**Dover Sherborn High School**

**Briefing Paper: Germany**

Although Germany has been previously seen as an aggressive and violent country in the world wars, Germany is now a relatively stable country with strong international relations. Since the Cold War, Germany has created a weaker army, the Bundeswehr, in order to appear less threatening; however, Germany feels threatened by the Syrian Civil War, online cyber attacks, and organized crime groups, which are difficult to prevent attacks from. In regards to the Ukraine Crisis, Russia is continually causing chaos in Ukraine by providing for pro-Russian groups that weaken the Ukrainian government. Western powers, including Germany, are against Putin’s decisions, which are diminishing people’s rights. Germany aims to protect the freedoms of German citizens as well as citizens of other countries as Germany is full of many foreigners and religious groups, which all have religious freedoms. Many religious minority groups are often harassed by the government and society. Germany has many terrorist groups, both right and left-side, that primarily consist of German Muslims and are connected to al-Qaeda, posing a large threat. Laws are being made to try to stop these terrorist groups from growing. Although there are many terrorist groups, Germany aims to keep peace and believes that Ukraine should make the final decision regarding Russia’s annexation of Crimea. In addition, Germany feels as though Russia is an ally in regards to the security in Europe, and does not wish to weaken Russia. Due to Germany’s ties with Russia, Germany has greater influence over Russia than any other European Union member. Furthermore, Germany is primarily an energy importer for resources such as oil but is also one of the leading producers of coal and oil refining. A large percentage of Germany’s natural gas is imported from Russia, the only country ahead of Germany in petroleum and gasoline production. Germany has a social market economy and is economically stable, demonstrated by Germany’s low unemployment and inflation rates.

Background

Germany has evolved into a dependent state that has grown on trade and positive foreign relations with other countries. It has, however, experienced severe economic drawbacks because Germany historically has been the aggressor in World Wars, which led to destruction and rebuilding. Their aggressive tendencies can be seen in the weakening of the Roman Empire in the 2nd century B.C. Germany’s origin begins as Barbaric tribes that started to attack the Roman Empire. Germany changes from barbaric clans to a state ruled by single emperors.

Charlemagne emerged as a preliminary ruler, who later was named Holy Roman Emperor. He initiated educational reforms and strong religious views that shaped the culture. Besides Charlemagne, many dynasties ruled Germany thereafter. From 919 to 1024 the Saxon dynasty ruled and consequent from that was the Salian dynasty, which lasted from 1024 to 1255. The Religious crusades and the Hohenstaufen dynasty resulted in a period of time that was heavily affected by religion. Religious conquests and travel caused the spread of the the black death, which affected most of Europe and included Germany. A third of Europe’s population was affected by this disease.[[1]](#footnote-1)

In 1517, Martin Luther proposed his protestant reforms, which resulted in war from Charles V against the protestant ideas. The fighting ended with the Peace of Augsburg that allowed princes to determine the religion of their controlled areas. In 1701, Frederick became emperor of Prussia, which is what Germany was at the time. German unification began with the first defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte. The Congress of Vienna tried to strengthen conservatism views and create peace, unifying 39 independent Germanic states. Otto von Bismarck was appointed prime minister in 1862 and eventually unified southern Germany through the Franco-Prussian war. In 1871, Wilhelm I was crowned emperor, and then Germany was fully unified. This unification resulted in revolution, war, and the rise of Germany as one of the strongest countries in the world[[2]](#footnote-2).

Germany’s sudden rise at the turn of the 20th century was the product of a revolution that spanned over 80 years. Such was a revolution that shed no blood, but changed the lives of people forever. Germany’s industrial revolution lasted from 1834 to 1914. While the first textile mill in modern day Germany was built in 1784, the small divided states and guild privileges did not allow for such methods to begin to change the economy. They did, however, become widespread enough for wealthy members of society such as landowners to invest in such endeavors. The true start of an industrial revolution began in 1834 as a result of the creation of the German Customs Union. Trade barriers were abolished, and markets flourished. Eventually, railways were created in 1873, and led to the quickening of all other areas of industry. [[3]](#footnote-3)

In 1914, Germany’s rapid growth led to growing tensions with England, Russia, and France. Finally, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand led to war. [[4]](#footnote-4) With Austria-Hungary as it’s only ally, Germany had to face France and England in the and Russia in the east. The modern name for this war is World War I. After four long years of warfare, Germany surrendered. The Treaty of Versailles imposed heavy punishments on the Germans including reparation payments and lost territory. These harsh punishments led to political extremists, one of them being Adolf Hitler.

The National Socialist German Worker’s party(more commonly known as the Nazi party), led by Adolf Hitler, attempted a failed coup d'etat in Munich. Although Hitler was imprisoned for nine months, he spent that time writing his ideas on the future of Germany, race, and other subjects. These ideas led to the birth of *Mein Kampf*, or “my struggle” in English. When worldwide economic depression hit Germany in 1929, wealthy industrialists began to support the Nazi party. In 1933, through the general elections, the Nazi party gained more power and became the largest party in parliament. With one-third of the seats in parliament taken up by the Nazi party, Hitler was appointed Führer.

With increasing anti-semitic sentiments in Germany, Hitler invaded Poland. Such actions led to war with Britain and France. However, after Germany occupied much of Europe, the involvement of the United States in 1942 lead to heavy losses. The Holocaust occurred during this time, and over six million jews were persecuted along with one million more individuals such as homosexuals, communists, and others. Germany was divided into East and West Germany, but when Hungary relaxed it’s border controls in 1989, Germans gradually began to unify. [[5]](#footnote-5)

Germany was one of six founding countries of the European Union in 1950. However, the destruction of the Berlin Wall allowed both sides of Germany to participate in the European Union and led to the economic force that is known today. [[6]](#footnote-6)

Present day Germany, one of the European Union’s most powerful present day economic forces, is primarily built on trade and positive foreign relationships with other countries. Germany contains the largest population in Europe, and it’s economy is a direct reflection of such a numerous workforce. It’s population of 80.3 million people (15.9% of the European Population in 2012) mainly works in industry (25.8%), public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities(18.4%), wholesale and retail trade, transport, accommodation and food service activities (14.6 %). Germany’s population primarily works in the processing of raw goods to make finished products. Such products are then traded to France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Germany’s main importers for such raw materials are the Netherlands, France, and China.[[7]](#footnote-7) For natural resources such as oil, Germany relies on countries such as Russia. With Germany relying on over 70% of it’s energy to be imported from outside the nation, countries such as Russia are heavily depended upon for their natural resources. Russia supplies 38% of Germany’s gas needs, 35% of oil imports, and 25% of coal imports. [[8]](#footnote-8)

