by the border, it was remarkable how people could easily cross between regions for business, leisure, and cultural events. However, the completion of the wall severely limited this freedom, confining citizens to their respective sides and establishing strict checkpoints for passage.

Despite the wall's intimidating presence, thousands of East Germans, including border guards, displayed remarkable ingenuity and courage in escaping to the West, utilizing methods such as jumping from windows, scaling barbed wire, and even flying in hot air balloons. Tragically, the pursuit of freedom came at a steep cost, with at least 171 lives lost in daring attempts to breach the wall's barriers. Nevertheless, these daring escapes serve as a testament to the human spirit's resilience in the face of oppression, enduring until the eventual fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, heralding a new era of reunification and hope for a united Germany.



d. Economic Miracle

Economic Miracle, *Wirtschaftswunder* in German, also known as the Miracle on the Rhine, is a term used to refer to the sudden reconciliation, recovery and development of West Germany and Austria after World War II.

Beginning with the replacement of the Reichsmark with the Deutsche Mark in 1948 as legal tender (the Schilling was similarly re-established in Austria),

a lasting era of low inflation and rapid industrial growth was overseen by the government led by West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and his Minister of Economics, Ludwig Erhard, who went down in history as the "father of the West German economic miracle." In Austria, efficient labor practices led to a similar period of economic growth.

The era of economic growth raised West Germany and Austria from total wartime devastation to developed nations in modern Europe. At the founding of the European Common Market in 1957 West Germany's economic growth stood in contrast to the struggling conditions at the time in the United Kingdom.

e. Peaceful Revolution

The Peaceful Revolution, or Friedliche Revolution in German, a pivotal component of the broader Revolutions of 1989, heralded a profound sociopolitical metamorphosis within East Germany. It catalyzed the demise of the ruling Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and ushered in a transition towards parliamentary democracy. This transformative period, encapsulated by the German term "Die Wende" or "the turning point," witnessed the historic opening of East Germany's borders with the West and laid the groundwork for the momentous reunification of Germany in 1990. Fueled by non-violent initiatives and widespread demonstrations, the revolution emerged amidst a confluence of factors, including Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy reforms and the GDR's mounting economic challenges.

Intellectuals, church figures, and peaceful demonstrators emerged as pivotal actors in driving the reform process, challenging the authoritarian rule of the SED. The SED's growing isolation within the Eastern Bloc, coupled with its inability to respond effectively to societal demands, further weakened its grip on power. Meanwhile, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's West German government assumed a prominent role in shaping the unfolding events, gradually steering the nation towards reunification. Following free elections and the dissolution of the Stasi, the stage was set for the GDR's transition to a democratic system. The Peaceful Revolution stands as a testament to the resilience of civil society and the power of non-violent resistance in effecting transformative political change.

f. Fall of the Wall of Berlin

The Berlin Wall, a 155-kilometer-long and four-meter-tall wall, was a significant part of the 'inner German border' that separated East and West Germany. It was surrounded by a heavily guarded corridor known as the 'death

strip', and was under constant surveillance by armed East German border guards. By 1989, the Wall was lined with 302 watchtowers. Over the 28-year history, over 100 people died trying to cross it.

In 1989, political changes in Eastern Europe and civil unrest in Germany pressured the East German government to loosen some regulations on travel to West Germany. East German spokesman Günter Schabowski announced that East Germans would be free to travel into West Germany, but failed to clarify that some regulations would remain in place. Western media inaccurately reported that the border had opened, and passport checks were eventually abandoned, leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The fall of the Berlin Wall further weakened the unstable East German government. Germany reunited on 3 October 1990, 11 months after the wall collapsed. East German leaders had tried to calm protests by loosening borders, but they did not intend to completely open the border.



B. Foreign Policy of Germany before German Reunification

a. German Reunification

The remaining obstacle to reunion disappeared in July 1990 when Kohl convinced Gorbachev that if the former East Germany was to be a member of the NATO alliance, considerable money would be set aside for the struggling Soviet Union in exchange. The already agreed upon Unification Treaty was put to vote and was passed by the Bundestag and the People's Chamber in September and went into effect on October 3 1990. West Berlin and the German Democratic Republic became each one separate Land belonging to the nine Länder of the two Germanys.

In December 1990, Germany was united after 45 years of division, and Kohl helped negotiate the Treaty on European Union, which established the European Union (EU) and paved the way for the introduction of the euro. The successful achievement of a unified national state was overshadowed by various difficulties as the structural problems in the European economy appeared and unification costs and consequences began to have an impact. Germany faced increased global competition, the increasing costs of its elaborate social welfare system, and stubborn unemployment, especially in its traditional industrial sector. Unexpectedly, the cost of unifying the east and west was even more unsettling.

