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Germany

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Brief Paper: Germany

1. **Introduction**

Good afternoon,

 We, the Germans, are very happy to be here today to discuss the many issues currently plaguing Europe. As in the past, we want to continue our prominent role in the EU and ensure that the EU, as well as the Euro, continues to thrive. Furthermore, we want to assuage any doubts that the EU is no longer feasible by responding to the current strains put on the European union as a result of rising nationalistic sentiments. We believe that it is absolutely necessary for the EU to continue to stay together as well as put up a united front when dealing with the current situations. Although in many countries support for the EU has seen significant drops, we will continue to push for EU integration in the hopes that the people will see the benefits of the EU. Similarly, we will continue to push for a more pan European policy in approaching the refugee crisis, something we believe is necessary in order to manage the influx of migrants. By the end of the conference we hope that we have come to some conclusions on ways to resolve the current crisis at hand and ease the tensions that have that have sprung up throughout the EU. This is vital for the west as well as every country within the EU if we would like to continue to be an important player on the world stage. The key topics on Germany’s agenda are:

1. **Key Points**
	* We will continue to be willing to accept refugees. However, there is a limit on the amount of refugees that we can accept. We will stop giving subsidies to countries if they refuse to accept refugees.
	* We believe that the current quantitative easing as a way to help the economy rebound is almost too much.
	* We believe that maintaining the euro is necessary for the continued success of the EU. However, if a country is dragging the EU down and wants to leave the Euro, we would be willing to consider letting that happen.
	* We believe the EU should have stricter ascension policies because we do not want another situation like Greece to occur.
	* We believe that the Schengen agreement should continue in order to maintain the EU’s founding principles of free mobility as well as for continued economic success
	* We believe that it is necessary for the EU to address the rising disconnect between the EU and the public by making its institutions more transparent
	* We believe that strict dialogue with Russia is necessary as well as making our intentions to them clear, as well as preventing further Russia aggression
	* We want to continue having Britain in the EU. However, there is little room for change and do not want other countries to follow Britain’s path.
	* Germany and the EU must cooperate with Russia in Syria and must work together in the fight against ISIS. At the same time we must not capitulate to Russia’s intervention in Ukraine
	* We must have more active antiterrorist personnel that are able to work throughout the EU, more border security is paramount
2. **Background**

Our key institutions have changed greatly since 1945, allowing us to become the powerful state that we are today. From the end of WW2 through our reunification, our key institutions can be looked at by examining both West Germany and East Germany, both of which took very separate paths causing a rift that is still evident today. Starting at the end of WW2, we were divided into four occupation zones controlled by the USSR, UK, France, and the US. However, by 1948, all of the allies wanted to recombine our territory, making us whole again. The USSR refused this, causing us to be split into West and East Germany. This split continued up through the end of the USSR in 1989, allowing for our reunification.

In the spring of 1949, West Germany formally was established as the German Federal Republic (FDR) and was a parliamentary democracy composed of 11 newly formed states. Under the FDR, a constitution was established as well as a president and chancellor. The first government of the FDR was a coalition composed of the CDU, CSU, and FDP. However, West Germany was not fully sovereign until 1955. During this time, Bonn was established as a provisional capital. By 1951, us and 5 other countries formed the ECSC, a decision that was made to facilitate our economy to become stable and prosperous.

 Between 1949 and 1966, all of our governments were formed by coalitions of the CDU and CSU either alone or together with the FDP. During these times, West Germany was very politically stable. However, in 1962, a news article was published on the weaknesses of West Germany’s defense. As a result the office was raided and the author and owner of the newspaper were thrown in jail. Due to public outcry though, they were released and many of the current cabinet members of the time resigned. This marked a turning point in our society and showed that the people were no longer willing to tolerate authoritarian actions that were common in the past and were turning toward democratic values. In 1966, the first grand coalition in Germany was formed between the CDU and SDP. With the start of this new grand coalition, there was an introduction of new emergency acts as well as a new law that gave ruling parties a 2/3-majority vote required for their ratification.

Although West Germany during this time became a prosperous and functioning democracy, East Germany experienced a harsh centralized communist government exercised by the USSR. Immediately after the end of the war, the SDP was forced to merge with the communist party, forming the Socialist Unity Party (SED). By 1949, there was a constitution established as well as an upper house and a lower house of parliament. However, although these institutions from the outside seemed democratic, in reality every election was rigged, with the one party that existed, the SED, supposedly winning over 99% of every vote. In order to stem the flow of refugees into West Germany from East Germany, the Berlin wall was erected in 1961, further cementing the split between West and East Germany. This communist regime continued up until the end of the USSR in 1989.

