

1. Chronology of German Unity and German Unity Treaty.

1989	
11 September	Hungary opens its border to Germans from the GDR.
30 September	Some 6,000 refugees from the GDR are allowed to leave the German Embassy in Prague to travel to the Federal Republic of Germany.
9 October	An estimated 70,000 people in Leipzig and 12,000 in Dresden demonstrate against the SED regime. During their so-called Monday demonstrations they chant, "We are the people!".
9 November	The Berlin Wall and the border to the Federal Republic of Germany are opened. Tens of thousands of people from the GDR cross the sectoral borders into West Berlin. Several million travel to West Germany in the days that follow.
28 November	Chancellor Kohl presents a Ten-Point Program in the Bundestag for ending Germany's division.
22 December	The Brandenburg Gate is opened.
1990	
10 February	Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher meet with Gorbachev in Moscow. Gorbachev gives fundamental assurance that the Germans may live together as one nation.
18 March	Free elections to the People's Chamber (parliament) of the GDR are held for the first time.
5 May	The first round of the "Two-plus-Four" talks is held in Bonn. The two German states and the four victorious powers of WWII discuss security issues connected with Germany unity.
18 May	The Treaty establishing a Monetary, Economic and Social Union between the GDR and the Federal Republic is signed in Bonn. It goes into effect on 1 July.
16 July	Upon conclusion of two days of talks with President Gorbachev in the Caucasus, Chancellor Kohl announces that the Soviet Union agreed to united Germany's continued NATO membership.

31 August	Interior Minister Schäuble and the State Secretary to the East German Prime Minister, Gunther Krause, sign the Unification Treaty. Upon the GDR's accession to the Federal Republic under Article 23 of the Basic Law, the states of the GDR will become states of the Federal Republic. Berlin will be Germany's capital. The Basic Law will also apply to the eastern part of the country, with certain modifications.
12 September	The Two-plus-Four Treaty is signed in Moscow. According to Article 1 of the Basic Law, united Germany will comprise the territories of the GDR, the Federal Republic and Berlin. The borders are confirmed as definitive. The rights and responsibilities of the four victorious powers with respect to Berlin and to Germany as a whole will end upon ratification of the treaty. Consequently, united Germany will then assume Full sovereignty over its internal and external affairs.
3 October	The GDR comes under the jurisdiction of the Basic Law and ceases to exist. Germany is united as one state.
2 December	The first all-German Bundestag elections are held.
1991	
17 January	The Deutscher Bundestag elects Helmut Kohl as chancellor of united Germany
20 June	The Bundestag votes to make Berlin the seat of government and parliament. Bonn will remain administrative center and receives the designation "federal city."
1994	
23 May	The first all-German election of the head of state is held and Roman Herzog, president of the Federal Constitutional Court at the time, is elected federal president by the Federal convention in Berlin.
31 August	President Boris Yeltsin and Chancellor Helmut Kohl take leave of the last Russian troops during ceremonies in Berlin.
8 September	Ceremonies to mark the departure of American, British and French troops are held in Berlin in the presence of Secretary of State Christopher, Prime Minister Major, President Mitterand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The chancellor thanks the Western allies for defending West Berlin's freedom over the decades.
31 December	The Treuhandanstalt privatization agency ends its work, having privatized some 15,000 formerly "publicly owned" companies or corporate divisions during the previous four years.

1995	
1 January	“solidarity surcharge” on income and corporate taxes goes into effect. Reorganized as part of the solidarity pact, revenue sharing between the federal states is carried out in its new form for the first time in 1995. As a consequence Germany’s new states are full and equal partners in an all-German financial equalization system between the federal states and the federal government.
1996	
8 May	The first Goethe Institute in the new states is opened in Neimar.
2 October	The federal, state and local governments agree to funnel the new state’s debts from GDR days ? a total of DM 8.4 billion -into a fund for the amortization of debt from the former GDR. It is estimated that the federal government and the new states will have to pay DM 315 million a year for the next 30 years to retire this debt.
1997	
22 May	Chancellor Kohl and representatives of industry and trade unions present the Joint Initiative for More Jobs in Eastern Germany in Berlin.

