Germany and the Use of Force

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Mobilising the concept of strategic culture, this study develops a framework for understanding developments in German security policy between 1990 and 2003. Germany’s contemporary security policies are characterised by a peculiar mix of continuity and change. From abstention in the first Gulf war, to early peacekeeping missions in Bosnia in the early 1990s and a full combat role in Kosovo in 1999, the pace of change in German security policy since the end of the Cold War has been breathtaking. The extent of this change has recently, however, been questioned, as seen most vividly in Berlin’s response to ‘9/11’ and its subsequent stalwart opposition to the US-led war on terrorism in Iraq in 2003. Beginning with a consideration of the notion of strategic culture, the study refines and adapts the concept to the case of Germany through a consideration of aspects of the rearmament of West Germany. It then critically evaluates the transformation of the role of the Bundeswehr up to and including the war on terrorism, together with Germany’s troubled efforts to enact defence reforms, as well as the complex politics surrounding the policy of conscription. By focusing on both the ‘domestics’ of security policy decision making as well as the changing and often contradictory expectations of Germany’s allies, this book provides a comprehensive analysis of the role played by Germany’s particular strategic culture in shaping policy choices. It concludes by pointing to the vibrancy of Germany’s strategic culture.

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While Germany may be pressed by its partners to give up its exceptionalism on the use of force, Germany’s domestic social structures slow down or even prevent substantial changes of the German position. According to this argument, within a decade the parameters in Germany concerning the political use of military force have changed dramatically, and these changes were intended from early on. In the wake of the Gulf War, German participation in hostilities would have been unacceptable for the German public, but only eight years later, decision makers could count on broad public support for Germany’s participation in the Kosovo War. The German regime on the use of military force provides an important reference point for legal comparison. In a seminal judgment of 1994, the Constitutional Cou. It illustrates the feasibility of upholding standards of democracy and the rule of law in foreign and military affairs. Keywords: system of collective security, self-defense, anti-terrorist action, parliamentary approval, NATO, deployment. Suggested Citation: Suggested Citation. Peters, Anne, Between Military Deployment and Democracy: Use of Force Under the German Constitution (May 2, 2018). Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law & International Law (MPIL)
He interned in Leipzig, Germany, from 1906 to 1909, then moved to Bergen, New Jersey, where he ran a private medical practice for more than forty years, until 1951. Williams was interested in writing early in his life. Originally, he wrote poetry, and it is for his work in that genre that he is best known today.