

Adenauer – man of the 20th century? Deutsche Politik zwischen 1949 und 1963 (KI. 9/10)

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Man of the Year Adenauer on the cover of Time (4 January 1954)

Wieso gelang Adenauer die Wiedervereinigung, dafür aber die Aussöhnung mit Frankreich und der Aufstieg ins westliche Mächtegefüge sowie die Gründung der späteren Europäischen Union? Warum konnte die BRD so kurz nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg von einem „Wirtschaftswunder“ sprechen und manch andere Länder wirtschaftlich überholen?

Diese Einheit soll ausgehend von der Person Adenauers die deutsche Innen- und Außenpolitik zwischen 1949 und 1963 beleuchten und erklären, warum Adenauer nicht nur von der TIME als „man of the year“ geadelt wurde, sondern auch als „Mann des Jahrhunderts“ bezeichnet werden kann.

Anhand von Internetrecherchen, Lernen an Stationen, Filmanalysen oder einzelnen Unterrichtseinheiten (je nach Wahl des Lehrers benutzbar) soll den Schülern ein fundiertes Überblickswissen über diese wichtige Periode der deutschen Geschichte gegeben werden.

Klassenstufe: 9/10

Dauer: 7 Stunden

Bereich: Deutsche Innen- und Außenpolitik zwischen 1949 und 1963

Kompetenzen:

- Verstehen des Entschlusses Adenauers den Schulterschluss mit den Westmächten zu suchen (Hallstein Doktrin)
- Begreifen der Aussöhnung mit Frankreich als einzige Zugangschance zum Konglomerat der internationalen (NATO) und europäischen (EC) Mächte
- Verstehen der Rolle Adenauers als Vater Europas
- Begreifen der Wichtigkeit des wirtschaftlichen Erfolges Deutschlands für das persönliche Wohlbefinden eines jeden Bürgers

M 1 Adenauer and his ideas about West Germany's future



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Federal President Heuss and Chancellor Adenauer in discussion.

Domestic Goals	Foreign Policy Goals	Explanation

Task: Fictional scenario: Adenauer, having just been elected chancellor, sits together with Federal President Theodor Heuss. They are talking about Adenauer's domestic and foreign policy goals for the next two decades. Which ones could they be and why?

Work in pairs, collect ideas and discuss them. Make notes and explain why you think these goals might have been on Adenauer's list!

M 4 Developing a united Europe under the Franco-German vision

Texts for group and expert work

Text 1: On 9 May 1950, the French foreign minister Robert Schuman suggests placing French and German coal and steel production into a joint organisation, which is also open to other European countries. This plan, which can be traced back to Jean Monnet, a close collaborator of Schuman, is supposed to help preventing wars in Europe in the future. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer greets this idea “as a decisive step to a close connection between Germany and France and thus a new order in Europe that is based on peaceful co-operation”. On 20 June 1950, delegations from France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and the Benelux states start negotiations for the foundation of a European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The Federal Republic of Germany is represented as an equal member. The treaty is signed on 18 April 1951. On 11 January 1952, the Bundestag accepts the agreement against the votes of the SPD. It is the foundation for the further political conciliation of Europe. Through the foundation of the ECSC, national sovereign rights are transferred to a supranational authority for the first time. [...] [The ECSC] has been consulted for all fundamental decisions. The combined assembly of the ECSC with 78 deputies from all member states is set up as an authority check. Disputes within the ECSC should be decided by a court of law consisting of nine judges.

Text 2: [...] On 24 October 1950, the French Prime Minister René Pleven announces the plan for a European Defence Community (EDC). It allows for the setting up of a joint European army and the foundation of a European political community. Chancellor Adenauer picks up on the French suggestion immediately. On 27 May 1952, the signing of the EDC treaty takes place in Paris. It is ratified by five European countries (along with the Federal Republic, Italy, and the Benelux states); however it falls through in the French National Assembly on 30 August 1954. [...] Konrad Adenauer conceives the failure of the EDC to be a serious defeat, however he does not resign and fights for the continuation of European integration. The Belgian foreign minister Paul-Henri Spaak's suggestion from April 1955 to amalgamate the national economies through the construction of a common market and by harmonising their social policy, as well as a European organisation for the friendly use of nuclear power paves the way for a new beginning. At the conference for foreign ministers of the ECSC in Messina on 1 and 2 June 1955, a corresponding resolution is adopted and a commission is appointed under Spaak's leadership. [...] In April 1956, Spaak produces a report with concrete suggestions to set up a common market and to establish a European atomic community. The conference of foreign ministers of the Six decides a month later in Venice to create a base for the following government negotiations.

