

Federal Republic of Germany

Rice

Following the German surrender to the Allies in 1945, Germany was divided among the victorious allies. In May of 1955, the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) gained full sovereignty (with a few qualifications) from the Western Allies who had occupied it since 1945. Elections were held on September 15, 1949 which resulted in Konrad Adenauer of the Christian Demokratische Union becoming the first chancellor of the FRG (BBC). Adenauer remained president of the FRG until it received full sovereignty on 1955. We code a SOLS change for May 5, 1955 because, though Western Germany had been occupied for ten years, Adenauer had a different SOLS than did his predecessor from 1945, Karl Doenitz (Mil.)(Cahoon 2010). (Note: We consider FRG to be the legal successor to Germany (Dumbery, 2007: 85))

Adenauer would remain as FRG chancellor until 1963. However, minor SOLS changes occurred which should be noted. In 1955, the coalition of which Adenauer headed consisted of the CDU, the Freie Demokratische Partei (FDP), and the Demokratische Partei (DP). In 1955 GBHE dropped out of the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change on July 23 1955. On October 22, 1957, the FDP left the coalition leaving only the CDU and DP (Woldendorp et al 2000). Accordingly, we code a minor SOLS change for this date.

Another minor SOLS change occurred on July 1, 1960 when the DP left the coalition leaving the CDU as the only party. We code a minor SOLS change for this date. The next year, the CDU formed a coalition with the FDP on November 14, 1961. We code a minor SOLS change for that date. The next year, the FDP left the coalition once again leaving the CDU by itself. We code a minor SOLS change for November 19, 1962. On December 14, the CDU and FDP formed a coalition so I code a minor SOLS change for that date.

In 1963, Adenauer resigned his chancellorship. Following an election held that same year, Ludwig Wilhelm Erhard of the CDU became the new FRG chancellor on the 16th of October, 1963 and since both men were of the same party, we code no major SOLS change for 1963.

Nothing of political relevance happened until 1966 when elections were held and the FDP left the coalition, thus leaving the CDU as the only governing party (Woldendorp et al 2000). We code a minor SOLS change for October 28, 1966. Later that year, on December 1, 1966, Kurt Georg Kiesinger of the CDU became the new chancellor; since he and his predecessor were of the same party, we code no major SOLS change. At that same time, SPD joined the coalition, and since this constitutes a minor SOLS change, I code 1966 with a second minor SOLS change.

In 1969, Kiesinger was replaced by Willy Brandt of the SPD as chancellor. Since both men were not of the same party, I code a major SOLS change for October 22, 1969. During this leadership transition, the coalition composition changed from being made up of the CDU and FDP to being made up of the SPD and FDP (Woldendorp et al 2000). We code no minor SOLS change since a major SOLS change coincided with it.

Brandt resigned from office on May 7, 1974 after being implicated in a spy controversy (Simkin 2010). While Cahoon (2010) lists Walter Scheel of the FDP party serving in an acting capacity until May 16, 1974 when he was replaced by Helmut Schmidt of the SPD, Archigos does not include a listing for Scheel, and thus neither does CHISOLS. Since Brandt and Schmidt come from the same party and lead the same coalition, we code no SOLS change when Schmidt takes power.

In 1982, the FDP left the coalition, thus leaving only the SPD as the sole party in government; this occurred on September 17, 1982. Accordingly, we code this as a minor SOLS change. A few weeks later, on October 4, the CDU gained a majority and was included with the FDP in a coalition government. We do not code this coalition change as a minor SOLS change because at the same time Helmut Kohl of the CDU became the new chancellor. We code this leadership transition as a major SOLS change for October 1, 1982. Kohl continued as chancellor of the unified Germany.

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