Similarly, the economy of West and East Germany also evolved very differently. After the end of the war our economy as a whole was completely destroyed. Furthermore, in an attempt to keep us from ever rearming, a disarmament policy was put in place, resulting in the abolishment of all German armed forces as well as the destruction of munitions and manufacturing plants. Similarly, there was also a cap placed on our steel production. However, by 1949 the dismantling of West Germany’s factories started to come to an end and by 1951 the phenomenon had altogether disappeared. However, this was a result of the start of the cold war, causing other European countries to look to West Germany as an ally against the USSR. Similarly, in order for the rest of Europe’s countries to rebound, our manufacturing economy was needed. Therefore, the Marshall plan was extended to West Germany by 1948 once it was realized that its suppression was holding back the recovery of other European countries. However, the Marshall plan was not the driving force behind West Germany’s so called “economic miracle”, rather it gave West Germany a moral boost.

The economic miracle that brought us to the forefront of Europe and helped make us the power we are today was called Wirtschaftswunder. It started with the replacement of the Reischmark with the Deutsche mark in 1948. This halted the rampant inflation throughout West Germany and aided the rapid economic reconstruction and development of West Germany’s economy. Furthermore, the continuous low inflation led to high industrial growth rates as well as a lowering of taxes and wage increases. Demands for housing, machine tools, chemicals, automobiles, and increasing agriculture all contributed to the initial triggers of the economic miracle and helped us rebuild our capital stock, which in turn increased economic output and exports. By 1960, unemployment in West Germany had dropped to around 1% and there continued to be a growing demand for labor. Furthermore, this economic miracle made West Germany the most prosperous country in Europe. By the late 1960’s Germany’s economic growth started slowing down, however, by this time we already had one of the world’s strongest economies.

Similarly, the Korean war also helped West Germany’s economy rebound, causing a shortage of goods resulting in people looking to West Germany. As a result, during this time West Germany’s products doubled in value. Similarly, the constant immigration of skilled workers into West Germany also helped spur its economy. However, we continued to have to pay billions of dollars worth of reparations to Allied countries. Furthermore, immediately after the war ended, billions of dollars were also removed from Germany. Included in this was the removal of all intellectual property, including patents, as a form of reparations.

Although West Germany’s economy rebounded, East Germany’s economy was in a state of limbo and stagnation under the communist regime and did not experience any growth until reunification with West Germany. Just as West Germany’s factories were dismantled, East Germany experienced a similar phenomenon, but to a much greater degree. This was due in large part as a way of reparations for Russia, who valued their own economy and state much more than East Germany, just a satellite state for them.

Like the rest of Germany, German society was also destroyed at the end of WW2. Not only had the war resulted in thousands of our deaths, the rest of society was shaken to the core with many previous institutions destroyed. As a result of a lack of productivity and food throughout Germany, many Germans died from starvation and the death of an average adult was four times as high as pre war times. Furthermore, as a result of ethnic cleansing, many ethnic Germans were forced from their homes in central and eastern European countries and forced to migrate to Germany. This resulted in an influx of migrants coming into Germany, estimated to be around 12 million people.

Although at first this influx of workers seemed to make the situation in Germany worse, in reality it actually greatly aided our economic rebound, providing skilled workers to help fuel economic growth and productivity. Similarly, shortly after the spit between West and East Germany, there was also a migration of young workers from East Germany into West Germany. However, in an attempt to prevent the migration of workers into West Germany, the USSR constructed the Berlin Wall in 1961. This led to a shortage of laborers in West Germany, leading to us recruiting new workers from southern European countries. By 1966, over 1 million workers had been recruited from mainly Italy, Turkey, Greece, and Spain. By 1971, the number of workers reached 2.5 million workers. Although the plan was originally for these workers to work a certain number of years and leave, most of these workers settled into Germany with their families and continued to stay.

By 1990, both East and West Germany were distinctly different, with West Germany being extremely prosperous and East Germany having changed very little since the end of the war. Therefore the end of the USSR as well as our reunification was wholly unexpected. The process of reunification began shortly after the fall of the berlin wall, with current chancellor Helmut Kohl decreeing an initiative to begin taking action toward the eventual reunification. Originally West and East Germany signed a treaty in which their monetary, economic, and social unions would be merged. With the signing of this treaty, the Deustche Mark became East Germany’s official currency. Furthermore, West Germany began giving subsidies to the GDR to fund their budget and social security. Most importantly, this treaty allowed West Germany to instate many laws making West Germany and East Germany compatible. Several months later the official treaty signifying the reunification was signed creating one German state. Another important result of this treaty was that we were now completely sovereign. Although West Germany had control over its own institutions for decades, the allies continued to play small roles throughout it up until our reunification.

