



Understanding Contemporary Germany

By Stuart Parkes

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This text is an introductory survey of German society focusing on the post-unification situation. It raises questions relating to German identity and adopts an integrated approach, considering society, culture, politics, economics and history. The stability and normality of the Federal Republic and its position in world affairs is assessed. The book aims to provide the background to contemporary Germany required for students of modern languages, or those courses containing an element of German studies.

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Editorial Review

Review

'An excellent, concise analysis of the main features of the political, economic and cultural aspects of a changing Germany in a changing Europe.' – *Dr Peter James, Newcastle-upon-Tyne*

'Understanding Contemporary Germany is an informed, clearly structured, internally well articulated and extremely useful volume for the introduction of crucial history, social, political, cultural and economic aspects of contemporary Germany. It is well worth considering for any "German Studies" curriculum.' – *Hans J. Rindisbacher, Pocono College, USA.*

'This timely book provides a comprehensive account of social, economic, political and intellectual developments in post-war Germany until early 1996. The book includes a useful chronical of political events and a glossary and will provide a reliable guide to the many undergraduates who will doubtless use it.' – *Ian Wallace, University of Bath.*

From the Back Cover

Understanding Contemporary Germany is a wide-ranging survey of Europe's largest and most powerful country. It examines political, economic and social aspects of post-unification Germany, as well as considering questions relating to German identity. More specifically, it discusses whether the new Germany is a stable democracy based on solid political and economic foundations. It assesses the extent to which the German people is at ease with itself following the traumas of the country's history. By looking at a wide range of topics and including a cultural dimension, Understanding Contemporary Germany seeks to widen debate on Germany in a way which will be useful to all who study or work in the fields of German or European studies. Its conclusion is that, in contrast to the widespread fears expressed both in the country and outside, the new Germany largely remains a stable and reliable partner in European and world affairs.

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