

A Report on the German Constitution

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Intro

Germany has a democratic, parliamentary republic. There is a great system of checks and balances with the Executive, legislative and judiciary all independent of each other. It has a constitution emphasizing the protection of individual citizens.

Form of Government

Executive Branch:

The German head of state is the Federal President. The President holds a mostly ceremonial position, representing the state through his or her actions and appearances. All federal laws must be signed by the President in-order to become official.

The Federal Chancellor heads the Federal Government and executive branch. They are elected by and responsible to the parliament. Other members of the government are chosen by the chancellor and are called federal ministers, they form the cabinet. The chancellor can't be removed during the four year stint unless the parliament has agreed on a successor. One of the federal ministers is chosen as the Vice Chancellor by the Chancellor themselves.

Legislative Branch:

This is divided into the lower and upper houses of parliament. Members are chosen on the basis of percentage of vote the member's party got.

Judicial Branch:

The judicial branch is headed by the German Federal Constitution Court. It is the guardian of the constitution and is very powerful, it has the right to keep government policies and changes to law permanent or to change them if they are unconstitutional.

Two other courts also exist, the court of justice for common civil and criminal cases and specialized court for admin and labor law.

Provisions to declare Emergency:

A state of emergency can be called if:

- . State of Germany is being attacked
- . There is a danger to democracy of Germany

These constitutional safeguards came in 1968 and ensure that Germany can deal with states of emergency as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Till this date, Germany has not actually enacted a state of emergency.

REFERENCES

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