Germany’s economic dominance is also reflected in their political power among the European Union. Germany is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). This committee aims to address the issues and concerns of Europe’s interest groups such as trade unionists, employers, and farmers and allow such groups to legally participate on legislative proposals. While the EESC allows Europeans to participate, not all countries receive equal amounts of seats. Germany, along with France, the United Kingdom, and Italy hold the most seats in the EESC. All four countries hold twenty four seats, the most held by any country in the committee.[[9]](#footnote-9)

Such economic and political dominance not only allows Germany to have a great deal of power, but leads other countries to depend on them for their economic success and survival. Many people in major countries across Europe believe that European integration has harmed their economies. Germany is the eurozone’s biggest creditor, and Germany has the most to lose if the eurozone collapses. Angela Merkel, the chancellor of Germany, has put in policies across southern Europe. Should the Eurozone fail, Germany would be held responsible for its leadership role. Germany’s leadership is undisputed across Europe despite the risks it entails. [[10]](#footnote-10)

Committee on Sovereignty

→ The power to execute lies with Chancellor Angela Merkel as well as the German people, but it is the European Union’s duty to protect Ukraine to peacefully solve the crisis in order to work with, not against, Russia.

The Federal Republic of Germany, as stated by German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel, believes that Ukraine should make the final decision regarding Russia’s annexation of Crimea[[11]](#footnote-11). Merkel says that “Ukraine is seeing both its territorial integrity and sovereignty disregarded,” and she states that “[international law is being violated.”[[12]](#footnote-12) While Germany is a federal public, Angela Merkel does wield much power as well as her personal ties with Mr. Vladimir Putin himself. Germany feels as though Russia is an ally in regards to the security in Europe, and in no regard wishes to weaken Russia, according to both Merkel and German State Secretary, Steffen Seibert[[13]](#footnote-13). Ukraine is close to becoming a member of NATO and is to be considered a potential ally, so, with the western powers siding with Ukraine against Russia, the matter at hand is definitely a regional, if not worldwide, conflict.

The Crimean peninsula is home to 2.3 million people, and the majority ethnic group, 58% of the total population, is Russian[[14]](#footnote-14); while Germany recognizes this, it also strongly believes that the annexation of Crimea from Ukraine was a complete violation of international law5. Germany supports a “united approach” from the European nations, specifically stating that in dealing with the Ukraine crisis security in Europe “is to be achieved with Russia not against Russia.”5 Although the population of Russians in Crimea is large, Germany does not view the annexation as acceptable or lawful; it needs to be dealt with in a delicate yet proper fashion[[15]](#footnote-15).

The Crimean peninsula in the Black Sea, part of the independent state of Ukraine now annexed, has been a part of several different countries in the past. Most recently Ukraine’s population totals 44.5 million[[16]](#footnote-16); the population of Crimea is barely 2 million[[17]](#footnote-17). The population of Crimea is just 4.5% of the total population of Ukraine, making the small percentage incapable of making the final decision as to whether it prefers to be a part of Ukraine or Russia. The referendum, given by Russia and signed by Crimea’s parliament, is only representative of a very small part of Ukraine and the annexation itself violates many international laws.

Although European history has seen the changing of borders especially post-wartime, Merkel defended borders in Europe as “inviolable.” She acknowledges the disrespect of Russia to territorial integrity and peace as well as the heavily contrasting actions in Ukraine. Merkel firmly believes that forcing Russia to change its borders risks escalating the conflict with peace and security. So, the current borders of Russia and the post-Soviet states are an issue that Germany will not interfere with at the time being. If these borders will be completely permanent, that is not something that can be determined as of yet[[18]](#footnote-18).

National and international correspondents in Russian-occupied Crimea have been reported to have been attacked, detained, and threatened. Freedoms in Crimea declined since Russian’s have entered, especially the freedom of speech which has been under siege[[19]](#footnote-19), as well as the freedom of press, in Crimea since March 2014[[20]](#footnote-20). Even though some freedoms have decreased, Ukraine has, for the most part, avoided the terrorism, ethnic friction, and harsh counterinsurgency campaigns that have been present in Russia since the 1990s. The environment in Ukraine for civilian activity has been far better than that in Russia[[21]](#footnote-21). Angela Merkel comments on this by stating, “Russia is not acting like a stability partner, but uses [Ukraine’s] weakness to advance its own interests. It is the power of the mightiest put about the power of law. What we are witnessing now is oppressive and I fear we need to be prepared for the long haul in solving this conflict.”[[22]](#footnote-22) In short, Germany is very much against with Russia’s exertion of unlawful power over Crimea and Ukraine for Russia’s own personal gain.

Germany is now a union of eastern German Democratic Republic and the western Federal Republic of Germany operating under a Civil Law legal system and separated into three branches of government. The executive branch is headed by Chancellor Angela Merkel, the head of the Christian Democratic Union, and the Chief of State, President Joachim Guack. The legislative branch is a bicameral legislature made of the Federal Council, or Bundesrat. The composition of the Bundesrathas, determined by the make-up of the state-level governments, has the potential to change at any time if one of the sixteen states holds an election. The highest court of the judicial branch is the Federal Court of Justice, comprised of 127 judges.

Germany, led by Angela Merkel, has been playing a defensive role through its political engagement, in an attempt to defuse the current situation in Ukraine. Germany, being Russia’s closest western ally, has tried to maintain a steady relationship with Russia in order to prevent further conflict. Since some German companies are situated on Russian soil, and Russia is one of Germany’s greatest oil suppliers, it is crucial for Germany not to force Russia into any kind of retaliation. As for the civil society of Germany, about 80% of Germans blamed Putin for the escalating conflict in eastern Ukraine even though 40% of Germans endorse Russia’s annexation of Crimea[[23]](#footnote-23). These statistics are due to the aftermath of the Cold War which split Germany into two parts: the western Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the eastern German Democratic Republic (GDR). The FRG is part of the European Union and as well as a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The FRG’s counterpart the GDR is made up of communist and was very close to Russia in terms of relationship. Eastern and western Germany were united in early October of 1990, but 40% still share the ideas and beliefs commonly held by Russia.