With our reunification came many benefits and many consequences. Today, there are still many clear differences between West and East Germany due to their different paths after the war. Overall West Germany is much more wealthy. Furthermore there is a fundamental difference in lifestyle, jobs, political beliefs, standards of living, etc. Consequently, over the years, our reunification has cost West Germany almost 2 trillion euros.

When the GDR was dissolved, 5 new states were created which became part of the FDR. However, the CDU continued to be the largest party in all states but one. After 2003, our government enacted the agenda 2010 reforms with aimed to promote economic growth as well as reform the welfare system. From 2005 on, there have been 2 grand coalitions between the CDU and SDP, all of which have been led by Angela Merkel. In 2013, for the first time in its party’s history, the FDP was not present in the Bundenstag (German government), as it did not receive enough votes. This can partially be accredited to the rise of the AFD party.

We have continued to be an economic powerhouse after reunification, with Germany being one of the only countries not hit hard by the 2008 economic crisis. In 1999, we partially adapted the Euro and by 2002, the Deutsche Mark had been completely replaced. Although we continued to do well, the early 2000’s saw a rise in unemployment as well as an aging population, which has continued to lead to a shortage of workers. In an attempt to stimulate our economy, in 2009 the government approved a 50 billion Euro economic stimulus in order to protect certain sectors as well as combat the rising unemployment rate. Today, the current refugee crises as well as the long lasting effects of the 2008 economic crisis have continued to plague us and we look forward to discussing it.

1. **Issues**
2. Climate Change
3. Democratic Deficit and the disconnect between the EU and the public
4. Refugee Crisis
5. Syrian War
6. Russian Aggression in Ukraine and its neighboring countries
7. Rise of border controls/Schengen
8. European Economic Crisis
9. Reliance on Russia for energy
10. Britain and other countries referendums on leaving the EU
11. Rise of right wing parties and anti EU sentiments
12. EU Integration
13. *Committee on Governance-Kelsey Riffkin*

**What type of government does your country currently have?**

* We are a federal republic
	+ We have 16 states within our country with divisions of powers between federal government and individual states
	+ Currently a coalition between CDU and SPD

**How has it changed, or not, since the end of WW2?**

* West Germany became a federal republic in 1949, before that we were governed by the allies and the Soviet Union
* East Germany was part of the Soviet Union from the end of WW2 though 1990
* In 1990 East Germany joined West Germany and we were unified through a federal republic

**What are the major political parties in your country and what are their views on the key world issues being discussed in the conference?**

* CDU (Christian Democratic Union)
	+ Major party, center right party, conservative on social issues, support a free market economy
	+ Angela Merkel, current chancellor of Germany, part of CDU
	+ Refugee crisis:
		- Are willing to accept refugees, “open door” refugee policy
		- Has a guideline to integrate refugees
		- Want an upper limit on refugees
		- Will only accept refugees if they fulfill certain obligations during their stay
	+ EU
		- Strong advocate for European integration
		- Opposed to Turley joining the EU
	+ Russia:
		- Has a harder stance on Russia the SDP
		- Merkel believes that it is crucial to make clear to Putin how his conduct is viewed in the west and what is at stake
		- Only clear statements to Putin
		- Hardline policy
	+ Syria:
		- Joining military campaign against ISIS
		- Committed military personnel and hardware for fighting in Syria
	+ Asia:
		- China friendly policy
		- Favorable relations with china
		- Promoted closer trade ties
* SDP (Social Democratic Party)
	+ Major party
	+ Center left
	+ Refugee crisis:
		- Favor a quota system
		- Against “open door” refugee policy
	+ Russia:
		- Want more dialogue with Russia
		- Does not want to provoke Russia
		- Softer stance
	+ EU
		- European integration one of the main priorities
		- Support common economic and financial policy
	+ Syria:
		- Support fighting in Syria against ISIS
	+ Asia:
		- China friendly policy
		- Favorable relations
* CSU (Christian Social Union)
	+ Minor party
	+ Sister party of CDU, similar views, but more conservative
	+ Refugee Crisis:
		- Want to limit the number of refugees entering the country
		- Much less open than CDU
* FDP (FREE Democratic Party)
	+ Minor party
	+ Liberal party, center right
	+ Refugee Crisis:
		- Want to have a limited number of refugees
	+ Russia:
		- Wants critical dialogue and pragmatic cooperation
		- Believes that peace and security in Europe will only be possible through further cooperation with Russia
	+ EU:
		- Pro European
		- Wants a politically integrated EU
		- Advocates for the accession of Turkey into EU
	+ Syria:
		- Believes the focus of Syria should be on the people
		- Believe they should develop initiatives protecting children in armed conflict
	+ Asia:
		- Want favorable relations with China

