

Jul 17, 1954: *Angela Dorothea Merkel* born in Hamburg, West Germany, daughter of Lutheran pastor. Grows up under communist dictatorship of East Germany

1973-86: Educated at Leipzig University and German Academy of Sciences, Berlin. Former quantum chemist



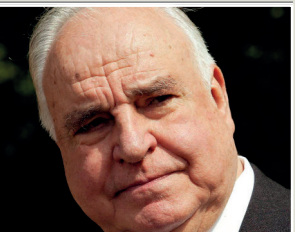
Nov 1989: Fall of Berlin Wall reshapes Europe

Feb 1990: Merkel becomes spokeswoman of East German Democratic Awakening party, which merges with Christian Democratic Union (CDU)

Oct: East and West Germany re-unite

Dec: Merkel elected as CDU member of Bundestag (lower house)

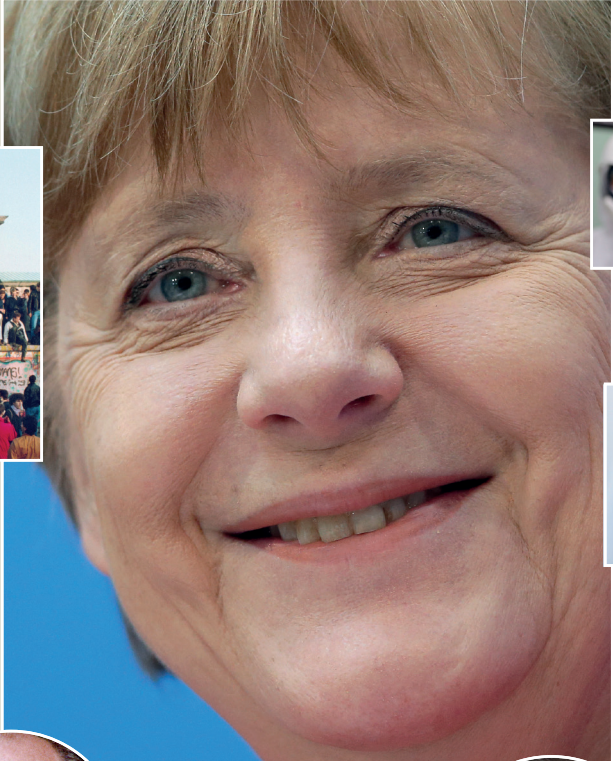
Dec 1991: Soviet President *Mikhail Gorbachev* (right) resigns. Former superpower is replaced by 15 independent countries



1994: Merkel – protégée of Chancellor *Helmut Kohl* (above) – is appointed Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

End of the Merkel era

Angela Merkel has dominated Germany's political landscape ever since she became Chancellor in 2005. September's election will mark the 16th and last year of Merkel's era

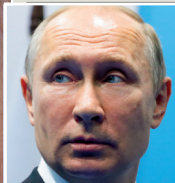


2009: Germany enjoys return to economic growth, ending deepest recession since World War Two. **Merkel is re-elected as Chancellor**

2011: Following Japan's Fukushima nuclear disaster, Merkel announces shutdown of Germany's reactors by 2022



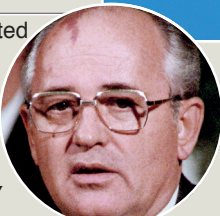
2013: Buoyed by jobless rate falling to 5.2%, Merkel is elected for third time



2014: Russia's President *Vladimir Putin* (left) invades Ukraine

2015: Popularity slides amid refugee crisis – Merkel admits almost 1.5 million asylum-seekers

Jun 2016: Britain's vote to quit 28-member EU is huge blow to pro-European Merkel



1998: Elected Secretary-General of CDU

2000: Arms bribery scandal forces CDU chief *Wolfgang*

Schaeuble (right) to step down. **Merkel becomes party's first female leader**



Nov 22, 2005: Succeeds *Gerhard Schroeder* (right) as Chancellor of Germany.



Merkel inherits Schröder's economic reforms. **In first term, unemployment rate plunges from 11.5% to 7%**

Nov: *Donald Trump* wins U.S. election. Outgoing President *Barack Obama* (below) pleads with Merkel to run

again as chancellor, to counter Trump and right-wing populists in Europe



2017: Merkel elected for fourth time. Unemployment falls to 3.7%, female participation in labour force reaches 70%

2020: Popularity soars during pandemic

Jun 2021: Parliament implements 25% quota of female board members in large companies

2008: Crises start piling up. Global financial crisis – triggered by U.S. housing market meltdown – hits European economies. Germany sees 8.0% fall in exports. **Within a year Greece is almost forced to quit eurozone, causing bitter rifts in EU**



2002: Euro common currency – which is unpopular in Germany – introduced in 12-nation eurozone. **Merkel becomes leader of Opposition**