Ms. Merkel holds a very strong opinion on the crisis and understands that a positive relationship with Russia must be maintained but also believes that Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity must be maintained. Due to Germany’s ties with Russia, Germany has the greatest influence on Russia than any other European Union member. This means that Germany has the power to potentially contain Russia’s geopolitical ambitions. Europe once being a Franco-German Europe is now turning into a Russo-German Europe as the E.U. wants to spread east to deal with the ongoing Russia[[24]](#footnote-24). As this is transpiring, Russia is proving that it is willing to annex the territories that it wants and needs to continue building up a force to counter the European Union. Ukraine, more specifically Crimea, is the beginning to this assembly. If Crimea does indeed prove to be owned by them, Russia would then look to keep what it had seized along with trying to use its position in Crimea to destabilize Ukraine. Overall, both Russia and Germany understand the stakes in their battle to regulate the political and economic crisis. They are also both devoted to their own outcomes, but are also interested in finding a common ground to maintain the peace.

Committee on Security

→ Germany is in the process of recreating their image as a military power, and their significantly smaller army, while it adequately protects the citizens of Germany, is no where near the size and power that it used to be.

Germany was onced look on as a strong, power hungry, and very territorial country. This view has changed dramatically in the post- Cold War era and has morphed into something more relaxed and less threatening. Germany has been able to create a new army, the Bundeswehr, from the fragments of it’s east and west regions together. This new army is created under a whole new set of security conditions. These conditions are that Germany is no longer about to jump into conflict with a bunch of other countries, they are now nestled in the middle of Europe and fairly calm U.N. members. They are also trying to create a new set of operational plans outside of the NATO’s General Defense Plan. Lastly the man power is down almost 300,000 from the previous German army which was composed of East and West Germans. This number of soldiers also is planned to drop again to about 175,000 by the year 2017 due to budget cuts. The German army appears to be almost non- existent when one visits Germany. It is there in the background, but many Germans used to look down on their soldiers and feel a sense of disgrace rooting back to WWII. As time passes the ill-will towards the army decreases but there isn’t a pride in their defense team present that exists in many other countries. Germany’s army isn’t like many others; it is made more to make up for their past actions and let never let history repeat itself, rather than to be a mobile fighting powerful force. Individual soldiers are also able to speak their mind freely, and refuse an order that they think may violate human rights, which is a very unique custom.

Make no mistake, Germany can defend itself even with these new high moral standards. Germany is the third largest exporter of arms in the world, the runner up to America and Russia. Since the country is very military pacifistic now, many of their products go to allied forces. Germany’s rich supply of arms is very helpful to their allies in the NATO community. Germany has the defense aid of NATO if need be, and Germany is accepting that they will have to go and defend for other NATO members if the time comes. The United States and Germany have a solid allied relationship even after US spies were caught peeking in on Germany’s chancellor Angela Merkel. Germany is also apart of the EU, and UN, putting most of western Europe in their corner. Connected to all NATO members and the US, Germany has a strong support group behind its back for when things get hairy with other opposing forces.

Germany, along with many other European countries are facing a growing domestic security threat from the turmoil in the middle east. Three hundred twenty German Islamists went to join the civil war in Syria, and some of these extremists are starting to return home to Germany. This immigration poses a big threat in Germany. There is now an increasing fear that an act of terrorism may be targeted in Germany as it has in Paris and Berlin. Also if Germany citizens want to return from abroad, it is very hard to prevent them from entering the country. This is a very fragile situation, but if there ever was an attack in Germany its allies would help to secure their safety.

External and internal security threats are dealt with in Germany using a strong volunteerism unit. Since as mentioned before Germany is a very peaceful country, many citizens are volunteers on a regular basis to help with many crises that may come up. This system that seems unreliable is actually working out extremely well. The German military is only secretly deployed due to its bad reputation, but when times of great domestic threat arrive, such as after September 11, 2001, members of the Bundeswehr are deployed to important spots in Germany to protect. They also help civil security agencies respond to attacks in some cases as well. In a last resort in case of an air attack Germany has special fighter jets it will deploy to bring down the planes.

In the past, organized crime had been a major issue in Germany. However, post 9/11, security focus has shifted from organized crime to terrorism. The German Interior ministry has said that in the upcoming years, Germany has the potential to become a hot-spot for international organized crime. In 2013, 580 investigations into organized crime were performed, and these crimes were estimated to have cost Germany around 910 million dollars. The 2% increase in organized crime from 2012-2013 is something that the German defense minister remains relatively unconcerned about though, stating that “the numbers given are in line with what’s been seen in Germany for years”. Fighting organized crime has been difficult because online data collecting isn’t legal everywhere in Germany, and data can’t be stored for long periods of time. In addition, 80% of organized criminals act from abroad, making international cooperation a sometimes difficult necessity. The current plan that the KBA holds is to strike down organized criminals by accessing high-tech crimes, and pulling money from the operations, rendering the criminals virtually helpless. The struggle that police face now is being able to prove that the money they wish to pull comes from illegal sources. To combat organized criminals, police are restructuring their teams and teaming up with other European countries to pool information and work together to take down the especially evasive cyber-criminals.

Cyber-crime is a growing threat internationally, and Germany is no exception to this rule. Increasingly skilled hackers are becoming harder to stop, and even harder to catch. In a recent cyber-attack in December of 2014, for the second time ever, a cyberattack caused confirmed physical damage. This cyberattack targeted a steel mill in Germany by remotely manipulating control systems to the point where the blast furnace couldn’t be shut down, creating extensive, but unspecified, damages. Similar vulnerabilities have been discovered in hospitals, electric grids, water treatment plants, and chemical facilities. A similar attack on these businesses could cause even more harm than what was done at the steel plant. It remains relatively unclear as to what German officials plan to do to improve cyber security and prevent cyberattacks. A law was proposed in August of 2014 which would require businesses to register any attempted or successful hacker attacks. This law however would only apply to businesses in certain fields deemed important such as information technology, telecommunications, energy, traffic, transport, health, water, food supply, finance and insurance. Further than that, the basic strategy that Germany has taken to prevent cyberattacks involves protection of infrastructure, securing IT systems within Germany, creating a National Cyber Response Centre and Security Council, and developing personnel in federal institutions so they are more equipped to respond to cyber threats. As cyber attacks begin to become a rising threat and could pose more danger to the citizens of Germany, it is suspected that the German government will roll out new and more detailed plans on how to prevent and minimize damage resulting from cyberattacks.