TREATY ON THE FINAL SETTLEMENT WITH RESPECT TO GERMANY

The Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, the French Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America,

Conscious of the fact that their peoples have been living together in peace since 1945;

Mindful of the recent historic changes in Europe which make it possible to overcome the division of the continent;

Having regard to the rights and responsibilities of the Four Powers relating to Berlin and to Germany as a whole, and the corresponding wartime and post-war agreements and decisions of the Four Powers;

Resolved in accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;

Recalling the principles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed in Helsinki;

Recognizing that those principles have laid firm foundations for the establishment of a just and lasting peaceful order in Europe;

Determined to take account of everyone's security interests;

Convinced of the need finally to overcome antagonism and to develop cooperation in Europe;

Confirming their readiness to reinforce security, in particular by adopting effective arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures; their willingness not to regard each other as adversaries but to work for a relationship of trust and cooperation; and accordingly their readiness to consider positively setting up appropriate institutional arrangements within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe;

Welcoming the fact that the German people, freely exercising their right of self-determination, have expressed their will to bring about the unity of Germany as a state so that they will be able to serve the peace of the world as an equal and sovereign partner in a united Europe;

Convinced that the unification of Germany as a state with definitive borders is a significant contribution to peace and stability in Europe;

Intending to conclude the final settlement with respect to Germany;

Recognizing that thereby, and with the unification of Germany as a democratic and peaceful state, the rights and responsibilities of the Four Powers relating to Berlin and to Germany as a whole lose their function;

Represented by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs who, in accordance with the Ottawa Declaration of 13 February 1990, met in Bonn on 5 May 1990, in Berlin on 22 June 1990, in Paris on 17 July 1990 with the participation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, and in Moscow on 12 September 1990;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

(1) The united Germany shall comprise the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic and the whole of Berlin. Its external borders shall be the borders of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic and shall be definitive from the date on which the present Treaty comes into force. The confirmation of the definitive nature of the borders of the united Germany is an essential element of the peaceful order in Europe.

(2) The united Germany and the Republic of Poland shall confirm the existing border between them in a treaty that is binding under international law.

(3) The united Germany has no territorial claims whatsoever against other states and shall not assert any in the future.

(4) The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic shall ensure that the constitution of the united Germany does not contain any provision incompatible with these principles. This applies accordingly to the provisions laid down in the preamble, the second sentence of Article 23, and Article 146 of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany.

(5) The Governments of the French Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America take formal note of the corresponding commitments and declarations by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic and declare that their implementation will confirm the definitive nature of the united Germany's borders.

ARTICLE 2

The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic reaffirm their declarations that only peace will emanate from German soil. According to the constitution of the united Germany, acts tending to and undertaken with the intent to disturb the peaceful relations between nations, especially to prepare for aggressive war, are unconstitutional and a punishable offence. The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic declare that the united Germany will never employ any of its weapons except in accordance with its constitution and the Charter of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 3

(1) The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic reaffirm their renunciation of the manufacture and possession of and control over nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. They declare that the united Germany, too, will abide by these commitments. In particular, rights and obligations arising from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1 July 1968 will continue to apply to the united Germany.

(2) The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, acting in full agreement with the Government of the German Democratic Republic, made the following statement on 30 August 1990 in Vienna at the Negotiations on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe:

"The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany undertakes to reduce the personnel strength of the armed forces of the united Germany to 370,000 (ground, air and naval forces) within three to four years. This reduction will commence on the entry into force of the first CFE agreement. Within the scope of this overall ceiling no more than 345,000 will belong to the ground and air forces which, pursuant to the agreed mandate, alone are the subject of the Negotiations on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. The Federal Government regards its commitment to reduce ground and air forces as a significant German contribution to the reduction of conventional armed forces in Europe. It assumes that in follow-on negotiations the other participants in the negotiations, too, will render their contribution to enhancing security and stability in Europe, including measures to limit personnel strengths."

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has expressly associated itself with this statement.

(3) The Governments of the French Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America take note of these statements by the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic.

ARTICLE 4

(1) The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics state that the united Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will settle by treaty the conditions for and the duration of the presence of Soviet armed forces on the territory of the present German Democratic Republic and of Berlin, as well as the conduct of the withdrawal of these armed forces which will be completed by the end of 1994, in connection with the implementation of the undertaking of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 3 of the present Treaty.

(2) The Governments of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America take note of this statement.

ARTICLE 5

(1) Until the completion of the withdrawal of the Soviet armed forces from the territory of the present German Democratic Republic and of Berlin in accordance with Article 4 of the present Treaty, only German territorial defence units which are not integrated into the alliance structures to which German armed forces in the rest of German territory are assigned will be stationed in that territory as armed forces of the united Germany. During that period and subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, armed forces of other states will not be stationed in that territory or carry out any other military activity there.

