

Amerika-Institut, Amerikanische Kulturgeschichte
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

Through Good Times and Bad

German-American Relations since World War II

(Masterseminar WP 7 RC (6 CP) History and Society: Advanced Research)

Sommersemester 2023

Tu 14-16

room 106, Schellingstr. 3VG

Dozenten: **Dr. Andreas Etges**
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Moodle: <https://moodle.lmu.de/course/view.php?id=27666>

Password: Airlift

Credit Requirements

- regular and active class participation
- reading of texts
- two oral presentations (5-7 minutes each)
- research paper based on primary documents (ca. 11,250 characters)

In May 2019, Chancellor Angela Merkel said: “The old certainties of the post-war order no longer apply.” While this statement was to some degree a comment on the Trump presidency, it also alludes to the major changes in German-American relations from World War II till today. What began as occupation and reeducation turned into an important partnership, that like all long-term relationships went through good times and the bad, with the weaker partner growing more emancipated overtime. The seminar will have both a strong focus on history and on more recent developments, which we will also discuss with guests.

16 May Introduction

Suggested Post-Surrender Program for Germany (Morgenthau Plan), Sept. 6, 1944

Directive to the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Occupation Forces (JCS 1067), April 1945

4-6 Walking Tour: America in Munich

23 May World War II, Postwar Planning, and Occupation

Edmund Spevack, The Allied Council of Foreign Ministers Conferences and the German Question, 1945–1947, in: Detlef Junker (ed.), The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1945-1990: A Handbook, Volume 1: 1945–1968, Cambridge 2004, 44-49

Hermann-Josef Rupieper, The United States and the Founding of the Federal Republic, 1948–1949, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 85-89

James F. Byrnes, Restatement of Policy on Germany, Stuttgart, September 6, 1946

Directive to Commander in Chief of United States Forces of Occupation Regarding the Military Government of Germany (JCS 1779), July 11, 1947

30 May no class

6 June 12-2 Talk with Meike Zwingenberger, executive director, Amerikahaus Munich at Amerikahaus, Karolinenplatz 3, 80333 München

4-6 pm Marshall Plan Films

Gerd Hardach, The Marshall Plan, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 301-309

Michael Wala, The Marshall Plan and the Origins of the Cold War, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 73-77

George C. Marshall, Speech at Harvard University, June 5, 1947

13 June Double Containment, Westbindung, and the German Question

Steven L. Rearden, The Dilemmas of Dual Containment: Germany as a Security Problem, 1945–1950, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 204-208

Frank A. Ninkovich, The United States and the German Question, 1949–1968, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 118-124

Manfred Knapp, Divided Loyalties in Transatlantic Policy Toward Europe, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 125-132

Erste Regierungserklärung von Bundeskanzler Adenauer, September 20, 1949

Definition of U.S. Policy on Problems of the Defense of Europe and the German Contribution (NSC 115), Aug. 2, 1951 (excerpt)

Draft Statement of U.S. Policy on Germany (NSC 5727), December 13, 1957 (excerpt)

20 June The United States, Cultural Diplomacy, and Americanization

Geir Lundestad, Empire by Invitation? The United States and Western Europe, 1945-1952, in: Journal of Peace Research 23.3 (1986), 263-277

Jessica C. E. Gienow-Hecht, American Cultural Policy in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1949–1968, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 401-408

Axel Schildt, Americanization, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 635-642

27 June The Second Berlin Crisis, Détente, Ostpolitik, and the GDR

Christian Hacke, The United States and the German Question, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 18-25

Gottfried Niedhart, The Federal Republic of Germany Between the American and Russian Superpowers: "Old Friend" and "New Partner," in: Handbook, vol. 2, 26-32

Werner Link, Ostpolitik: Détente German-Style and Adapting to America, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 33-39

Christian Ostermann, "Little Room for Maneuver": Relations Between the United States and the GDR, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 172-179

Report by Dean Acheson, Washington, June 28, 1961

John F. Kennedy, Radio and Television Report to the American People on the Berlin Crisis, July 25, 1961

Egon Bahr speech at Evangelical Academy in Tutzing, July 15, 1963

Willy Brandt, Two States, One Nation, October 28, 1969

Memorandum of Conversation (White House), October 14, 1970

4 July 12-2 The NATO dual-track decision and the protest movements

Matthias Dembinski, Differences on Arms Control in German-American Relations, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 140-147

Michael Broer, The NATO Double-Track Decision, the INF Treaty, and the SNF Controversy: German-American Relations between Consensus and Conflict, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 148-154

Helmut Schmidt, The 1977 Alastair Buchan Memorial Lecture, October 28, 1977, in: Survival (Jan/Feb. 1978), 2-10

Special Meeting of Foreign and Defence Ministers, Brussels, December 12, 1979 (The "Double-Track" Decision on Theatre Nuclear Forces)

Krefelder Appell, November 1980

State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Assessments and Research, Western Europe: Neutralism and Anti-TNF Sentiment, August 18, 1982, 1-4

4-6 talk by Philipp Gassert (University of Mannheim), Anti-Americanism in West Germany

11 July The End of the Cold War and German Unification

Richard Wiggers, Two States, One Nation: The International Legal Basis of German-American Relations from Ostpolitik to Unification, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 76-81

Stephen F. Szabo, The United States and German Unification, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 104-110

Karl Kaiser, No Unity Without Security: The Security Features of German Unification, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 178-185

Ronald Reagan, Speech at the Brandenburg Gate, West Berlin, June 12, 1987

Helmut Kohl's Ten-Point Plan for German Unity, November 28, 1989

Memorandum of Conversation of George H.W. Bush, John Sununu, Brent Scowcroft, and Helmut Kohl, December 3, 1989

Charles Krauthammer, The German Revival, in: New Republic. March 26, 1990, 18-21

Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany, September 12, 1990

18 July German-American Relations since the End of the Cold War to 9/11

Hans-Peter Schwarz, America, Germany, and the Atlantic Community After the Cold War, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 535-565

Government Declaration on the Attacks in the United States of America, by Chancellor Gerhard Schröder on September 12, 2001, before the German Bundestag in Berlin

Richard Bernstein, The German Question, in: New York Times Magazine, May 2, 2004

Josef Joffe, The NSA has harmed transatlantic relations more than any al-Qaida operative could, in: The Guardian, Nov. 1, 2013

Ben Rhodes, The World as it is: A Memoir of the Obama White House, New York 2018, XIII-XIV

Transatlantic Academy (ed.), Suspicious Minds: U.S.-German Relations in the Trump Era, Washington, DC 2017

Pew Research Center, U.S.-German Relations on the Mend as New Leadership Takes Hold, Nov. 2021