Committee on Terrorism

→ Germany is composed of numerous terrorist groups and the government as well as police officers plan to suppress any threats by creating laws and closely monitoring all terrorist concerns.

Unfortunately, Germany has had to confront the threat of many Islamist terrorist groups that have formed in Germany, radical Muslim converts, and Muslim immigrants.[[25]](#footnote-25) Many can recall the Munich attack on Germany which was conducted by non-German terrorists. However, since this event most terrorist attacks or incidents that have occurred in Germany have been caused by German terrorists or from groups that are based in Germany. Germany has a wide range of types of terrorist groups, containing right-side, neo-Nazi groups as well as left-side terrorists group which have become more popular since World War II. [[26]](#footnote-26)

Having a large population of Muslims in Germany, Germany contains many terrorist groups that pose a threat to the safety of the country. Germany’s complicated relationship with the PKK, the Kurdistan Worker’s Party, has come to an end after Germany banned this group from their country. Having 13,000 supporters in Germany, they were banned due to the fact that they were seen as a destructive force who weakened their co-existence that is quite peaceful between the Kurds and the Turks in Germany.[[27]](#footnote-27) Kurds are a multi- ethnical group from Middle Eastern countries and are Sunni Muslims. On multiple occasions, the Kurds have attempted to set up their own independant states in different Middle Eastern countries, but they have been crushed every time.[[28]](#footnote-28)

Another terrorist group that poses a threat to Germany and the nations safety as a whole, is the NSU, or the National Socialist Underground group. This neo-Nazi group is run out of Germany and has been recently discovered for murdering eight Turkish people, a Greek man and a Police woman. Members of this group are also believed to be responsible for numerous robberies as well as bombings. While some members of this right-wing terrorist group have either been found dead or not found at all, Beate Zschaepe turned herself in. For Germany, discovering this group is seen as a red flag for it took them nearly a decade to link the murders of innocent civilians to this terrorist group. These terrorist groups are a threat to Germany and its people for they are able to function in Germany without being caught, committing crimes and killing innocent civilians of Germany.[[29]](#footnote-29)

Similar to the NSU is the RAF, the Red Army Faction, a left-wing terrorist group that is often referred to as Baader- Meinhof Gang in the Media. Located in west Germany, they are the biggest left-wing combative group. RAF was founded by Andreas Baader, Horst Mahler, Gudrun Ensslin, and Ulrike Meinhof in 1970. Members of RAF describe themselves to be a “communist, anti-imperialist ‘urban guerrilla’ group engaged in armed resistance against the Federal Republic of Germany.” RAF has been charged and held responsible for multiple bomb attacks, the murder of 34 people, and the kidnapping of multiple people. Many years ago, on April 24th 1975, various members from RAF took control over the West German embassy, located in Stockholm. They took two hostages who were murdered after the Chancellor at the time did not agree to their demands. While this attack happened 35 years ago, RAF is still a threat to Germany for it is still active and is designated in Germany.[[30]](#footnote-30)

One group that is seen to be the biggest threat to the safety of the Germans is the Islamic Jihad Union. They are considered to be one of the biggest threats to German national security and branches off from the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. It is closely associated with al-Qaeda and is categorized as a Sunni terrorist organization. Terrorists arrested who were involved with the attacks in Bukhara/ Uzbekistan confirmed the connection between the Islamic Jihad Union and al-Qaeda. Leaders of the Islamic Jihad Union had close ties with Osama bin Laden and Mullah Omar. Being closely related groups, the Islamic Jihad Union and al-Qaeda run training camps together in the area between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Islamic Jihad Union is well known in Germany from their frequent videos posted on the internet are threatening. One of these videos posted called for muslims in Germany to “join the jihad.” A video that was posted on January 31, 2009, stated that the group threatened to attack Germany and warned the people of Germany their goal which was to “Islamize the world.” This group consists of mainly radicalized Germans who have converted to Islam, pose a threat to Germany’s safety.[[31]](#footnote-31)

However, despite all of these attack, steps are being taken to prevent future terrorist attacks in Germany. In January of this year police officers raided Islamist hotspots in Berlin surrounding areas to arrest people suspected of being involved in the IS. The people arrested were allegedly recruiting new members and raising funds for the IS. One of those arrested was making his own group of Turks and Russians to form a new Islamist Extremist Group. While there was no indication the groups were planning to start an uprising in Germany, German Chancellor Angela Merkel recently raised the security standards due to the recent attack in Paris[[32]](#footnote-32).

Recently, the head of Germany’s domestic intelligence service, Hans-Georg Maassen, spoke about the need for increased security due to the recent attacks in Paris and Copenhagen. Maassen requested the security of youth institutions and prisons be raised just as his office has raised their security standards. This powerful message from someone in such high authority will hopefully raise security across the country.[[33]](#footnote-33)

The police are now increasing the security in every area of the public. For example, a Carnival on February 16th was almost cancelled due to safety concerns but was instead allowed to go on with an extreme amount of police supervision. [[34]](#footnote-34) Police have also been doing raids in areas where terrorist behavior is suspected of occurring. Authorities raided a cafe earlier this month after a man, thought to be inspired by an earlier islamic extremist shooting, shot two people dead and wounded five officers. The man was chased out of the cafe and shot to death by the remaining police officers. This raises extreme concern for members of the community, but it was a wake up call for authorities who are now raising the bar of security nationwide.[[35]](#footnote-35)

Perhaps one of the biggest changes we are making to stop terrorism is a law that we hoped will be passed in the near future. This law would make it a criminal offence to travel to a different country to receive military training. This law was drafted in hopes of discouraging Islamic Extremists from going to middle eastern countries to receive training to help terrorist groups like IS. As of now this is a draft law but in the future it will be a chargeable offense. Our government is also working on drafting a law that will make it a criminal offense to fund terrorist groups. For powerful terrorist groups like ISIS that rely heavily on their obscene amount of wealth, this will be devastating. Steps like these are intended to hurt terrorist groups by taking away the things that are most valuable to them; money and recruits.[[36]](#footnote-36)

Committee on Human Rights

→ Germany has adopted a human rights policy to maintain individual and religious rights; however, certain religious minority groups still experience harassment.