**How would you describe the political and social rights non-citizens have in your country?**

* They are legally excluded from social security, but after taking legal action they can receive benefits to cover their livelihood
* Our society is responsible for ensuring that they don’t get exploited or suffer from discrimination
* Non citizens can not vote

**What are the major political points of contention in your country?**

* Russia- how to deal with Russia and our relationship with them
* Further EU integration or less
* Refugee Crisis- CDU wants to take in more refugees than other parties in Germany

**What is your role in Europe/European Union?**

* We are the heart as well as the leader of the EU, without us it would be almost impossible for the EU to exist
* We are key manufacturers and exporters in the EU
* We also have the biggest economy as well as the economy that is doing the best within the EU

**Has that changed since you joined?**

* Originally joined EU because we thought that it was the only viable way to become a stable and prosperous democracy
* We were not a sovereign state when we joined
* When we joined the EU we were very weak
* We slowly gained strength and turned into the hegemon we are today

**How would you define a democratic deficit?**

* Lack of democratic principles within a democratic organization
* Lack of democratic legitimacy

**Do you think there is a democratic deficit within the EU’s structure?**

* We believe there might be a small democratic deficit, however it encompasses enough people to make it democratic enough

**What political party will you be representing at the conference?**

* We will be representing the CDU, Angela Markel’s party
1. *Committee on Cross-Border Issues-Daniel Gardner*

**Is your country an EU candidate or member state?**

* We are the center of geographical Europe, the center of the EU, the center of the Eurozone and the center of the Schengen Agreement.

**What is your country or organization’s stance on the Schengen zone?**

* Without us, the Schengen Agreement cannot and will not exist.
* An evolving stance on Greece’s role in the Schengen Agreement is one of our most pressing concerns
* We have long been one of Schengen’s strongest advocates, yet the recent migrant crisis is concerning in many ways.

**Is your country or organization in a vulnerable geographic or strategic position in regard to cross-border issues such as migration, climate change or energy?**

* We are bordered by nine other European nations: Denmark, Poland, Austria, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands.
* While we are certainly sympathetic for the millions of refugees, it is impossible for us to accept everyone.
* This harsh reality will lead to complications in the near future—especially if other nations remain unwilling to assist us in accepting refugees.
* With the most robust economy in Europe, it is quite understandable why migrants want to live in in our country, but it is unfair to us, and the German people to be given the burden of accepting everyone without proper background inspection and vetting.

**Do you agree or disagree that there needs to be a securitization of borders? Why?**

* Above all, we must protect our own self-interest and security.
* Like many other nations, we have taken precautionary measures including heightened border security.

**What is your vision of Europe and its boundaries?**

* While we desperately wants to prevent the dissolution of the Schengen Agreement, the security of our people remains priority number one.
* Sadly, keeping totally open borders may be too idealistic for the current climate of migrants and heightened security threats in Europe.

**Is your country or organization in a vulnerable geographic or strategic position in regard to cross-border issues such as migration, climate change or energy?**

* We view global climate change as a significant threat to the world’s future well being.
* Unlike many other nations who claim to support climate change legislation and action, we have backed up its views with real action.
* In 2011, we gave 1.2 billion euros to developing nations implementing climate protection methods.
* We have additionally pledged 750 million euros to the UN's fledgling Green Climate Fund. Our work with climate change goes far beyond UN charters and supranational bureaucracy.
* Working in partnership with Brazil in summer 2015, we pledged 1.1 billion euros to Brazil to help the developing Brazil combat climate change and prevent complete deforestation of the amazon rainforest.
* We have continuously called on other wealthy nations to help in its efforts to combat climate change and would like to see more future assistance from other European Union members and the rest of the west.
* A global future that includes clean, renewable energy has many benefits.
* Not only will this help solve the threatening environmental crisis facing our generation but it will also free us, and the rest of the European Union from the constraints and dependency on Russian oil as an energy lifeline.

**Is corruption a prevalent issue in your country?**

* We continue to set a stellar example of corruption control.
* According to Transparency International, we ranked in the 93rd percentile of all nations in terms of corruption control.
* Guided by Chancellor Angela Merkel, we are a strong and powerful democracy that can lead the Eurozone, the European Union and all of western civilization in the 21st century.
1. *Committee on Eurozone- Ali Peikin*

**What is the current state of your economy?**

* 12.1 billion euro surplus. Unemployment at a record low and steady growth. (Shrinking chancellor article).
* Export all over the EU.
* Our economic growth picked up in Q1 of 2016.

**Were you affected by the Greek economic crisis? If so, how? If not, why not?**

* Yes, we were affected by the Greek economic crisis.
* We were saddled with the responsibility of fixing it.
* Did this with austerity and bailouts. We had to lead the bailing out of Greece.
* Aside from private debt, we are Greece’s biggest creditor, with 57 million euros (ny times Greece debt crisis explained).

