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Germany and the United States: The Transformation of the German Question Since 1945

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military confrontation. If they can achieve their goals by reducing the West's capability and will to resist, they have made one more step towards achieving their goal of world communism.

While this book may lean too far to the political right for some, I highly recommend it for those who want another perspective on East-West relations. Americans have always been a generous, naive people. Maybe it is time we woke up and faced the real world. This book is a step in that direction.

C. A. FLEISCHMAN
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Ninkovich, Frank A. *Germany and the United States: The Transformation of the German Question Since 1945*. Boston, Mass.: Twayne Publishers, 1988. 201pp. \$24.95

This engaging work traces the evolution of modern Germany, stressing the political processes that shaped events and institutions. It is a social, cultural, and diplomatic history. While academically sound, it is highly interpretive and explores the personalities and motives behind the consequences.

Beginning with a solid foundation laid in the ruins of the two World Wars, *Germany and the United States* carefully analyzes the complex relationship that has developed between the two countries. In its examination of the German side of the equation, the book stresses German culture, Germany's tradi-

tional ties with other nations, and its enduring strategic significance.

A detailed account of the occupation after World War II is particularly useful in understanding the motives of the men, both German and American, who shaped our unique bilateral relationship. The legacy of that harsh, abnormal environment is a love-hate relationship that has profoundly affected dealings between the two nations ever since.

Author Frank Ninkovich painstakingly traces the reconstruction process through the forties and fifties. He highlights the forces and mechanisms that laid the groundwork for the modern German system of government. The reader comes away with a clearer appreciation of German domestic and international politics.

One of the book's greatest strengths is its analysis of the obstacles which prevented the reunification of the two Germanies. This balanced account examines the "German Problem" in its broadest context at several milestones on the road to the status quo. It portrays the disparate policy goals, not only of the East and West, but within the Western bloc itself, that doomed reunification plans over the years. Both scholars and statesmen could benefit from this "past as prologue" to the Federal Republic's evolving international policy.

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