



AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

## The German Elections – A Party System for the Future?

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
Choate Room  
1779 Massachusetts Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20036-2103

Monday, October 5, 2009

9:00 - 9:15 am

Opening Remarks  
Jack Janes, AICGS

9:15 -10:45am

Panel One: Germany After the Election

*Sixty years after the first session of the Bundestag, Germany elected a new government in September 2009. How will the election results impact Germany? Was the election campaign more “Americanized” than in 2005, as many analysts allege? What coalitions are possible after the election and how might they affect the transatlantic partnership? What issues were important in the election campaign and were there surprises? What domestic and foreign policy goals will Germany pursue after the election? What issues arose during the campaign that could be points of tension or agreement—within a coalition government as well as in Europe and in transatlantic relations?*

Speakers: Olaf Gersemann, Die Welt  
Dieter Roth, Universität Heidelberg  
Ralf Fücks, Heinrich Böll Stiftung  
Moderator: Kirsten Verclas, AICGS

10:45 – 11:00pm

Coffee Break

11:00 -12:30pm

Panel Two: German Parties – A Mirror of German Society?

*German society has fundamentally changed since the founding of the Federal Republic. Not only did East and West Germany unite, Germany*

*AICGS is grateful to the Transatlantik-Programm der Bundesregierung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland aus Mitteln des European Recovery Program (ERP) des Bundesministeriums für Wirtschaft und Technologie (BMWi) and the Draeger Foundation for their generous support of this conference. The conference is also supported by the AICGS Foreign and Domestic Policy Program, the Business and Economics Program, and the Society, Culture, and Politics Program.*

*has turned from an emigration to an immigration nation that is increasingly aging. The party landscape has changed since 1949 as well. New parties emerged, such as the Green Party and Die Linke (the Left Party), and the two large Volksparteien CDU/CSU and SPD have changed drastically. What was and is the function of a Volkspartei? How has that changed? What is the role of smaller parties? Do the parties and their structure reflect the changed society? Do eastern and western Germans have a different discourse on political parties and on civil society in general? Do immigrants and natives have different expectations for the political system? Are the parties permeable enough to integrate immigrants?*

Speakers: Dan Hough, University of Sussex  
Karl-Rudolf Korte, Universität Duisburg-Essen  
Jörg Siegmund, Universität München  
Moderator: Jessica Riester, AICGS

12:30-2:00pm

Luncheon: U.S. Expectations of Germany after the Election

Speakers: Karen Donfried, GMF  
Kurt Volker, former U.S. Ambassador to NATO  
Moderator: Jack Janes, AICGS

2:00-3:30pm

Panel Three: The German Party System and Federalism: A Danger to Economic Reforms?

*The German political system, with its need to assemble multiparty coalitions in the Bundestag and Bundesrat, is often considered to be too slow and cumbersome for enacting reforms. The first federalism reform was passed after a laborious debate in 2006. Meanwhile, a second federalism commission is currently debating reform of financial balances, focusing especially on new regulation pertaining to the financial equalization scheme between the Federal Government and the Länder and the right of the Länder to collect their own taxes. Does the German system prevent drastic economic reforms because it relies too much on party discipline and the desire for compromise? Which economic reforms will be necessary in Germany in the coming years and how can they be accomplished in the current political system? What role did economic concerns play in the election? What will the economic policy of the new government look like?*

Speakers: Beate Jochimsen, Freie Universität Berlin  
Markus Löning, FDP  
Tim Stuchtey, Humboldt Universität/AICGS  
Moderator: Tim Stuchtey, Humboldt Universität/AICGS

3:30-3:45pm

Conclusion

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