**What do you think caused the economic crisis?**

* US mishandling financial crisis in 2008.
* Greece lying about its deficits.
* Southern Europe being fundamentally different and less efficient than northern Europe.

**Is the EU based on monetary policy, political policy, or both? Explain.**

* The EU is based upon both.
* The monetary policies of the EU allow for a trade that builds economies (namely ours).
* Political policy is necessary and it needs to be strong, or else Greece can pull stuff like not reporting their deficits.

**Do you perceive the European debt crisis as a challenge to the future of the euro, or even further, to European unity?**

* Yes, it’s a challenge to the future of the euro and to European unity.
* It is also an opportunity to restructure the EU. It’s an opportunity to consolidate and fix the half-built house.

**Is the euro crisis only a byproduct of Europe’s much larger cohesion issues, what some call a “half-built” house?**

* Yes.
* European Union needs to be restructured in a way that gives it more sovereignty.
* Cohesion tensions could potentially be alleviated by a

**What do you think the future of the euro should be?**

* The euro should continue to be the main currency. Countries should not switch out of the euro.
* The ECB should continue to have sole authority to set monetary policy.
* Countries should only be able to adopt the euro after meeting very strict criteria in order to avoid a Greece crisis.
* One view is that the ECB should have not had more of an objective to sustain growth and employment. Low inflation is the way to go.
* Another view is that if we heighten inflation, unemployment will go down and the EU will have more support.

**Should countries be allowed or encouraged to exit the euro?**

* If a country will ultimately TOTALLY drag down the EU and the euro, then they can be let out. In addition, debt relief is very hard within the euro.
* On other grounds, countries should not be *encouraged* to exit the euro. The euro is an extremely stable currency and if a country leaves the euro, it is catastrophic for the Eurozone. In addition, an ever-closer union is paramount for our strength. Leaving the euro is detrimental to that goal.

**What policies would be best for your country**?

* Austerity within the zone.
* Consolidation within the zone.
* Ascension policies that are strict.

**What do you think about austerity measures?**

* Austerity measures are the solution. They may not be pleasant, but in the long term, are what Europe needs.
* Merkel led the way for austerity. She does not approve of Quantitative Easing.
1. *Committee on Security- James Salvodelli*

**What are the major security concerns facing your country and Europe?**

1. ISIS
	1. Will our intervention cause retaliation against us in a Paris style attack?
2. The Refugee crisis (Are there any refugee terrorists,
	1. Our government has authorized the use of 1,200 troops to fight ISIS
	2. Our government is highly worried by the recent attacks in Paris and fear that such attacks could occur within our country
	3. In order to deal with the migrant crisis new boarder security measures have been put in place
		1. These have been increased after the several women were attacked by refugees who may have come across the boarder without proper security checks
	4. Although it does not directly effect EU citizens, Russia’s bombardment of civilians in the Syrian conflict makes us more weary of increasing engagement in the conflict

**How have recent events –e.g. Russian intervention in Ukraine, terrorist attacks on Paris – affected your perception of security priorities?**

1. Paris attacks
	1. Increase in our police and anti terrorism presence
	2. Increased weariness about migrants and refugees
	3. Increased weariness about intervention in Syria
2. Russian activities in the Ukraine
	1. We have taken a very hardline approach and refuses to “appease” Russia
		1. Merkel has said that this “armed take over of Crimea” and the actions in the Ukraine threaten Europe’s peace order… (Obviously if this topic comes up in committee the German security advisor must propose renewing or increasing sanctions)
			1. At the same time we want to keep communications open because Russia has been constructive in helping in Syria and is an important energy partner (most of our oil comes from Russia)
				1. Such varying actions have been criticized by certain nations like France

**What military or security alliances and organizations are you a part of if any, and what is your role within these**

1. Part of NATO
	1. We have been active in trying to create a more stable relationship with Russia while putting sanctions on them, this has made other nations in NATO question our judgment
	2. Part of the coalition of nations fighting ISIS

**In particular, how do you feel about the efforts of NATO, and of the OSCE, and of the role played by the U.S. in European security?**

1. Nato has not been quick enough to adopt sanctions against Russia and has not spoken out strongly enough against their actions in the Ukraine
	1. At the same time NATO has not been supportive enough of Russia in fighting ISIS
2. The United States has good intentions in Syria but is asking for our support despite the fact that we are already being active in fighting ISIS

**Why are you dependent upon for either acquiring your energy or buying your energy?**

1. Our renewable energy sources are extremely advanced but our large economy still requires the use of foreign oil
2. We get the majority of its oil and gas from Russia