In Germany, the status of human rights seems to be sound. Germany’s human rights policy has a very concrete goal: to prevent human rights abuses and protect the fundamental freedoms of the people. Germany’s basic law describes human rights as the basis of community, peace, and justice in the world in which we live in. They feel the obligation to serve dignity and protect the freedoms of not only their people but those in surrounding nations. The responsibility for Germany’s human rights policy lies within the Federal Foreign Office’s Task Force. There are no major human rights concerns for they are at low perpetration in Germany, or at least they are not widely publicized.

Germany seems to emphasize the importance of individual rights. They seek to protect freedom and promote the importance of their involvement with other countries and willingness to help them. Germany provided humanitarian efforts in areas such as Haiti and Pakistan when tragedies occurred and strives to exhibit its humanitarianism. Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier outlined Germany’s reputation with the quote “We are rightly expected to become involved”.

Until the late 1950s, the population in Germany was 99% German. After that, an influx of foreigners came about and more “guest workers” were coming in as permanent residents. By 1998, Germans made up about 91% of the country’s population. The highest portion of the foreigners were Turks. Around the same period that foreigners were coming in, joblessness was increasing and this caused tensions within the minority groups. These minority groups had rights and were represented in German law and on work councils.

In 1995, there was a peak of immigration from post-Soviet Union to Germany, and it resulted in a significant population of Russians in Germany. Some foreigners did not integrate quite smoothly into Germany and still held onto previous cultures and languages. Some also continued to consider themselves as Russians even though they were living in Germany. This posed a threat to the integration of cultures in the country because different cultural communities living under one government could arouse tensions. After migration, Russians for the first time found themselves as a minority group and saw the persecution that came with it. The German government could see this as a challenge through figuring out a cohesive system to deal with separate cultures uniting.

Although Germany primarily consists of Catholics and Protestants, it is overall not very uniform or religiously homogenous. Estimates and figures provided by religious group indicate that the Roman Catholic Church has approximately 24.4 million members and the Protestant Church (a confederation of the Lutheran, Uniate, and Reformed Protestant denominations) has approximately 23.6 million members. Together they account for sixty percent of the population. Making up five percent of the population are 4 million Muslims, including 2.6 million Sunnis, 500,000 Alevis, and 280,000 Shia. Smaller religious groups include Buddhists, Hindus, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and the COS. Jewish population is estimated at between 112,000 and 250,000, of which approximately 103,000 are registered members of Jewish communities. About thirty-three percent of the population either has no religious affiliation or are part of unrecorded religious groups.

In Germany, the Basic Law and other laws and policies protect religious freedom and, in practice, the government generally respects religious freedom. The government makes efforts to improve the integration of Muslims and other minorities into society, investigates and prosecutes criminal behavior against religious groups, and promotes tolerance education.

These religious minority groups also have the right to obtain public law corporation (PLC) status. Religion and the state are separate, although a special partnership exists between the state and religious groups with “public law corporation” (PLC) status. Any religious group may request PLC status, which entitles the group to appoint prison, hospital, and military chaplains and to levy tithes (averaging 9 percent of income tax), which the state collects on its behalf. PLCs pay fees to the government for the tithing service, but not all groups use it. PLC status also allows for tax exemptions and representation on supervisory boards of public television and radio stations.

Despite these rights, religious minority groups are still often harassed as there is governmental and societal discrimination against some minority religious groups. There were instances of anti-Semitic attacks and vandalism; violence against women; trafficking in women, men, and children for sexual exploitation and forced labor; and right-wing extremist violence against and harassment of racial minorities, foreigners, and sexual minorities. There were reports of discrimination at the federal and state level against some religious minorities, notably Scientologists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Muslims. In addition, vandals desecrated some Jewish cemeteries and Muslims also sometimes suffer societal discrimination.

In Germany, the constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press; while the government generally respects these rights in practice, it imposed limits aimed at groups it deems extremist. In November 2009, the Federal Constitutional Court limited free speech that specifically endorsed neo-Nazi doctrines, claiming this was "an exceptional circumstance." In August 2009 the Federal Court of Justice ruled that persons can be prosecuted for displaying Nazi slogans only if the slogans are in the German language, as Nazi slogans are inseparably connected with the use of the German language.

In accordance with freedom of speech, the German media is active and expresses a wide variety of views with few restrictions from the government. Similarly, there is no government restrictions on access to the Internet; however, government agencies may monitor e-mail or Internet chat rooms in certain circumstances.[[37]](#footnote-37)

Committee on Economics

→ The German economy, while strong, faces threats from potential deflation and wealth inequality that have lead to necessary programs being implemented to stabilize the economy.

Germany is economically stable and has an economy structure that is well organized. Economics freedoms are freedoms to choose how to produce, sell, and use your own resources while respecting the rights of others simultaneously. According to the 2015 index, Germany stands at the 16th freest country on the economic freedom spectrum, with a number of 73.8. This number is 0.4 times larger than last year, and a 2.0 difference since the year 2011. There are many different laws of economic freedoms Germany has within its economy. The rule of law is a law that states property owned by foreigners is protected under German ruling and or laws. Another German law is regulatory efficient, this states that starting a business costs 9% of a person's average annual income. The government also uses additional taxes on electricity bills to support the cost of renewable power generators, to make Germany more “eco-friendly.” Germany is a very wealthy country, with a strong gross domestic product or GDP. Germany’s GDP is roughly $3.2 trillion. There has been a 0.5% increase since 2013 as well. Germany’s per capita GDP is about $40,007. The top individual income tax for Germany is 47.5%, and the top corporate tax is 15.8%. Overall taxation for Germany is 37.6% of the domestic output. Unemployment rates in Germany are very small, at a 5.3% out of the total population of approximately 80,767,000 people. Also, the inflation of Germany is 1.6%, very small. Germany’s main economy is based on a social market economy. A social market economy is one in which the goal is to protect the freedom of all market participants and also ensuring social balance. Because of this style of economy, social security in Germany must be very effective due to people unable to earn market because of age, disease, or unemployment. [[38]](#footnote-38)

