The Politics of the New Germany continues to provide the most comprehensive, authoritative and up-to-date textbook on contemporary German Politics. The text takes a new approach to understanding politics in the post-unification Federal Republic. Assuming only elementary knowledge, it focuses on a series of the most important debates and issues in Germany today with the aim of helping students understand both the workings of the country’s key institutions and some of the most important policy challenges facing German politicians.

For this second edition, the content has been comprehensively updated throughout, augmented by additional factboxes and data, and features new material on:

- Grand coalition
- Lisbon treaty
- Constitutional court
- Financial crisis
- Reform of social policy
- Afghanistan.

Written in a straightforward style by three experts, each of the chapters draws on a rich variety of real-world examples. In doing so, it highlights both the challenges and opportunities facing policymakers in such areas as foreign affairs, economic policy, immigration, identity politics and institutional reform. The book also takes a bird’s-eye view of the big debates that have defined German politics over time, regardless of which political parties happened to be in power. It pinpoints three key themes that have characterised German politics over the last sixty years; reconciliation, consensus and transformation.

The book is a comprehensive, yet highly accessible, overview of politics in 21st Century Germany and should be essential reading for students of politics and international relations, as well as of European and German studies.
They reject both the class-centric politics of the Social Democrats, as well as the traditional-value-minded Christian Democrats. That's why the Christian Democrats managed to hold on in rural parts of Bavaria, even as the Social Democrats were wiped out. A similar story has played out in neighboring Baden-Württemberg, where a Green politician, Winfried Kretschmann, has been in charge since 2011. But they have very little new to say about the new difficulties confronting Germany — above all climate change. How should a country that has become an export powerhouse thanks in part to its fast cars position itself in a world being destroyed by the carbon-based economy? Germany’s new role is obviously not only the result of shifts in the balance of power within Europe, but has also been precipitated by the influence of non-EU actors; Russia and the United States have played a major role here. On what are for them important and, at the same time, sensitive issues, they attempt to circumvent the EU and seek contact with its most important actor to accelerate negotiations and pre-structure their outcomes. It will demand a great deal of skill on the part of German politics, and considerable European community spirit on the part of the German population. ⊕. PROF. DR. HERFRIED MÜNKLER is one of Germany’s most renowned political scientists and historians of ideas. He teaches at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Related Content.