**Has energy been a source of cooperation or coercion for your country?**

1. Energy has been a reason why our government tries to find common ground with Russia, but we refuse to let the Russian government hold energy supply over us when negotiating the situation in the Ukraine
2. *Committee on migration- Halle Friedman*

**Please Outline your concerns with regard to the current migration crisis in Europe and your country’s priorities.**

* Merkel’s policy is at heart about concern for Europe (Politico)
* “Unsentimental realpolitik” (Politico)
* Summer 2015: we are the only EU country in position to provide emergency relief (Politico)
* “Default liberal political hegemon”(Politico)
* We will stop giving subsidies to countries that refuse to take in migrants
* We are willing to take in migrants, however we are becoming overwhelmed and there is only a certain amount we can take it

**What is the current migration flows within our country?**

* 2013: approx. 20% of our population had migrant backgrounds (DOMiD)
* We are currently the destination of choice for the majority of refugees/migrants
* 1.1 million refugees arrived in Germany in 2015 (BBC)
* Eurozone crisis has spurred migration from southern Europe (BBC)
	+ Skilled workers that help us as much as we help them
	+ Pay taxes

**What is our historical view of migration and its impact?  How has our country’s native population traditionally interacted with immigrant populations?**

* In recent history, we have become a country of immigration (BBC)
* Fostered a “welcome culture” and minimized xenophobia (Financial Review)
	+ Anti-Nazi sentiment and historical context pressures us to be more inclusive
* In the past, many immigrants have entered our country and integrated successfully into society

**What are the obstacles to and implications of integrating immigrants into European societies?**

* Sexual assaults allegedly perpetrated by North African and Arab immigrants in Cologne, among other crimes, have lessened willingness to accept such large quantities of refugees
* Many Europeans do not want refugees coming into their country
* The rise of islamophobia has fueled anti immigration sentiments

**Do EU policies regarding asylum seekers need to be reformed to ensure that member states are sharing the burden of integrating migrants?**

* Yes. We need a more equal way to share the burden

**Our expectations and commitments to policies regarding refugees and migrant control:**

* Deny refugees choice of country of asylum (Politico)
	+ Expand list of safe countries of origin
* Cut deals with Erdogan and Algeria and Eritrea (Politico)
* Priority for Syrians with relatives in Germany (BAMF)
* Encouraging assimilation (CNBC)

Regional elections in March and rapidly changing nature of refugee crisis mean that policies are subject to dramatically change between April and the present.

1. *Committee on Foreign Policy- Andy Rosecan*

**How does Germany conduct foreign policy within the framework of the EU?**

* We have taken a lead role in the European Union on economic policy making throughout the euro crisis.
	+ The strength of our economy and the reliance of other nations on our money have given us many responsibilities.
	+ In security and foreign policy, we have often evaded certain responsibilities that the other western powers have dealt with.
* In terms of security, we contribute less than both France and Britain, and believe in a strongly held principle that all issues can be solved through negotiation as opposed to force.

**What is the stance of Germany on the development of a joint-EU foreign policy?**

* Our officials will continue to look after their self-interest when it comes to Russia and the European Union.
* Our attitude towards Russia, and foreign policy in general is unlikely to change in the near future.
* We have often been reluctant to criticize both China and Russia on human rights.
* We are a profoundly democratic country, and as a result its politicians understandably cannot ignore public opinion
	+ Most of us do not want to see our soldiers deployed anywhere, and they will not be without a parliamentary vote, which has tended to favor a softer approach towards Russia.

**Does Germany have a voice in current EU foreign policy decisions?**

* France and Britain have traditionally dictated the EU agenda. However, the Ukraine crisis and our strong economy have allowed us to take control in this field as well.

**Does Germany agree with the EU policies regarding Russia and the Ukraine?**

* We are geographically very close to the Ukraine; we have a special relationship with Russia and have strong economic connections with both.
	+ Meanwhile, France was dealing with a war in Africa, and Britain has been inhibited by a national debate over an exit from the EU. Britain also experienced first hand the consequences of long-term conflict in the Middle East.
	+ As a result, we have been able to increasingly influence EU action against Russia.
	+ However, in order for us to emerge as the leader of EU foreign policy, we will need to overcome some weaknesses.
* Throughout Putin’s reign, we have taken the approach of “change through compromise”.
* We wanted the EU and its member-states to negotiate modernization partnerships with Russia.
	+ This turned out to be a reasonable strategy for the moment. However, it ignored the dark forces of militarism and nationalism that were building within Russia.
	+ In hindsight, our faith in negotiation and appeasement was both naïve and over-optimistic.