Germany is one of the largest importers and exporters in the world, due to its high level knowledge in technologies and having smart investors. Ever since January 1st 1995, Germany has been a part of the World Trade Organization. Much of the trade done by Germans are industrially produced goods and or services. Many other countries rely on Germany’s mechanical engineering products, vehicles, and chemicals. Exports of these goods and or services make up around 52% of Germany’s total GDP. Around 69% of their exports are shipped to European countries, and about 58.2% is delivered to members of the EU specifically. Germany’s top trading partner is France with 9.5% of their total exports. In 2012, 7.9% of their exports went to the United States, and 6.6% went to the United Kingdom. [[39]](#footnote-39)Germany’s primary exports include, metals, electrical equipment, textiles, transport equipment , vehicles, chemicals, rubber and plastic products. Their major export partners besides the EU and US, include China at 6.1%, Switzerland at 4.5%. In 2012, Germany’s total value of imports was $1.276 trillion. On the other side, Germany’s top import destinations include The EU at 54.8%, China at 8.9%, US at 5.5%, Switzerland at 4.2%. Some of the top items Germany imports is petroleum ( in crude, gas, and refined states) , cars, computers,gold, gas turbines. The total country trade is $1.09 trillion. Germany not only has good exporting partners, but importing as well which leads them to a rich, thriving economy. [[40]](#footnote-40)

Germany’s relationships economically with Russia have changed drastically over the past few years. In 2013, Germany’s exports to Russia were 3.4% of the total exports. Sanctions could affect both economies, but even though Germany has many other valuable countries to trade with, Russia was a large part of their economy. If no more sanctions are put in place by the EU, then Russia’s economy will definitely deteriorate[[41]](#footnote-41). However, this problem could cause harm for Germany. Since Germany is huge manufacturing country, they have industries all over the world, including Russia. If the Russian ruble, currency, decreases by 45-50%, the income of the industries put in by Germany will decrease too. So, people, especially Germans, will be much more cautious when dealing with the Russians, especially when dealing with their economy.[[42]](#footnote-42) Hopefully the Germans will find a way to compensate for a loss of the Russians if need be. Monday January 5th, 2015, Germany suggests that western sanctions had reached their limits, and only could get worse from there. Germany’s chancellor Sigmar Gabriel didn’t want to establish Russia with too many sanctions about the Ukrainian crisis because he believes if Russia becomes unstable that would be very dangerous to all of Europe. Germany, and the rest of Europe really do not want to see Russia collapse, they never meant any harm. Germans want to help solve the Ukraine conflict, but not by forcing Russia to a point of collapse. [[43]](#footnote-43)

The EU, which includes Germany, is by no means independent in respect to petroleum. They import 88 percent of their oil so at a glance the drop in oil prices is beneficial to their economy. However this drop in oil prices has its risks. Due to the already low inflation rate of the Euro, this drop in the price of oil could actually lead to deflation as a result of decreased government spending. Economic deflation is a change in the value of a currency that cause the prices of goods to drop. This would have immense consequences on the German economy. Economic inflation will decrease the demand for goods and as such can have side effects including lower profits, decreased wages, and even an increased unemployment rate. Issues with deflation can also make it more difficult for a nation to pay off debt as the value of that nation’s currency will have increased and therefore the value of their debt has increased. But even with these potential risks, the drop in oil prices has increased German business confidence and with Germany shifting further and further toward renewable energy their economy is expected to grow by 1.5 percent in 2015.[[44]](#footnote-44)

Since the fall of the Soviet Union the wealth gap in Germany has increased. The average total assets of a resident of western Germany is 94,000 Euros whereas the average total assets of a resident of eastern Germany is only 41,000 Euros. The massively uneven distribution of German wealth is likely due to the fact that West Germany was an established part of the capitalist western world following World War II whereas East Germany, following World War II, became a communist society similar to the Soviet Union. With the fall of East Germany and the Berlin Wall Germany on November 9, 1989 Germany became unified and with western Germany having a head start in the capitalist environment of the rest of the modern world they were able to experience much faster growth. [[45]](#footnote-45)

To boost the economy of the European Union The European Central Bank (ECB) launched a government bond buying program on Thursday January 22, 2015. The ECB announced its plans to purchase sovereign debt scheduled to begin in March 2015 and to end in September of 2016. The ECB hope to be able to funnel at least 60 billion Euros into the EU’s economy each month for the 19 months that this program is scheduled to run. By that September 2016 end date this ECB quantitative easing program should generate more than 1 trillion Euros, giving the European Union, including Germany, a huge boost.[[46]](#footnote-46)

Committee on Energy

→ Germany’s economy depends on oil and natural gas imports from Russia, and new oil discoveries in the Caspian, Black, and Arctic Seas could benefit Germany by lowering prices.

Germany is primarily an energy importer for resources such as oil, but is one of the leading producers of coal. As an exporter, Germany exports a small amount of petroleum gas and refined petroleum. The combined exportation accounts for 2.4% of all of Germany’s exports.[[47]](#footnote-47) Germany has no liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, so it must import all of its natural gas through seven cross border pipelines. A large percentage comes from Russia via the Nord Stream System. The next largest is from Norway via the Norpipe. Four pipelines come from the Netherlands to complete the list. The consumption of natural gases has declined since its peak of 3.6 trillion cubic feet in 2002 to 3.1 trillion cubic feet in 2012. This decline is from the increase of coal production coupled with nuclear energy and natural energy sources. In 2012, Germany was the fifth largest producer of nuclear energy at 94.1 terawatt hours. There has been a steady decline in nuclear energy ever since the accident at Japan’s Fukushima. Due to protests, Germany has pledged to close its remaining 9 nuclear power plants by 2022. This decrease in nuclear energy has advanced Germany’s coal production. Coal is Germany’s most plentiful indigenous natural resource available. It accounted for 24% of total energy consumption in 2012, and made Germany the eighth-largest producer of coal that same year. All of the energy from coal is used for power and the industrial sectors. As Germany has started to move away from expending their natural resources, they have been a European leader of non-hydro renewable energy primarily producing solar and wind energy.[[48]](#footnote-48) From 2006 to 2012 the renewable energy market grew from 0.8 million residential customers to 12.5% of all private homes.[[49]](#footnote-49)