The real issue was the condition of East Germany's economy which turned out to be far worse than both the government and the public had known or even expected. The brand of Western manufactured goods easily replaced the often inferior and environmentally damaging products of eastern companies. As a result, only a couple of eastern enterprises could be competitive in the world market and the majority of them were miserable and very inefficient. There was dramatic decline in the former East German economy, the sudden surging unemployment had tens of thousands, and the east was now highly dependent on federal subsidies. It was vital for funding of a grand infrastructure to serve as a springboard for the sustainable economic growth.

Unemployment, social dislocation, and disappointment continued to haunt the new Länder more than a decade after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Many easterners resented western arrogance and insensitivity, leading to the PDS becoming the political voice of eastern discontents. Furthermore, the revelation of numerous legacies of this 40-year period, such as the Stasi, was another factor that motivated the Germany of today to confront the legacy of the communist regime.

Despite the problems attending unification, Kohl won a narrow victory in 1994 and was replaced as chancellor by Gerhard Schröder, the leader of the SPD, which formed a coalition with the Green Party.

b. Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany

The United Germany shall comprise the territory of The Federal Republic of Germany, The German Democratic Republic and the whole of Berlin. Its external borders shall be the borders of the Federal Republic of Germany and and The German Democratic Republic and shall be definitive from the date on which the present Treaty comes into force. The confirmation of the definitive nature of the borders of the united Germany is an essential element of the peaceful order in Europe. (Article 1,1)

c. Integration of East and West Germany

The unification of East and West Germany as part of the entirety of what Germany is today emphasized a fateful event that concluded the division of the country which happened right after World War II. The process started with the fall on 9 November 1989 of the Wall of Berlin that stood as a symbol for the end of Cold War times and the emergence of a new era for Germany and the whole of Europe. The event did not only visually portray the healing process of the reunified nation but also partially represented the people's faith and their acquiring of a clear overview of where they stood since the country was split in two.

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall, the process of integrating East and West Germany was complex and multifaceted. It involved political negotiations, economic restructuring, social reforms, and cultural exchange programs. One of the key challenges was reconciling the stark differences between the two regions, which had developed distinct political systems, economic structures, and social norms during their decades of separation. West Germany, with its capitalist economy and democratic government, was significantly more prosperous than the socialist regime of East Germany, which struggled with economic stagnation and political repression.

Despite these challenges, the integration process progressed rapidly, fueled by a sense of optimism and determination among the German people. The two German states officially reunified on October 3, 1990, with the adoption of the "Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany." This historic event was celebrated by Germans across the country and marked the culmination of years of effort to overcome the legacy of division and forge a new, unified nation. The integration of East and West Germany not only brought about political and economic unity but also fostered a sense of national identity and

solidarity among the German people, laying the foundation for a brighter and more prosperous future.

d. Enlargement of the European Union

The expansion of the European Union (EU) has been one of the most important periods of its development, especially as related to German goal is that it aims to integrate into the EU political and economic systems which would be major step towards its future stability and prosperity. The German reunification on its turn important geopolitical shifts in Europe have risen to the foreground and sparked off the debate about the future of the EU, as well as its role in a continually changing landscape. Consequently, the EU has undertaken successive enlargements that brought new sovereign states, which had emerged from the central and eastern Europe, under its umbrella undoubtedly including those which were at the time members of the Eastern Bloc.

Following the reunification of Germany in 1995, the EU first expanded to include Sweden, Finland, and Austria. This laying down to rest of the EU's desire to metaphorically incorporate countries from beyond the boundaries of its traditional Western European core serves as a powerful symbol of unity and shared values that traverses the cultural divides of numerous member countries. Such inclusion of those governments was also a manifestation of European Union's desire to promote stability, democracy and economic prosperity somewhere across the continent, which was, in turn, in line with the German intentions related to the peaceful cooperation in Europe after reunion.

Later waves of enlargement kept expanding the EU and by the common-admission of Central and Eastern European countries at the early 2000s, brought about a more diverse community. With the expansion of the greater EU countries; that is Poland, Hungary, and the Czech republic which greatly increased the integration of the political union as well as the role these countries played during the democratic transitions which took place in former communist states. To meet the larger goal of German reunification targeted by the EU enlargements, they made the European common area encompassing a greater geographical area. This promoted a stable, reconciling and prosperous Union in Europe.

5. Major Parties Involved

A. Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)

The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) owns a pivotal position in German political history and contemporary society. Established in 1863, it emerged as one of the earliest Marxist-influenced parties globally and became Europe's largest Marxist party by the turn of the 20th century. Throughout its evolution, the SPD has played a significant role in shaping Germany's political status.