**Did Germany agree with the EU decision to intervene in Libya?**

* Our abstention from the UN vote to intervene in Libya was a decision that shocked many.
* We marginalized itself with this action, which brings back memories of Chancellor Gerhard Schroder refusal to participate in the last Iraq war in 2002.
* This is a result of our culture of restraint and our reluctance to promise support when they may not follow through, specifically with ground troops.
* As we were unsure the outcome in the Libyan civil war, we decided it was pragmatic to wait longer before making a decision.
* Another possibility is that we were looking to improve standings with the other abstaining countries including Brazil, Russia, China and India, all of which we have political and economic interests in.
* We often prioritize domestic considerations when making international decisions within the European Union.

**What is Germany’s relationship with the US?**

* Our relationship with the United States is best described as complicated.
* We do not share the hawkish approach to foreign policy that the US is known for; it is simply not part of our culture.
* However, we are a crucial communicator for the US to Russia, and can act as the middleman in some cases.
* The U.S. and us have had many common interests in recent years and will continue to in the future.
* We share concerns about the future of Russia, cyber threats, Asia’s rise to power, turmoil in the Middle East, as well as global climate change and the future of democracy and rule-based order.
* With our country taking an increasingly important role in the European Union both economically and in security, we will likely continue to be on of the most important allies to the United States.
1. *Committee on Identity and Integration- William Bader*

**How was your country influenced by the Second World War and its aftermath? How has historical memory influenced your country’s political discourse?**

* Hitler sought to eliminate non-Aryans
* Our Constitution defines the nation state ethnically
* In aftermath of WWII, our position on international migration and integration of foreigners: “Germany should not be a country of immigration today and must not become one in the future.” (Munz and Ulrich 1)
* However, we have been one of the countries receiving the highest number of immigrants in world.
* Post-war immigration history
	+ Two strains
		- German ancestry
		- Non-German ancestry
	+ Scholars: six major streams of migration
		1. Refugees who came immediately after WWII
			1. Bet. 1945-1949 return of nearly 12 million Germans
				1. Acceptance and integration facilitated by ethnic origin and post-war economic boom
		2. German resettlers from Eastern Europe (Aussiedler)
			1. About 1.4mm ethnic Germans who were not East Germans (Ausseidler) came between 1950 and 1987.
				1. Mostly from Poland. Also Romania and Soviet Union.
			2. 3mm more after fall of Iron Curtain, mostly from Soviet Union, Poland, and Romania (N.B. these were ethnic Germans)
		3. Emigration and re-migration of West-Germans
		4. Migration between East and West Germany
			1. Bet. 1945 and construction of Berlin 1961, 3.8mm came from East Germany
			2. 400,000 from East Germany between 1961-1988 even after wall created
		5. Foreign labor migrants = Guest workers (Gstarbeiter)
			1. 1950s: Bilateral recruitment agreements
				1. Rotation principle
				2. Guest workers in German for 1 or 2 years
			2. We stepped up effort after creation of Berlin Wall
				1. Needed workers
				2. Foreigners = 4mm or 6.7% of population in by 1973
			3. Demand fell off in 1973 in context of recession and oil shock
			4. For most of 1980s about 4.5mm foreigners = about 7.3%
				1. Children of these foreigners not granted citizenship so still deemed foreigners
			5. Following fall of Iron Curtain, we again entered temporary labor market
				1. Exclusive focus on Central and Eastern Europe (Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland, Czech)
				2. Some of sending countries join EU (Poland, Hungary, Czech)

In principle EU citizens can work in any EU country

We enacted measures to restrict access to labor market until 2006

* + 1. Asylum seekers and illegal immigrants
			1. 1988-1992: 1.1mm asylum seekers
			2. 1993: Asylum made more restrictive
				1. Certain countries deemed “safe”

Can’t seek asylum from a safe country

* + - 1. Big decline in asylum seekers through 2003
			2. Since asylum law tightened in 1993, illegal immigration growing
				1. No legalization program promulgated or even seriously been debated
* Beginning in 2005, we formally became a country of immigration, following the passage of new immigration law.
* In 2016, Angela Merkel for the first time indicated a desire to modify her “open door” immigration policy
	+ Documented evidence of criminal behavior by both asylum seekers and illegal immigrants has caused Merkel to consider more restrictions on immigrants who have been convicted of crimes.

