

Country: German Democratic Republic

Years: 1946-1949

Leader: Wilhelm Pieck

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as SED. DPI identifies ideology of SED 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

Leader: Walter Ulbricht

Ideology: left

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as SED. DPI identifies ideology of SED as leftist. Lentz (1994: 304) identifies Pieck's ideology as leftist, writing that "Ulbricht forced the collectivization of German farms, which resulted in the exodus of millions of Germans to the West."

Years: 1971-1988

Leader: Erich Honecker

Ideology: Leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies party as SED. DPI identifies ideology of SED as Leftist. Lentz (1994: 305) identifies Pieck'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."

Year: 1989

Leader: Gregor Gysi

Ideology: left

Description: 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:

Encyclopedia Britannica. 2020. Left Party.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Left-Party-political-party-Germany>. (last checked April 9, 2020).

Lentz, Harris. 1994. Heads of States and Governments Since 1945.

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.

Die Linke. 2020. Welcome. <https://en.die-linke.de/welcome/> (last checked April 9, 2020).