

German Federal Republic (West Germany)

Vanderbilt

The German Federal Republic is coded as a parliamentary democracy from 1955, when West Germany gained independence according to COW, until 1989, when East and West Germany unified. From 1949 until 1955 Konrad Adenauer of the Christian-Democratic Union (CDU) is chancellor in coalition with Free Democratic Party (FDP), the Deutsche Partei/Germany Party (DP), and GBHE (Gesamtdeutscher Block/Bund der Heimatvertriebenen und Entrechteten) (Woldendorp et al. 2000, 227). As the legal successor of Germany West Germany's PM Adenauer succeeded the last leader of Germany Doenitz (mil.), which is a SOLS change. In 1955 GBHE drops out of the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (July 23 1955). In 1957 FDP drops out of the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (October 22 1957). In 1960 DP drops out of the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (July 1 1960). In 1961 FDP rejoins the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (November 14 1961). In 1962 FDP drops out again (November 19 1962) and joins again (December 14 1962). These are minor SOLS changes.

In 1963 Ludwig Erhard, CDU, became chancellor in coalition with FDP. This is not a SOLS change. In 1966 FDP drops out of the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (October 28 1966). Later that year Kurt Kiesinger, CDU, became chancellor in coalition with Social Democratic Party (SPD). This is a minor SOLS change (December 1 1966). In 1969 Willy Brandt, SPD, became chancellor in coalition with FDP. This is a SOLS change. Following Brandt's resignation in 1974, Helmut Schmidt, SPD, became chancellor in coalition with FDP. This is not a SOLS change. In 1982 the FDP dropped out of the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change (September 17 1982). Later that year Helmut Kohl, CDU, became chancellor in coalition with FDP. This is a SOLS change. He ruled with the same coalition through 1990, the end of the period under observation. The German Federal Republic is missing democratic regime type coding for 1990, the year of reunification with the German Democratic Republic (East Germany).

References:

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