Germany is one of the leading oil refiners in the world. They have a refining capacity of 2.2 million barrels per day. By refining oil they can create useful by products such as petroleum and gasoline. Only Russia is ahead of them in Europe and Eurasia in terms of production. Germany imports oil through four crude oil pipelines and one petroleum product pipeline. They also have four seaports which facilitate oil importation. The port at Wilhelmshaven handles the majority of the oil trade. Germany imported 2,515 thousand barrels a day in 2011. This number was responsible for 98% of all oil consumption. A mere 2% of oil consumption was from domestic oil production. Germany gets these imports from a number of places, but Russia is the primary source at 50.8% of all imports. 25% of its imports come from OECD (mostly European countries) and 18.2% comes from OPEC countries such as Nigeria, Algeria, Angola and Libya. When it comes to refined products of oil, 88% came from OECD countries and of those countries 95% were from Europe. The remaining refined products came from Russia.[[50]](#footnote-50) Imports of oil are obviously a big part of the energy in Germany. Lower oil prices may result in a higher economic output for Germany. Since less money is being spent on oil, there is more government financial flexibility and companies can export products with less cost. Even if the increase is low, lower oil prices help the German economy because they can buy energy for less money, and have a greater output of international exports such as motor vehicles.

The 400 billion gas deal between China and Russia has certain complications for Germany. The gas deal which Russia agreed with will supply China 30 billion cubic metres of natural gas over 30 years from a company named Gazprom. What this means is that China will overtake Germany as the number one receiver of Russian natural gas. This is a controversial topic because Russia is in deep trouble with the rest of Europe because of the Ukraine conflict. This move to the east suggests that Russia has lost a sense of security from their western buyers. “The export of new supplies to Asia increases the possibility of a glut on global energy markets by early next decade. Once deliveries begin, China would supplant Germany as Russia’s biggest gas market, even as relations have soured with the U.S. and Europe over the Ukraine crisis[[51]](#footnote-51).” If Russia continues to increase foreign relations and new energy deals with the east and has less deals with the west, it may increase tension between German and Russian relations.

The current energy market sheds some light to what we can expect moving forward. As mentioned above, Germany is starting to move away from nuclear power and by 2022 there will be no more of it. This decline of nuclear power has forced Germany to invest in different resources such as renewable energy, oil, and coal. The increase of renewable energy will be a big part moving forward. Solar and wind power are on the rise and will be key when nuclear energy disappears. For now, the steady imports of natural gas and oil will be necessary for Germany to function as a country. Eventually, oil prices will correct, but if they don’t this just reduces the cost for oil importation. Although oil prices may not affect the German economy, it does affect the world oil exporters. Places like Russia have had to cut back on programs as their economy is centralized through energy exports.[[52]](#footnote-52) A long term effect of lower oil prices in Russia may result in a devastating economic recession. Russia, as a future exporter may not be able to afford selling oil at such low prices, and since Germany gets large amounts of oil and natural gas from Russia it may create serious problems moving forward.

The Caspian sea is a highly sought out area for the resources it has available. “The Caspian Sea region is a very particular one, not least because some 48 billion barrels of oil and over 292 trillion cubic feet of natural gas await recovery by the five riparian countries.”[[53]](#footnote-53) The Caspian Sea was not so sought after before because of the interest of new oil-rich areas that were discovered in the second half of the 20th century. The interest for the Caspian Sea changed dramatically when international oil companies signed a deal with Azerbaijan to develop the countries offshore reserves and thus discovered the massive Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli (ACG) field. Since its discovery, Caspian fields have seen an influx of investment into projects such kazakhstan's Kashagan field.[[54]](#footnote-54) Whether the Caspian sea was a lake or sea had implications because if it was a lake all states could equally share its resources, but if it were a sea each state would get the part of the sea that was in their territory. Kazakhstan would get more than half of the sea’s resources if this was the case and Iran would suffer because their portion of the sea is in gas and oil. At the Caspian Sea summit they agreed to a declaration that split the resources. Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan would all get a fifteen mile radius where they can get oil and natural gas from. Peace was also determined by not allowing foreign militaries to make camp in the Caspian region.

The Black Sea was affected by the Ukraine conflict when Exxon and the Royal Dutch Shell Plc wanted to spend $735 million drilling two wells roughly 50 miles from the region’s southwest coast before Russian troops occupied Crimea. It is not clear whether the government in Kiev would have the power to award such drilling since the area may not be theirs.[[55]](#footnote-55) A Romanian discovery in the Black sea found a massive amount of oil and natural gas. This discovery may allow for Romania to be an energy hub for the rest of Europe and reduce Europe's reliance for Russian oil and natural gas.[[56]](#footnote-56)

In the Arctic sea, Norway has expanded their drilling areas for the first time in 2 decades. “Russia, meanwhile, is beefing up its forces in the region this year. It's all part of a rush to stake out boundary lines as the ice melts in an area that holds 13 percent of the world's undiscovered oil and 30 percent of its undiscovered natural gas—the vast majority of which is offshore.”[[57]](#footnote-57) Within the Arctic the five countries that have exploration and resource rights are Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia, and the United States within 200 miles off their coasts. In order to access the oil and natural gas in the Arctic Sea there needs to be an increase in temperature because all of the resources are in frigid waters under ice. Since global warming is a concerning issue, any country looking to invest into the Arctic Sea will have to balance public opinion and economic need. If Russia obtains more resources in the Arctic sea, it would help Germany because Russia would have more resources to export to Germany.

Committee on Ukraine

→ Russia should not take over Ukraine because the economic and military dominance would hurt the ethnic people in the region as well as in the rest of the world.

Ukraine is currently in a chaotic state that is born out of a conflict between pro-Russian separatist groups and the pro-Western government in Ukraine. The different parties are born out of a significant cultural difference as well as ethnicity. Although the pro-Russian separatist movements in Ukraine have been somewhat successful, their objectives and methods of reaching such goals creates chaos and unrest for Ukraine as well as the rest of Europe. Along with the reclaiming of Crimea, such actions by the Russian government allows them to dictate the naval power and security of the Black Sea. While Russia’s political and economic goals are ambitious in their aggressive attempt to control key countries in the region, Russia’s actions and role should be much more passive and reserved. With the international community also weighing in, Russia needs to avoid military action and hostile invasion. Should Russia continue to cause chaos and unrest, the European Union among other international groups and nations should be ready to use military force to forcibly pacify Russia.

