BERLIN — The memoirs of former German Chancellor Angela Merkel will be released in November, nearly three years after her 16-year tenure leading one of Europe's biggest powers ended.

The roughly 700-page volume, titled “Freiheit” , will be published on Nov. 26, publisher Kiepenheuer & Witsch announced Monday. Merkel co-wrote the book with her longtime assistant and adviser, Beate Baumann.

Merkel, a former scientist who grew up in communist East Germany, became [*Germany’s first female chancellor*](https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-business-religion-germany-vladimir-putin-5a2cbab5420717624db6f2c4f9d033d2) on Nov. 22, 2005. The 69-year-old [*steered Germany*](https://apnews.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-health-business-berlin-angela-merkel-da96f49949a73bfc4ad075ceb5291ae6) through a succession of crises including the global financial crisis, Europe's debt and migration crises and the coronavirus pandemic.

The publisher quoted Merkel in a statement as saying that “for me, freedom is not stopping learning, not having to stand still but being able to go further, even after leaving ***politics***.” The company said the book will appear “worldwide in over 30 countries” but didn't elaborate.

Merkel has generally kept a low profile since [*handing over*](https://apnews.com/article/climate-elections-europe-angela-merkel-european-union-675ee26e99ce6e7f57d0f61989b05a16) to current Chancellor Olaf Scholz in December 2021. She has stayed out of the political fray and away from events of her center-right party, the Christian Democratic Union.

Merkel was named “The World’s Most Powerful Woman” by Forbes magazine for 10 years in a row, and was seen as a powerful defender of liberal values in the West and a role model for girls.

But her record has faced criticism as well since she stepped down, notably her approach to Ukraine and Russia.

Merkel has [*defended her actions*](https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-putin-politics-berlin-germany-20b29c43618d4d711d62c07b589de4b1), saying months after Russia launched its full-scale invasion that a much-criticized 2015 peace deal for eastern Ukraine bought Kyiv precious time and she won’t apologize for her diplomatic efforts. She also has defended [*her government’s decisions*](https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-business-germany-lisbon-2a8722c63c7ba84923c12eb0e1f8d35c) to buy large quantities of natural gas from Russia, which [*cut off supplies*](https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-germany-07245e4ceae0c0de233d426308827765) in 2022.