Internal conflicts within the SPD during the First World War lead to the establishment of the Independent Social Democratic Party and ultimately, the Communist Party of Germany. However the SPD remained firm in its devotion for social democracy, and it conducted the German Revolution of 1918–1919, which paved the way for the formation of the Weimar Republic, whose first president was SPD politician Friedrich Ebert.

The party's perseverance was put to the test once again during the rise of the Nazi Party, given that it was the sole group to oppose the Enabling Act of 1933, leading to its expulsion and subsequent operation as the Sopade in exile. The SPD was revived after World War II and became influential in both East and West Germany. Under tension, it merged with the Communist Party to form the Socialist Unity Party in East Germany, and with the rise of the Christian Democratic Union, it became one of the two main parties in West Germany.

The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) was crucial in forming the political atmosphere of the newly united country during the German reunification process. The SPD acted as a unifying force in the reunification process, advocating social justice, democracy, and equality as East and West Germany attempted to overcome decades of distinctions. The German people's sense of national cohesion and unity was promoted by the SPD through its dedication to bridging the disparity between East and West.

B. Christian Democratic Union (CDU)

The Christian Democratic Union (CDU) stands as a cornerstone of German political history and ideology, embodying a unique blend of conservatism, free-market principles, and social welfare advocacy. Established in 1945, in the aftermath of World War II, the CDU emerged from a diverse coalition of former Weimar Republic politicians, including members of the old Roman

Catholic Centre Party, liberal and conservative Protestants, workers, intellectuals, and segments of the middle class. United by a shared commitment to preventing the resurgence of fascism in Germany, the CDU's founding members were deeply influenced by the trauma of Nazi Germany, a factor that continues to shape the party's ethos to this day.

Throughout its history, the CDU has remained steadfast in its support for European integration and has cultivated close ties with the United States. Governed by a center-right ideology, the party advocates for a free-market economy while simultaneously championing social welfare programs. This balanced approach has solidified the CDU's position as one of Germany's most successful political parties, dominating the Federal Republic of Germany's governance for much of its history, particularly during the first two decades after its founding and for significant periods throughout the 20th century.

Following a major defeat in 1998, the CDU experienced a resurgence in 2005 under the leadership of Angela Merkel, who would go on to become one of the longest-serving chancellors in German history. Merkel's tenure further underscored the CDU's commitment to pragmatic governance and centrist policies, garnering both domestic and international acclaim.

In essence, the Christian Democratic Union's legacy is deeply intertwined with Germany's post-war reconstruction and its journey towards democracy. With its roots firmly planted in the struggle against fascism and its vision focused on economic prosperity and social cohesion, the CDU continues to shape the political landscape of Germany, embodying the principles of conservatism, moderation, and European unity.

During the process of German reunification, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) played a pivotal role in navigating the complexities of integrating East and West Germany. As the nation sought to overcome decades of division, the CDU's pragmatic approach to governance and commitment to European integration provided a stable foundation for the reunification process. Under the leadership of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the CDU spearheaded efforts to promote economic prosperity and social cohesion in the newly unified Germany. Through initiatives such as the "Solidarity Pact," which aimed to address economic disparities between the former East and West, the CDU demonstrated its dedication to fostering unity and stability. Moreover, the party's emphasis on maintaining close relations with key international partners, particularly the United States and European allies, facilitated a smooth transition towards a reunified Germany. In essence, the Christian Democratic Union's leadership during German reunification exemplifies its enduring commitment to democracy, prosperity, and European cooperation.

C. Alliance 90 / The Greens

The Green Party of Germany, officially known as Alliance 90/The Greens (German: Bündnis 90/Die Grünen), is a prominent political force in Germany with a rich history rooted in environmental activism, civil rights advocacy, and pacifism.

Formed in 1992 through the merger of the Western German Die Grünen and the Eastern German Bündnis '90, the party's origins date back to the 1970s when Germany witnessed a surge of protests against nuclear power. Fueled by concerns over environmental degradation and the risks posed by nuclear energy, activists, including former anti-Vietnam War protesters, coalesced to establish a political entity that would champion their causes.

On January 13, 1980, in Karlsruhe, the party was officially founded under the name "Die Grünen," signifying its commitment to ecological sustainability. Initially attracting a diverse coalition of individuals, including environmentalists, civil rights advocates, and pacifists, the Greens quickly emerged as a vocal critic of nuclear weapons and a proponent of a demilitarized Europe.

Throughout its history, the Green Party has maintained a steadfast dedication to principles such as ecology, civil rights, gender equality, and social justice. This commitment has positioned the party as a key player in German politics, advocating for progressive policies on environmental protection, renewable energy, and social welfare.

