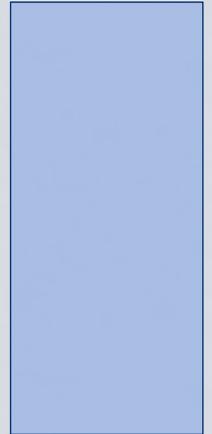


# CONTEMPORARY STATE SYSTEMS

GERMANY



# GERMANY

- Third largest economy in the world
  - behind U.S. and Japan
  - largest in Europe



# SOME KEY FEATURES

- **Population:** 82,5 Million
- **Life expectancy:** 78.54 years
- **Area:** 357,021 sq. km
- **Ethnic background:** German 91,5%, Turkish 2,4%, other 6,1%
- **Religion:** Protestant 34%, Catholic 34%, Muslim 3.7%, unaffiliated or other 28.3%
- **Human Development Index:** 0.925 (16)

# SOME KEY FEATURES

- Remade democracy
- Moderate multiparty system
- Consensus rather than adversarial democracy
- Federal
- Strongly European

# CONSENSUS DEMOCRACY:

- FRG a system with strong, generally effective leaders
- Also a system in which it is difficult for any single actor to assert his or her will
- Coalition government as the norm
- Fact of federalism: (16 provinces or lander)
  - Leander built into the federal political system via the Bundesrat (Federal Council)
  - Enjoy collective veto over all legislation affecting the lander
- Inclusion of organized interests in policy processes
- Both encourage a politics of consultation & quiet negotiation – working it out beforehand

# History

- 1871: Foundation of the German Reich (2nd Reich)
- 1914-1918: World War I
- 1918-1933: Republic of Weimar
- 1933-1945: Nazi Dictatorship and WW II (3rd Reich)
- 1949: Foundation of the FRG (Federal Republic of Germany) and GDR (German Democratic Republic)
- 1990: Reunification

# HISTORICAL LEGACY

- Late development in
  - creation of the nation and state
  - industrialization
  - democratization
  - consolidation of democracy
- Remarkable achievement in
  - postwar economic development
  - postwar democratic consolidation

# BUILD THE NATION STATE

- Second German Empire (1871)
  - industrialization
  - devastated by World War I (1914 - 1918)
- Weimar Republic (1919)
  - first real experience with democracy
  - economic problems
  - war reparations
  - Great Depression (1929)

# DEMOCRACY BROKE DOWN

- Weimar Republic lost popular/elite support
- Nazi won 33% of popular vote in 1932
- institutions of Weimar Republic dismantled



# EAST GERMANY, WEST GERMANY

- Both were formed in 1949
  - Basic Law of FRG (West Germany)
- Both had economic miracle (1950s - 70s)
  - sustained & unprecedented economic growth
  - East Germany still lagged behind
- Both were integrated into alliances
  - West: European Community & NATO
  - East: Warsaw Pact

# REUNIFICATION 1990

- Impact of Soviet politics
  - Gorbachev reforms in 1980s
- GDR opened the Berlin border
  - November 1989
- GDR's first free election
  - March 1990
- Unification of the FRG
  - October 1990



# A FEDERAL SYSTEM

- Federal Republic of Germany
  - federal government (Bund)
  - 16 states (Länder)
- Other federal systems
  - United States
- Unitary systems
  - Great Britain
  - France



# FEDERALISM

- Usually described as a division of power
  - spatial or territorial division
  - component units are geographically defined
  - states (e.g., U.S., India, Australia)
  - provinces (e.g., Canada)
  - Lander (e.g., Germany and Austria)
  - cantons (e.g., Switzerland)
  - regions (e.g., Belgium)

# INSTITUTIONS

- **Bundestag** (Parliament)
- **Bundesrat** (Federal Council)
- **Federal Government**
- **Länder** (States)

