

Country: German Democratic Republic

Year: 1949

Head of government: Wilhelm Pieck

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as SED. DPI identifies ideology of SED as Leftist. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as leftist. Lentz (1994: 304) identifies Pieck's ideology as leftist, writing that "while in exile, Pieck directed the communist propaganda apparatus."

Years: 1950-1970

Head of government: Walter Ulbricht

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as SED. DPI identifies ideology of SED as Leftist. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as leftist.

Years: 1971-1988

Head of government: Erich Honecker

Ideology: Leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as SED. DPI identifies ideology of SED as Leftist. Manzano (2017) identifies ideology as leftist. Lentz (1994: 305) identifies Honecker's ideology as leftist, writing that "[Honecker] worked in the communist underground following Hitler's rise to power" and that "he remained a hard-line supporter of the Soviet Union and was chosen to replace Walter Ulbricht."

Years: 1989

Head of government: Gregor Gysi

Ideology: leftist

Description: World Statesmen (2020) and Lentz (1994) identify Gregor Gysi instead of Hans Modrow as head of government on December 31, 1989. CHISOLS identifies party as SED-PDS. Lentz (1994: 308) writes that "Gysi became a prominent East Germany lawyer who gained a reputation for defending political dissidents" and "was a leading proponent of reform in the East German Communist Party." Encyclopedia Britannica (2020) identifies his later affiliation as PDS/Left Party writing "In the wake of unification, the SED sought to resurrect itself, adopting a centrist name, the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), and replacing its older leaders with younger, more moderate figures, such as its chairman, Gregor Gysi."

Die Linke (2020) identifies itself as leftist, writing “As a socialist party, DIE LINKE [The Left] stands for alternatives, for a better future. We are a new left party, a democratic socialist left, comprised of those of different political, ideological and religious backgrounds, of women and men, old and young, immigrants, those with disabilities.”

References:

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- Cruz, Cesi, Philip Keefer, and Carlos Scartascini. 2018. Database of Political Institutions (DPI2017). Inter-American Development Bank. Numbers for Development.
- Lentz, Harris. 1994. Heads of States and Governments Since 1945.
- Manzano, Dulce. 2017. Bringing Down the Educational Wall: Political Regimes, Ideology, and the Expansion of Education. Cambridge.
- Mattes, Michaela, Leeds, Brett, and Naoko Matsumura. 2016. Measuring change in source of leader support: The CHISOLS dataset. *Journal of Peace Research* 53(2): 259-267.