



World War 2 Aftermath for Germany



STUDENT DETAILS

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Introduction:

The end of World War 2 marked several assumptions seen as the result of the sheer level of destruction, fear, and hatred across the globe. Following this end, the German nation handled this moment in a linguistic approach by the concept of “Stunde Null” or the “Zero hours”. (World War II) It marked the beginning of new Germany in 1945, a Germany which is free from the Nazi Rule. Several political, rhetorical, or symbolic ideas were put forward by the politicians and idealists to create a better and growth-oriented German nation.

Analysis:

Background: Following the end of the world war Germany was divided into four different zones controlled by four powers, that is United Kingdom, France, United States and Berlin, with the first three zones contributing to form Western Germany, whereas Berlin being the Soviet Union. (Reporting World War II) All the four zones were referred as Allied-occupied Germany and were governed and controlled by the allied forces and representing governments. (Zeiler, and DuBois)

A new beginning: The end of the war also revealed the severe inhuman practices of the Nazis to the outside world; the German nation was put into a difficult situation about its public relations. This spurred the idea of "Stunde Null" or the “Zero hours” that marked 1945 as not only an end of the Nazi rule but the beginning of a new chapter in German History. This approach or thought process was reflected in the actions of the west German leaders who initiated several political, rhetorical, or symbolic steps to mark the beginning of a new Germany. (Ahonen) Diplomats and leaders wanted to offer “barren Nothingness” or a clean

slate where the German leaders can build upon on their ideas. This resulted in a new period of political rhetoric in Germany. (Torrie)

A new culture:During the Nazi reign, Germany was known for its cruel racialism. To consign fascism to the past and make this "zero hours" idea a reality, the western leaders (Europe, US, and France) decided to form a race less Germany. The idea was to leave the racial discrimination and the hard memories of the Nazi Rule behind and stay true to the idea of the new beginning. (Torrie)

The industrial reform by Allies, “The period of dismantling after destruction”:

Following the defeat of Germany, the Allied forces began **Dismantling of the German Industry**, by confiscating all the intellectual properties of the nation. All the patents, trademarks and copyrights were confiscated by the US forces, whereas the UK forces took over the trade secrets and policies of the nation. The allied forces executed a vigorous program that was aimed at harvesting or retrieving the all the technological and scientific achievements of the nation. (Reporting World War II)Practically, the allied forces or the western leaders at that time were aimed over the dissolution of the German nation as a whole. Additionally, laws like **the Ruhr and the Saar** were executed to seize control of the coal and steel resources of the nation.

The positive cycle “Marshal Plan and the end of Dismantling”: The dismantling of the industries deteriorated the economic situation of the German Nation, and as a result, the area was experiencing a rapid increase in the inflation rate. Concerned with this situation of the western controlled "Tri-zone", economic aid was extended to Europe and in turn to Western Germany to counter the inflation. (Raubo)Additionally, a currency reform was executed in Western Germany in the year 1948 to counter the disturbed economic situation halt the rampant inflation in the country. Helped by the financial aid, the country started to experience

growth in its industrial sector eventually resulting in a contradictory state of growth and dismantling restrictions. (Zeiler, and DuBois) Finally, understanding the complications resulted due to this contradictory state, the western leaders (tri-zone leaders) decided to end the dismantling actions.

After effects of the actions: By 1960s, all the above-mentioned actions and reforms in the country started to show effects in the form of growth in the Western German region. The growth was slow but continuous, and the effects were visible regarding improved living standards, reduced poverty, reduced black market, reduction in unemployment and increased production of food and raw materials. In fact, during the mid-50s, the country even started to attract migration of foreign labour due to low unemployment ratios. (Raubo)

Conclusion:

The reasons behind this growth of the country can be aligned to the focus of the western leaders on re-industrialization and growth in the country. All these actions were aligned towards a single goal of removing every possible influence of Nazi reign from the country and its people. From a war-affected country to an area with suburban lifestyle, the growth that West Germany experienced was prosperous.

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