

Helmut Schmidt profile



■ **Dec 23, 1918:** Born in Hamburg, son of half-Jewish teacher

■ **1939-45:** Sees action in World War II – briefly held as prisoner of war by British forces

■ **1953:** Elected as lawmaker for Social Democratic Party

■ **1969:** Joins **Willy Brandt's** government as defence minister – later serves as finance minister

■ **1974:** Elected Chancellor of West Germany after Brandt resigns. Credited with consolidating country's post-war economic boom, and seeking reconciliation with Soviet-bloc nations of eastern Europe

■ **1982:** Loses power to **Helmut Kohl** after coalition collapses

■ **1983:** Becomes publisher of influential weekly **Die Zeit**

■ **1987:** Retires from politics

■ **Nov 10, 2015:** Dies aged 96