Country: Germany

Years: 1949 - 1962

Head of government: Chancellor Konrad Adenauer

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Christian Democratic Union (*Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands* – *CDU*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Christian Democratic Union’s (CDU) ideology as centrist. DPI identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (.748) in 1972. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist, writing “Christian Democratic Union (Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands—CDU). Founded in 1945 as a middle-of-the-road grouping with a generally conservative policy and broad political appeal.” Döring and Manow (2019) identify the CDU as “Christian democratic.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 20 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Christian Democratic Union (CDU) as 6.9. Rulers.org (2020b) identifies the CDU as the “conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU)”. Lewis (2016) identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist, writing “Christian Democratic Union… a broad-based, Christian-oriented, conservative party… Following a brief period in which it embraced economic dirigisme (the Ahlen Program of 1947), the party, led by Konrad Adenauer… campaigned on an electoral platform of a socially responsible capitalism… known as the social market economy… In its first program of basic principles (Grundsatzprogramm, 1978), the CDU reaffirmed its traditional identity as a conservative party of mass appeal… During the 1980s, successive CDU/FDP administrations… began publicizing private sector activities… in 2003, Merkel championed the most radical neoliberal program in the CDU’s history”. Perspective Monde (2020) identifies Adenauer and CDU as rightist, “moderate right”.

Years: 1963 - 1965

Head of government: Chancellor Ludwig Erhard

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Christian Democratic Union (*Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands* – *CDU*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Christian Democratic Union’s (CDU) ideology as centrist. DPI identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (.748) in 1972. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist, writing “Christian Democratic Union (Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands—CDU). Founded in 1945 as a middle-of-the-road grouping with a generally conservative policy and broad political appeal.” Döring and Manow (2019) identify the CDU as “Christian democratic.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 20 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Christian Democratic Union (CDU) as 6.9. Rulers.org (2020a) identifies Erhard’s ideology as rightist, writing “Erhard… had an unbounding faith in his economic ideas which he called "social market economy." It was largely based on a free market, and the opposition taunted him at first with charges that there was nothing very much social about it.” Rulers.org (2020b) identifies the CDU as the “conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU)”. Lewis (2016) identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist, writing “Christian Democratic Union… a broad-based, Christian-oriented, conservative party… Following a brief period in which it embraced economic dirigisme (the Ahlen Program of 1947), the party, led by Konrad Adenauer… campaigned on an electoral platform of a socially responsible capitalism… known as the social market economy… In its first program of basic principles (Grundsatzprogramm, 1978), the CDU reaffirmed its traditional identity as a conservative party of mass appeal… During the 1980s, successive CDU/FDP administrations… began publicizing private sector activities… in 2003, Merkel championed the most radical neoliberal program in the CDU’s history”. Perspective Monde (2020) identifies Erhard and CDU as rightist, “moderate right”.

Years: 1966 - 1968

Head of government: Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Christian Democratic Union (*Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands* – *CDU*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Christian Democratic Union’s (CDU) ideology as centrist. DPI identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (.748) in 1972. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist, writing “Christian Democratic Union (Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands—CDU). Founded in 1945 as a middle-of-the-road grouping with a generally conservative policy and broad political appeal.” Döring and Manow (2019) identify the CDU as “Christian democratic.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 20 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Christian Democratic Union (CDU) as 6.9. Rulers.org (2020b) identifies the CDU as the “conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU)”. Lewis (2016) identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist, writing “Christian Democratic Union… a broad-based, Christian-oriented, conservative party… Following a brief period in which it embraced economic dirigisme (the Ahlen Program of 1947), the party, led by Konrad Adenauer… campaigned on an electoral platform of a socially responsible capitalism… known as the social market economy… In its first program of basic principles (Grundsatzprogramm, 1978), the CDU reaffirmed its traditional identity as a conservative party of mass appeal… During the 1980s, successive CDU/FDP administrations… began publicizing private sector activities… in 2003, Merkel championed the most radical neoliberal program in the CDU’s history”. Perspective Monde (2020) identifies Kiesinger and CDU as rightist, “moderate right”.

Years: 1969 - 1973

Head of government: Chancellor Willy Brandt

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the Social Democratic Party (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands—*SPD*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies Social Democrats’ (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands, *SPD*) ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the SPD’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.313) in 1972. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the SPD’s ideology as leftist, writing “Social Democratic Party of Germany (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands—SPD)… the SPD discarded its original Marxist outlook in 1959 and embraced the concept of the social market… the SPD subsequently stressed a strong central government and social welfare programs.”

Years: 1974 - 1981

Head of government: Chancellor Helmut Schmidt

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the Social Democratic Party (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands—*SPD*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies Social Democrats’ (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands, *SPD*) ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the SPD’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.313) in 1972 and “Center-left” (-1.1) in 1976 and 1980. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the SPD’s ideology as leftist, writing “Social Democratic Party of Germany (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands—SPD)… the SPD discarded its original Marxist outlook in 1959 and embraced the concept of the social market… the SPD subsequently stressed a strong central government and social welfare programs.”