Ukraine’s cultural and ethnic divide is a result of the actions of the Soviet Union as well as the Nazi invasion in World War II. Following the declaration of first independent Ukrainian state in 1917, the young country was quickly invaded by Poland. Such actions led to military action between the czar and the new Bolshevik government in Moscow. When Ukraine joined the USSR in 1922, the economy was collapsing and the population was starving. Mass executions were orchestrated by Joseph Stalin in the 1930s as a result of Ukrainian peasants resisting collective farms. With over 10 million people dead, Stalin brought millions of Russians and other citizens of the Soviet Union to repopulate the east. The east contained valuable metals such as coal and iron, and the new immigrants lacked the Ukrainian nationalist feelings that the other Ukrainian regions had. With the Nazi invasion of Ukraine in 1941, such cultural divides further pushed the two groups apart. Although the Ukrainians originally accepted them as people who would free them from Soviet rule, Adolf Hitler later used them for slave labor. One-sixth of the Ukrainian population died during the war, with 2.25 million of them being Jewish. Following World War II, Stalin accused many of the Ukrainians as Nazi collaborators and deported them to Siberian prison camps. With such a huge rift between the two main ethnic groups in Russia, a difference in opinion of Russian rule is no surprise.[[58]](#footnote-58) If pro-Russian separatists do gain control over Ukraine, further problems would arise as a result of a deeply divided country. Not only would it change the landscape of international politics, the possibility of even more fighting and chaos could occur.

The consequences and ramifications of separatist groups becoming independent in Eastern Europe and taking control of themselves include the destabilization of Ukraine, unrest from war against uprisings, and the growth of support for and from Russia from the rebels. Should the separatist groups break off from Ukraine as semi-successful, the Ukrainian government would weaken lose control and safety of the citizens. The DPR, or Donetsk People’s Republic, is a rebel group has already taken control of territory in Donetsk oblast of Ukraine. Although it is internationally rejected, it has reached out to claim the military support of Russia. With ample ammunition and members and additional support from Russia, it has occupied the Regional Administration and and multiple city hall buildings in Donetsk and other cities in Eastern Ukraine. The security forces stand idle without working toward preventing further territory from being occupied; the DPR, once unknown and unacknowledged, is an example now of what a rebel group’s power is and how it could possibly overpower regional governments in Ukraine. Additionally, the continuous war between Ukraine and the rebel groups provokes heavy fighting and deaths, as well as the downturn of sectors within Ukraine's economy. Fighting in Ukraine's industrialized east caused ruin to the steel sector, which before the eruption in fighting accounted for 15 percent of the economy. The destabilization and fighting occurring in Ukraine supports the possibility that Russia is using the separatist rebels to expand its power and influence, and to cause general chaos in Ukraine in order to weaken it and therefore open for annexation.

Should Russia reign supreme in Ukraine and Crimea, Russia’s military control over the Black Sea would become unquestioned. General Philip Breedlove, Nato’s top military commander, has said that Russia’s military actions in Crimea would let them control the entire Black Sea. Russia already has deployed 14 out of a squadron of 30 military jets to Crimea. Russia’s motivation to take control of the Black Sea is within reach, and Russian soldiers are already training pro-Russian separatist groups within Ukraine. Although Russian President Vladimir Putin has stated that Russia “poses no threat to anyone,” Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor has said that “nothing justifies or excuses the annexation of Crimea by Russia.” [[59]](#footnote-59) Although the annexation of Crimea may or may not be inexcusable, results of Russia’s arming of Crimea have already become visible. Crimea, being a peninsula near the center of the Black Sea, has been armed with anti-ship missiles. Russia’s naval dominance in the Black Sea is part of Vladimir Putin’s plan to build Russia back up to the power it once had as the Soviet Union. Should Russia control the Black Sea, it could become only the first step in many to reintroduce Russia as a global superpower.[[60]](#footnote-60)

Although Russian ambitions and Putin’s struggle for power are supported by the people of Russia, Putin must also remember that the members of the international community are also participants in the struggle for power. Putin’s aggressive decisions have been clearly condemned by the members of the international community. Western powers such as the United States have stated that they are “on the side of the people” and that they want the people of Ukraine to be able to enjoy basic freedoms such as “freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, free and fair elections” that are “fundamental rights that everyone wants to enjoy.” President Obama has stated that Putin has a different view on issues such as basic freedom, and strongly implied that Putin’s actions and policies would take freedom away from the Ukrainian people. [[61]](#footnote-61) Russia must also understand that it must not take away Ukraine’s right to trade with the European Union or block any trade agreements. Although a separate country, Russia was able to maintain a sphere of influence around Ukraine. With Russia’s lack of landscapes favoring trade, it was essential to rely on Ukraine to gain economic superiority in the region. However, the trade agreement between the EU and Ukraine allows for the Ukraine to have preferential access to EU markets.[[62]](#footnote-62) With Russia’s former trade partner now looking at the European Union as it’s primary trading partner, Russia’s desire to control Ukraine extends beyond just military and political superiority.

With Russia’s aggressive actions affecting the fundamental rights of people throughout the Black Sea, the international community must remain vigilant in their watch over Russia. With Russia being criticized by much of the west, major powers such as the United States, Germany, and other countries in the European Union must be ready to take military action in Ukraine. With the recent ceasefire in Ukraine, Germany has warned Russia that they will pay a “high price” if Russia breaks the terms in the ceasefire. [[63]](#footnote-63) However, the ceasefire has been very unstable. Following the announcement of the ceasefire, fighting intensified before the ceasefire started. [[64]](#footnote-64)Although the ceasefire has been successful, it has also been very venerable and shaky. The ceasefire has also failed in lowering tensions between Russia and the rest of the international community. Russia has threatened to cut off gas to Ukraine and the rest of Europe. The slow withdrawal of weapons in Ukraine has also contributed to the tension between Russia and the west. The stability of Europe depends on Ukraine’s ability to be impartial to both the European Union as well as Russia.[[65]](#footnote-65) Should Russia violate the terms of the ceasefire, the international community must be ready to intervene to maintain stability in Europe as well as the rest of the world.

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