The Green Party played a significant role during the process of German reunification in the early 1990s. Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent reunification of East and West Germany, the Greens actively engaged in shaping the political and social landscape of the unified nation. Through their participation in the political process, the Greens sought to ensure that environmental concerns, social justice issues, and civil liberties were prioritized during the reunification process. Additionally, the party worked to bridge the gap between the formerly divided East and West Germany, advocating for policies that promoted integration, economic development, and environmental sustainability across the newly reunited nation. In doing so, the Greens demonstrated their commitment to fostering unity, equality, and progress in a post-reunification Germany.

D. Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS)

The Party of Democratic Socialism's electoral prowess reflects the success other reformed communist parties are having with voters disillusioned with the changes since 1989. This article seeks to explain why it is doing so well, what kind of people are drawn to it, and what its success tells us about the new eastern political culture and the consequences of unification. Its future prospects depend on how quickly the two parts of Germany become integrated and how effectively the other parties respond to eastern Germans' feelings. PDS success is a product of eastern German attitudes and conditions. It thrives

on the tensions between east and west and on east Germans asserting their determination to be different from west Germans. But it will experience difficulty in continuing to derive its identity from a mixture of nostalgia for certain aspects of the GDR and animosity toward western Germans. With its path to western voters blocked, with growing intraparty disunity, and with a leader absorbed by charges that he had been a *Stasi* collaborator, the PDS faces a serious struggle to survive in the 21st century as a long-term significant political force.

E. Free Democratic Party (FDP)

Free Democratic Party (FDP), centrist German political party that advocates individualism, capitalism, and social reform. Although it has captured only a small percentage of the votes in national elections, its support has been pivotal for much of the post-World War II period in making or breaking governments, by forming coalitions with or withdrawing support from larger parties.

The Free Democratic Party (FDP) was established in December 1948 at a conference attended by delegates from liberal parties in the American, British, and French zones of occupation. The following year, in West Germany's first democratic elections, the FDP captured 11.9 percent of the vote and joined a coalition government with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU). However, it left the coalition in 1957, when it won less than 8 percent of the national vote, and the CDU and its Bavarian affiliate, the Christian Social Union (CSU), secured an absolute majority in the Bundestag, the lower house of the German national legislature. In 1961, when the CDU-CSU coalition lost its overall majority, the FDP, which had won nearly 13 percent of the vote in that year's elections, exacted the promise that Chancellor Konrad Adenauer would resign after two years as the price of its cooperation in a new coalition. The FDP's disillusionment with the policies of the new chancellor, Ludwig Erhard, motivated its withdrawal from the coalition with the CDU-CSU in November 1966 and prompted the formation of a grand coalition between the CDU-CSU and its chief rival, the Social Democratic Party (SPD). In 1969 the FDP joined forces with the SPD to overcome the CDU-CSU plurality in the Bundestag and to elect as chancellor the SPD leader, Willy Brandt. The FDP remained in coalition with the SPD until 1982, after which the FDP again joined a coalition government with the CDU-CSU (FDP ministers resigned over opposition to the SPD's proposed budget deficit for 1983).

6. Bibliography

1. <https://www.bundestag.de/en/parliament/function-197608>
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bundestag>
3. <https://www.btg-bestellservice.de/pdf/80080000.pdf>
4. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-was-the-berlin-wall-and-how-did-it-fall#:~:text=In%201949%2C%20Germany%20formally%20split,allied%20to%20the%20Soviet%20Union.>
5. http://www.forumfed.org/libdocs/Global_Dialogue/Book_1/BK1-C05-de-Kramer-en.pdf
6. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Berlin-Wall>
7. <https://www.stiftung-berliner-mauer.de/en/topics/berlin-wall>
8. <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/berlin-wall>
9. <https://handbookgermany.de/en/basic-law>
10. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War>
11. <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/origins-cold-war>
12. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50013048>
13. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-was-the-berlin-wall-and-how-did-it-fall>
14. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0967067X96800250>
15. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Free-Democratic-Party-political-party-Germany>
16. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weimar_Republic
17. <https://www.bundestag.de/en/parliament/history/parliamentarism/weimar/weimar-200326>
18. <https://www.bundestag.de/en/parliament/history/parliamentarism/weimar/weimar-200326>
19. <https://www.bundestag.de/en/parliament/function/legislation/13scathrdg-245874>
20. <https://www.bundestag.de/en/parliament/function/legislation/19legisin2-245892>
21. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201696/volume-1696-I-29226-English.pdf>
22. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Helmut-Kohl-and-the-struggles-of-reunification>
- 23.

