



International implications for Europe and the world of the German reunification

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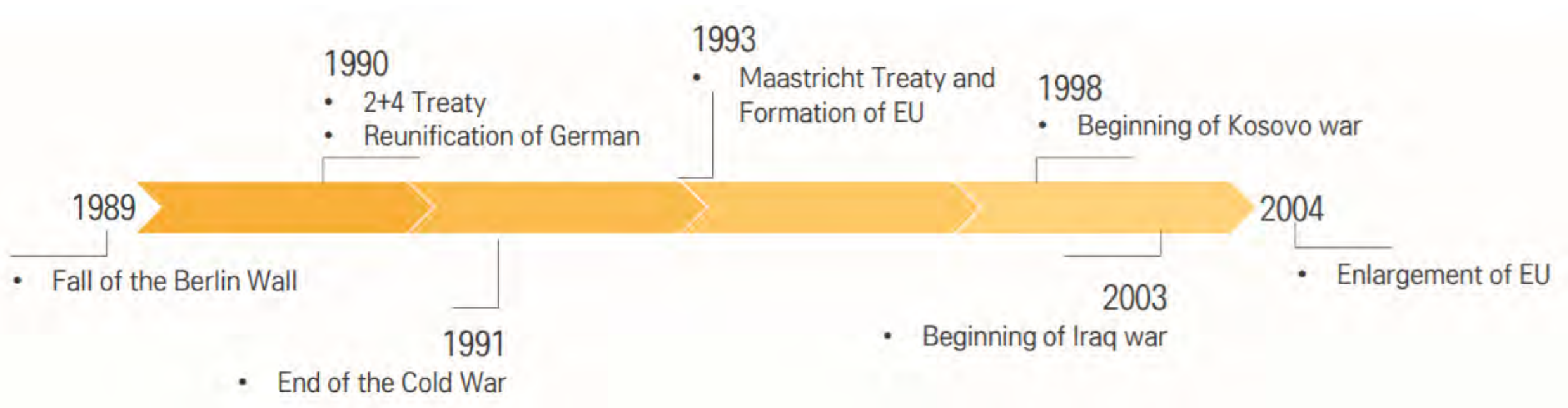
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1 Introduction



1989 - 2004

The 2004 enlargement of the EU ends Germany's term of being the Eastern outpost of the Western nations. Therefore it is no longer seen as the newest partner, nor as the role model for formal Bloc Nations how to join the west.

1 Economic and political implications

Germany became a strong big country in the middle of Europe with considerable economic and political influence both in the region and globally.

Germany's has benefitted from the Western liberal order built by the US after WWII therefore it is in its interest to preserve the status quo.

Since the end of the Cold War German foreign policy decision-makers have faced increasing international expectations for Germany to take on more responsibilities on the world stage



Overall, since reunification Germany has become a much more self-confident partner of the United States, who does not shy away from openly disagreeing with, and at times even refusing allegiance to, the superpower

There were initial obstacles such as the need for restructuring businesses from East Germany.



Another effect was the renovation of infrastructure in East Germany. Three main things needed renovation: ***energy, transport, and communications.***

Productivity affected the economy of Germany after reunification because their lack of business production negatively affected the GDP, Gross Domestic Product, would not reach its full potential.

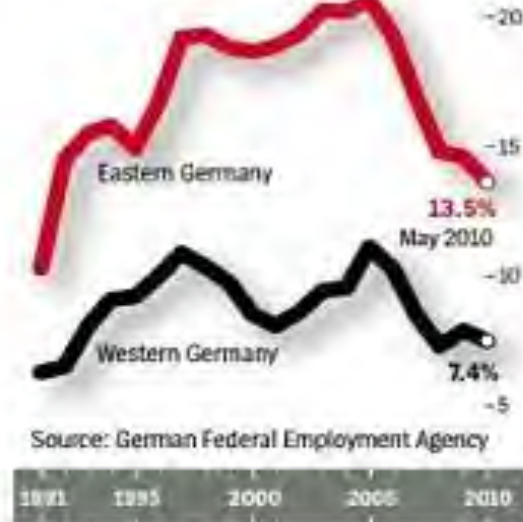


Together but Apart

Economic figures from eastern and western Germany

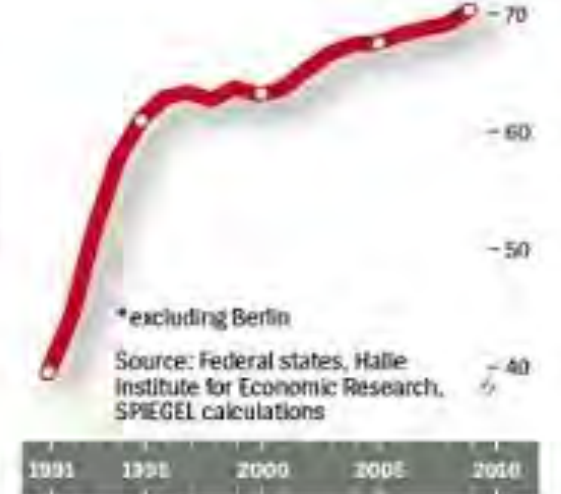
Unemployment rate

as percentage of the labor force



Economic output

per capita in eastern Germany* as a percentage of western German economic output



Being the strongest nation in Europe, Germany set high standard for the European Union and the joining countries.

Germany and the ‘united european continent’

- Germany showed greatest readiness to integrate into a united continent
- The project “*United States of Europe*” and a common identity?
 - The EU became large and heterogeneous
- The economic crisis in **2008**:
 - Germany was the country with resources and capabilities to hold together a heterogeneous Europe



→ New Role of Germany in the EU

- “Today’s role is firmly embedded in fundamental foreign policy traditions”
- Member of the **G7** and **G20** forums of heads of state and government
- Calls for german leadership in the last years have emerged:
- Ukraine crisis (diplomatic lead in tandem with France)
- Central role in refugee crisis in **2015**
- Eurozone crisis



3 Security implications



- NATO

In order for Germany to reunify agreed that NATO troops cannot be in former GDR territory



- France

Germany was already the leading European economy at that time, therefore its possible independence from prior alliances posed a threat to Central Europe



- UK

To keep the Russian government unopposed, the UK proposed a talk within CSCE before negotiating with Germany. Only after a US intervention, the United Kingdom agreed on a united Germany within NATO.



- Poland

Feared a reunified country that would challenge the entire Central East European Region and could potentially reclaim lost territory in the long run



Security



Thank you!