Years: 1982 - 1997

Head of government: Chancellor Helmut Kohl

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Christian Democratic Union (*Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands* – *CDU*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Christian Democratic Union’s (CDU) ideology as centrist. DPI identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (.748) in 1980, 1983, 1987, 1990, and 1994. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist, writing “Christian Democratic Union (Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands—CDU). Founded in 1945 as a middle-of-the-road grouping with a generally conservative policy and broad political appeal.” Döring and Manow (2019) identify the CDU as “Christian democratic.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 20 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Christian Democratic Union (CDU) as 6.9. Rulers.org (2020b) identifies the CDU as the “conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU)”. Lewis (2016) identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist, writing “Christian Democratic Union… a broad-based, Christian-oriented, conservative party… Following a brief period in which it embraced economic dirigisme (the Ahlen Program of 1947), the party, led by Konrad Adenauer… campaigned on an electoral platform of a socially responsible capitalism… known as the social market economy… In its first program of basic principles (Grundsatzprogramm, 1978), the CDU reaffirmed its traditional identity as a conservative party of mass appeal… During the 1980s, successive CDU/FDP administrations… began publicizing private sector activities… in 2003, Merkel championed the most radical neoliberal program in the CDU’s history”. Perspective Monde (2020) identifies Kohl and CDU as rightist, “moderate right”.

Years: 1998 - 2004

Head of government: Chancellor Gerhard Schröder

Ideology: left

Description: HoG identifies ideology as left. CHISOLS identifies party as the Social Democratic Party (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands—*SPD*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies Social Democrats’ (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands, *SPD*) ideology as leftist. DPI identifies the SPD’s ideology as leftist. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-left” (-.46) in 1998 and “Center” (-.205) in 2002. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify head of government party’s cohesion as “A high level of visible disagreement" in 2002. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the SPD’s ideology as leftist, writing “Social Democratic Party of Germany (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands—SPD)… the SPD discarded its original Marxist outlook in 1959 and embraced the concept of the social market… the SPD subsequently stressed a strong central government and social welfare programs… In March 1998 the party selected Gerhard Schröder… to be its 1998 candidate for chancellor… Claiming to represent the “new center,” Schröder… formalized his victory, winning the party chair at a special SPD congress.” Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates on Schröder, writing “Schröder took office on October 27 as the leader of a center-left (“red-green”) coalition government with the environmentally oriented Greens (Die Grünen)… [in 2002] Schröder announced that priorities for his second term would include a number of potentially unpopular fiscal reforms, including cuts in social spending… Schröder’s subsequent efforts [after his removal from SPD leadership] to move the party to the center, epitomized by Agenda 2010, led a group of dissidents to leave the party and form a new left-wing group.”

Years: 2005 - 2020

Head of government: Chancellor Angela Merkel

Ideology: right

Description: HoG identifies ideology as right. CHISOLS identifies party as the Christian Democratic Union (*Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands* – *CDU*). Armingeon et al. (2019) identifies the Christian Democratic Union’s (CDU) ideology as centrist. DPI identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify head of government party’s ideology as “Center-right” (1.026) in 2005 and “Center-right” (.757) in 2009, 2013, and 2017. Political Handbook of the World (2015) identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist, writing “Christian Democratic Union (Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands—CDU). Founded in 1945 as a middle-of-the-road grouping with a generally conservative policy and broad political appeal.” Döring and Manow (2019) identify the CDU as “Christian democratic.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 20 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of Christian Democratic Union (CDU) as 6.9. Rulers.org (2020b) identifies the CDU as the “conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU)”. Lewis (2016) identifies the CDU’s ideology as rightist, writing “Christian Democratic Union… a broad-based, Christian-oriented, conservative party… Following a brief period in which it embraced economic dirigisme (the Ahlen Program of 1947), the party, led by Konrad Adenauer… campaigned on an electoral platform of a socially responsible capitalism… known as the social market economy… In its first program of basic principles (Grundsatzprogramm, 1978), the CDU reaffirmed its traditional identity as a conservative party of mass appeal… During the 1980s, successive CDU/FDP administrations… began publicizing private sector activities… in 2003, Merkel championed the most radical neoliberal program in the CDU’s history”. Perspective Monde (2021) corroborates party affiliation as CDU and identifies the party as rightist, “moderate right”. World Statesmen (2021) corroborates party affiliation as CDU and describes the party as “liberal conservative, center-right.”

References:

Armingeon, Klaus, Virigina Wenger, Fiona Wiedemeier, Christian Isler, Laura Knöpfel, David Weisstanner and Sarah Engler. 2019. Supplement to the Comparative Political Data Set – Government Composition 1960-2017. Bern: Institute of Political Science, University of Berne.

Döring, Holger, and Philip Manow. 2019. Parliaments and governments database (ParlGov): Information on parties, elections and cabinets in modern democracies. Development version.

Lansford, Tom. "Germany." In *Political Handbook of the World* 2015, edited by Tom Lansford, 534-546. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, 2015.

Lewis, Derek (Derek R.), Ulrike Zitzlsperger, and Derek (Derek R.) Lewis. *Historical Dictionary of Contemporary Germany*. Second edition. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

Norris, Pippa. 2020. Global Party Survey dataset. <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/GlobalPartySurvey>

Perspective Monde. 2020. Allemagne. <http://perspective.usherbrooke.ca/bilan/servlet/BMGvt?codePays=DEU&ani=1991&moi=1&anf=2019&mof=7> (last accessed on May 26, 2020).

Rulers.org. “Index E.” Accessed May 9, 2020a. http://rulers.org/indexe.html#erhar.

Rulers.org. “Index Mb-Me.” Accessed May 9, 2020b. http://rulers.org/indexm3.html#merke.