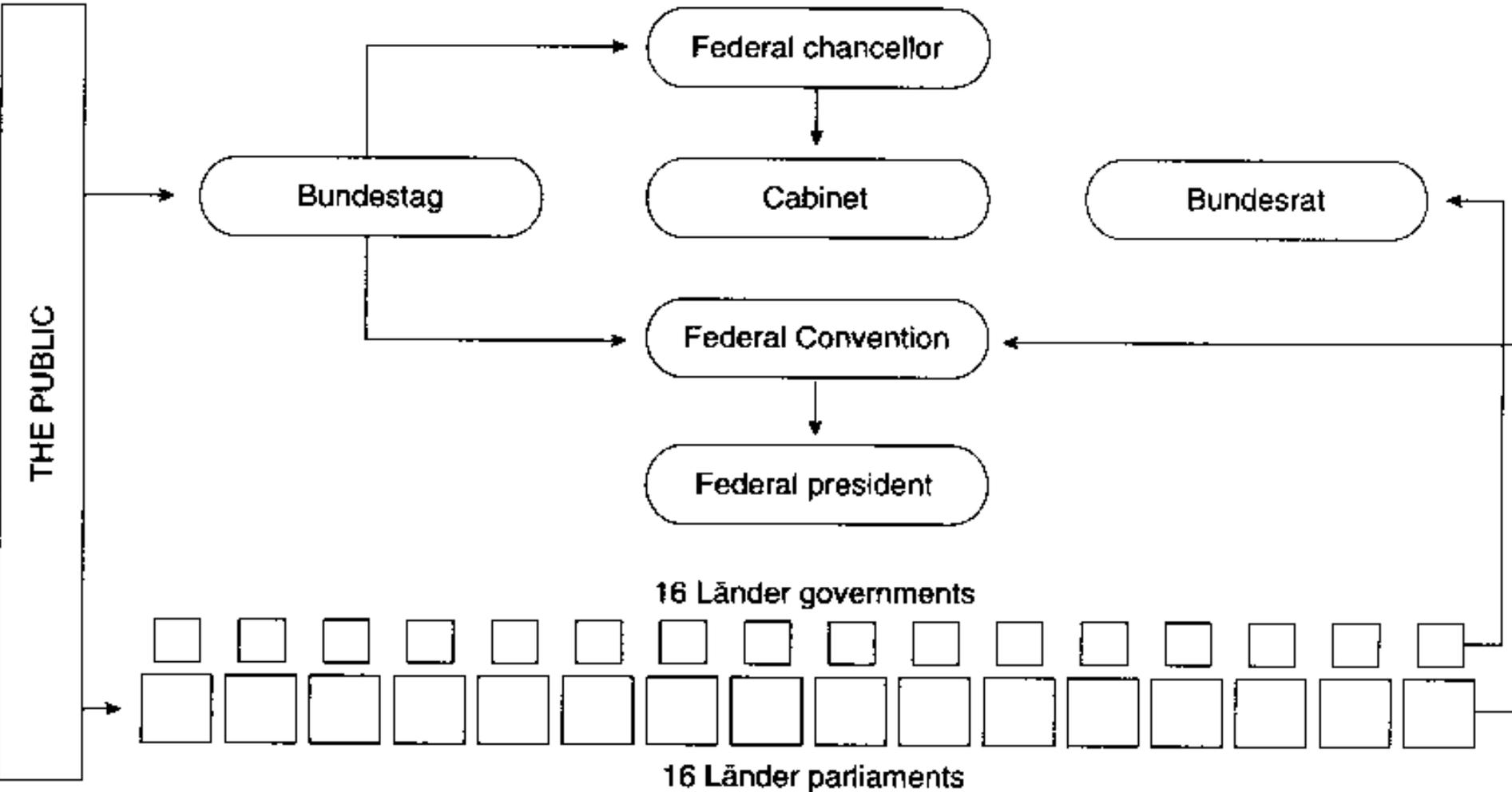
# A FEDERAL SYSTEM

- Federal Republic is divided into 16 states
  - 10 states (Länder) in the West
  - 6 states (Länder) in the East
    - including Berlin
  - differences in historical traditions, social structure, dialect, and economy
  - state jurisdiction in education, culture, law enforcement, and regional planning
  - more governmental overlap than U.S.

# SELF-GOVERNMENT OF THE LÄNDER

- Länder are **not Provinces**
- Responsible for the **administration**
- Right to establish certain **own laws**
- **Subsidiarity principle**

# A FEDERAL SYSTEM



# A PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

- central institution of the federal government
- Bunde = Federation
- bicameral parliament
  - Bundestag (lower house)
  - Bundesrat (upper house)
- Chancellor
  - chief executive
- President (mostly ceremonial role)

# A BICAMERAL PARLIAMENT

- Bundestag
  - primary legislative body
  - 669 deputies
  - directly elected
- Bundesrat
  - represent state governments at the federal level
  - 69 members (3 - 6 per lander)
  - appointed by state government

# EXECUTIVE (CLEARLY DISTINGUISHED)

- The head of government: the federal chancellor (*Bundeskanzler(in)*)



- The head of state: the president (bundepräsident)

# THE PRESIDENT

- The head of the state
- Weaker position than chancellor (like constitutional monarchs in UK)
- Role is more ceremonial than political

# The chancellor

- Elected by a majority of the members of the Bundestag.
- A strong party leader
- Federal Chancellery: A kind of super ministry where chancellor governs.

# LEGISLATURE

- **Bundestag** (Lower House - Parliament)
- **Bundesrat** (Upper House - Federal Council)

# THE BUNDESTAG (PARLIAMENT)

- Bundestag is the **central institution** of the political system with 603 members
- Elected by all Germans for 4 years (two ballot electoral system)
- %5 hurdle
- **Elects** the Federal Chancellor, **passes laws** and **controls** the government
- When the chancellor and the cabinet propose a bill, it is sent to a relevant Bundestag committee.

# THE BUNDESRAT (FEDERAL COUNCIL- upper house)

- **Representation** of the Länder = 69 members from 16 «lander»s (proportional with population).
- Participates on the **legislation**
- It is often used as a **party-political instrument**
- **!!! The bundesrat (upper house) must ratify all legislation passed in the Bundestag (lower house) unless overridden by a two-thirds of vote – This is a significant limit to the power of chancellor.**

# FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Formed by **Ministers and the Chancellor**
- Chancellor determines „**policy guidelines**“
- Normally formed by a **coalition**
- **Accountability** to the Bundestag

# POLITICAL PARTIES

- "The parties shall help to form the political will of the people" (Article 21 of the Constitution)
- 5% of the votes are needed to be part of the Bundestag

# POLITICAL PARTIES

- SPD: SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
- CDU: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (CONSERVATIVES)
- CSU: BAVARIAN CONSERVATIVES
- ALLIANCE 90 / GREENS: ECOLOGISTS
- FDP: LIBERALS
- PDS: SOCIALISTS