Annotations: 1 amalgamate: verschmelzen, sich zusammenschließen

Text 3: Based on the Spaak report, government negotiations start in Brussels in June 1956 in order to put in concrete terms both treaty drafts. There is an extensive understanding between Adenauer and the Italian Prime Minister Antonio Segni on the destination. Nevertheless, difficult questions between the partners have to be solved. Among others, France has demanded facilitated (1) competition for its economy and for harmonisation of certain “social areas” before the Common Market was introduced, which the German government delegation refuses. Negotiations come to a standstill. On 5 November, he [Adenauer] travels to Paris and compromises with the Prime Minister Guy Mollet; based on this agreement, it is possible to find successful rules for all the disputable issues between the six partners. This paves the way for the Treaties of Rome and for the creation of a liberal order in Europe.

Annotations: 1 facilitated: erleichtert, unterstützt

M 5 Quotations of Adenauer on European community and Franco-German relations

(A) "European unity was a dream of a few people. It became a hope for many. Today it is a necessity for all of us. It is, ladies and gentlemen, necessary for our security, for our freedom, for our existence as a nation and as an intellectual and creative international community." KONRAD ADENAUER at the German Bundestag, 15/12/1954

(B) "The Schuman Plan, the treaty about the European Defence Community are only the beginning according to the estimation (1) of those playing an active part. They are only a beginning as only six European countries have gathered, but it would be foolish not to start with six countries and wait for the rest of them. I am sure if it starts off with six countries, then one day all the other European states will join in." KONRAD ADENAUER at the final rally of the conference of German Catholic Men's Association in Bamberg, 20/7/1952

(C) "I believe that this close friendship, this close cooperation between France and Germany will act like a new momentum in Europe. Imagine if this friendship did not exist every attempt to develop Europe would be condemned to death from the very outset. (2)" KONRAD ADENAUER after-dinner speech in honour of the French president Charles de Gaulle in Bonn, 4/7/1963

(D) "The Common Market must not be regarded first and foremost as an economic treaty, but as a political instrument. It has to be regarded in conjunction with the European Coal and Steel Community and EURATOM; in short, it is about a chain of political facts. The treaty is primarily a political treaty that aims to reach a politically integrated Europe by means of mutual (3) economy." KONRAD ADENAUER before the executive board of the CDU, 9/11/1959

(E) "Even the EEC will be able to work permanently without a political union because the measures intended by the EEC require the political basis in the different countries to be created nearly identically." KONRAD ADENAUER at a press conference in Bonn, 4/8/1957

(F) "The first period of European integration has ended. Its purpose was to ensure that a war may never break out between the European people. The objective of the second period of European integration is to ensure that Europe and the European countries retain their value, relevance and their standing in the world." KONRAD ADENAUER in a press statement, 29/9/1956

Source: <https://www.konrad-adenauer.de/dokumente/reden>

Annotations:

1 **estimation**: Einschätzung, Schätzung – 2 **outset**: Anfang, Beginn – 3 **mutual**: gegenseitig, gemeinsam

M 7 Economic miracle

After World War II the German economy lay in shambles (1). The war, along with Hitler's scorched-earth policy (2), had destroyed 20 percent of all housing. Food production per capita (3) in 1947 was only 51 percent of its level in 1938, and the official food ration set by the occupying powers varied between 1,040 and 1,550 calories per day. Industrial output in 1947 was only one-third its 1938 level. Moreover, a large percentage of Germany's working-age men were dead. At the time, observers thought that West Germany would have to be the biggest client of the U.S. welfare state; yet a few years later its economy was envied (4) by most of the world. And less than ten years after the war, people already were talking about the German economic miracle. (David R. Henderson)

Source: <https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/GermanEconomicMiracle.html>

Annotations: 1 **in shambles:** in desolatem Zustand – 2 **scorched-earth policy:** Politik der verbrannten Erde – 3 **per capita:** pro Kopf – 4 **(to) envy:** beneiden, neiden



Movie: Ludwig Erhard and the economic miracle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0D1RAY5NZ8>



Wikipedia. Germany gestellt.



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General Lucius D. Clay

US administrator of occupied Germany; also responsible for the Berlin Airlift (324 days)

Ludwig Erhard

Typically pictured with a cigar; German minister of economic affairs (49-63); Chancellor of FRG (63-69)

Tasks

- Using the text above, analyse the economic situation of West Germany after WWII.
- Watch the video and find out which reforms could improve the economic situation of the German people and how Ludwig Erhard managed to do so! Discuss why Erhard needed to gather his courage to realise his mission!

M 11 Voices for and against Adenauer's way of integration with the West



A: Der Weg zu Frieden und Einheit
 Gesellschaft Freies Europa (1952)
 The society works for a government, which is eager to convince the Germans of the 1952 signed General Treaty "Deutschlandvertrag" which took effect in 1955

B: An der deutschen Einheit werden sie zerschellen
 Plakat (1949-52)



C: Fort mit ihm!
 Amt für Information der DDR, Ost-Berlin (1951-54)

Alle Plakate zu finden unter https://www.kas.de/c/document_library/get_file?uid=f10059ad-5e19-ba55-1fd1-aca1efae4cee&groupId=252038