(2) For the duration of the presence of Soviet armed forces in the territory of the present German Democratic Republic and of Berlin, armed forces of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America will, upon German request, remain stationed in Berlin by agreement to this effect between the Government of the united Germany and the Governments of the states concerned. The number of troops and the amount of equipment of all non-German armed forces stationed in Berlin will not be greater than at the time of signature of the present Treaty. New categories of weapons will not be introduced there by non-German armed forces. The Government of the united Germany will conclude with the Governments of those states which have armed forces stationed in Berlin treaties with conditions which are fair taking account of the relations existing with the states concerned.

(3) Following the completion of the withdrawal of the Soviet armed forces from the territory of the present German Democratic Republic and of Berlin, units of German armed forces assigned to military alliance structures in the same way as those in the rest of German territory may also be stationed in that part of Germany, but without nuclear weapon carriers. This does not apply to conventional weapon systems which may have other capabilities in addition to conventional ones but which in that part of Germany are equipped for a conventional role and designated only for such. Foreign armed forces and nuclear weapons or their carriers will not be stationed in that part of Germany or deployed there.

ARTICLE 6

The right of the united Germany to belong to alliances, with all the rights and responsibilities arising therefrom, shall not be affected by the present Treaty.

ARTICLE 7

(1) The French Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America hereby terminate their rights and responsibilities relating to Berlin and to Germany as a whole. As a result, the corresponding, related quadripartite agreements, decisions and practices are terminated and all related Four Power institutions are dissolved.

(2) The united Germany shall have accordingly full sovereignty over its internal and external affairs.

ARTICLE 8

(1) The present Treaty is subject to ratification or acceptance as soon as possible. On the German side it will be ratified by the united Germany. The Treaty will therefore apply to the united Germany.

(2) The instruments of ratification or acceptance shall be deposited with the Government of the united Germany. That Government shall inform the Governments of the other Contracting Parties of the deposit of each instrument of ratification or acceptance.

ARTICLE 9

The present Treaty shall enter into force for the united Germany, the French Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America on the date of deposit of the last instrument of ratification or acceptance by these states.

ARTICLE 10

The original of the present Treaty, of which the English, French, German and Russian texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, which shall transmit certified true copies to the Governments of the other Contracting Parties.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned plenipotentiaries, duly authorized thereto, have signed this Treaty.

DONE at Moscow this twelfth day of September 1990.

For the Federal Republic of Germany

Hans-Dietrich Genscher

For the German Democratic Republic

Lothar de Maizière

For the French Republic

Roland Dumas

For the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Eduard Shevardnadze

For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Douglas Hurd

For the United States of America

James Baker

AGREED MINUTE TO THE TREATY ON THE FINAL SETTLEMENT
WITH RESPECT TO GERMANY OF 12 SEPTEMBER 1990

Any questions with respect to the application of the word "deployed" as used in the last sentence of paragraph 3 of Article 5 will be decided by the Government of the united Germany in a reasonable and responsible way taking into account the security interests of each Contracting Party as set forth in the preamble.

2. The new World Order

A Speech by George H. W. Bush, President of the U.S.A. Given to a joint session of the United States Congress, Washington D.C. on 11 September 1990. (Excerpts)

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Congress, distinguished guests, fellow Americans, thank very much for that warm welcome. We gather tonight, witness to events in the Persian Gulf as significant as they are tragic. In the early morning hours of August 2, following negotiations and promises by Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein not to use force, a powerful Iraqi Army invaded its trusting and much weaker neighbor, Kuwait. Within three days, 120,000 Iraqi troops with 850 tanks had poured into Kuwait and moved south to threaten Saudi Arabia. It was then that I decided to act to check that aggression.

At this moment, our brave servicemen and women stand watch in that distant desert and on distant seas, side by side with the forces of more than 20 other distant nations.

They are some of the finest men and women of the United States of America. And they're doing one terrific job.

These valiant Americans were ready at a moment's notice to leave their spouses and their children, to serve on the front line halfway around the world. They remind us who keeps America strong. They do.

In the trying circumstances of the gulf, the morale of our servicemen and women is excellent. In the face of danger, they are brave, they're well-trained and dedicated.

A soldier, Pfc. Wade Merritt of Knoxville, Tennessee, now stationed in Saudi Arabia, wrote his parents of his worries, his love of family, and his hope for peace. But Wade also wrote: "I am proud of my country and its firm stance against inhumane aggression. I am proud of my Army and its men. . . . I am proud to serve my country."