(Munz and Ulrich and Oezcan)

**Have certain events prompted a revision of your country’s core values and/or ideological pillars?**

* Since the 1990s, many of us have argued in favor of relaxed immigration policies to facilitate economic development, in the face of a rapidly aging population and declining workforce
	+ 2000: New citizenship law
		- Children of immigrants = can be citizens provided one parent a resident for 8 years, though could choose another nationality. Must decide on one or another by age 23
* Increasing demand for and acceptance of highly skilled workers changes government policy:
	+ 2000: “green card” system for technology experts
* After several failed efforts, a new immigration law was passed in 2004 and took effect in January 2005.
	+ This law formally opened us as a country of immigration.
		- Further facilitates hiring of skilled workers
		- Foreign students can stay after graduation for 1 year to look for job
		- Some provision for deporting religious extremists but generally no deportation unless convicted of crime with 3+ year sentence
* In January 2016, for first time Angela Merkel indicated she may change her “open door” refugee policy after evidence show that most of 150 women raped in Cologne were done so by asylum seekers and illegal immigrants

**What minority populations live in your country? How has that changed since World War II? What rights do minority populations living within your borders have? Is the goal of your policies to integrate new populations into your country?**

* Foreign nationals living in Germany a/o 2014, according to Wikipedia:

Turkey: 1,527,118

Poland: 674,152

Italy: 574,530

Romania: 355,343

Greece: 328,564

Croatia: 263,347

Serbia: 252,468

Russia: 221,413

Bulgaria: 182,263

Austria: 179,772

Hungary: 156,812

Spain: 146,846

Netherlands: 144,741

Portugal: 130,882

Ukraine: 127,942

France: 123,281

Syria: 118,196

China: 110,284

United States: 108,845

United Kingdom: 103,756

* Other national minorities (because have lived in respective regions for centuries):
* Danes
* Frisians
* Roma
* Sinti
* There are also Afro-Germans. Estimates of this group as of 2000: 300,000 to 500,000

East Asian minorities:

* + Vietnamese (< 50,000)
	+ Japanese (< 30,000)
* Ausseidlers enjoy certain privileges compared to other immigrants
	+ Assistance with language instruction
	+ Employment
	+ Welfare
	+ Though significant integration and economic issues for this group, essentially not viewed as foreigners

Rights of non-citizens:

* Freedom of expression and freedom to associate guaranteed to everyone (as human rights)
* Freedom of assembly and the right to form corporations are so-called “German rights,” not available to non-citizens.
	+ Refugees are guaranteed the rights defined in the Refugee Convention.
		- Foreigners formally recognized as entitled to asylum and refugees get
			* Unrestricted access to education, occupation and work.
			* Same claim to social allowance and child benefits as nationals
			* Refugees entitled to integration allowances not available to other foreigners.
				+ Politically persecuted foreigners who appeal to our authorities can live in Germany while applying for asylum

But asylum seekers not permitted by law to take up employment.

* + - * + Foreigners traumatized by events in their country of origin, who are receiving specialized medical treatment, may get access to labor market.
				+ Asylum seekers accorded social and health assistance needed while applying for asylum here.

 Guarantees to foreigners who qualify food, shelter, heating, clothing, personal hygiene and household goods and appliances.

  In case of serious illness or injury, guaranteed medical care

 Must live in refugee facilities for not more than three months, typically followed by accommodation in a community facility for asylum seekers.

**Have your policies been effective? Why or why not? Are there ethnic divisions in your country and are these contentious?**

* Effective in that substantial immigration into Germany
* Difficulties in integration
* Many immigrants economically disadvantaged

**Does your country emphasize political/individual or social/cultural rights?**

* Certain rights provided to foreigners in Basic Law as Human Rights (e.g. freedom of expression and association)
* However, until recently even children of non-citizens could not become citizens

**Is your country facing any secessionist movements?**

* Yes, but not a lot of traction
* Bavaria
	+ Political party: Bavaria Party
	+ Bavaria party has been claiming it is not in Bavaria’s best interests to finance poorer northern and eastern areas within our country
		- Supported Scottish YES campaign
	+ Bavaria and Hesse legally challenged redistribution program, highlighting the 7.9 billion euros that Bavaria, Hesse, and Baden-Wuerttemburg sent to poorer regions. B-W opted out of the litigation.
	+ Bavaria Party got only 2.1% of local vote
* East Frisia
	+ Political Party: Die Friesen
* Franconia
* Lusatia
	+ Political Party: Lusatian Alliance
* Schleswig-Holstein
	+ Political Party: South Schleswig Voter Federation

**Have your policies changed with the current migrant crisis?**

* In January 2016, for first time Angela Merkel indicated she may change “open door” refugee policy
	+ Under current rules, asylum seekers can only be deported if sentenced to 3+ yrs. in prison.
	+ Merkel disturbed that majority of those suspected in sexual assaults on 150 women in Cologne recently were asylum seekers or illegal immigrants.
	+ Earlier applauded the influx of immigrants, saying “We can do it” with respect to the 1.1mm migrants in 2015.
* Government may make it easier to deport asylum seekers who have committed crimes, though difficult to send them back to the likes of Syria, where their lives might be threatened.