

The manifesto of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU)

Source: Konrad Adenauer - Staatsmann des freien Deutschlands- Sankt Augustin: ACDP [Prod.], 1987. ACDP, Sankt Augustin. - FILM (00:02:18, Fotomontage, Originalton).
Archiv für Christlich-Demokratische Politik der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Sankt Augustin, Rathausallee 12, D-53757 Sankt Augustin.

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URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/the_manifesto_of_the_christian_democratic_union_cdu-en-16258785-b822-4efd-9a76-28196d9202e3.html



Last updated: 05/07/2016

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[Commentary] In Goslar, where the CDU held its first Federal Party Congress, Konrad Adenauer called on his party to make a fresh start.

[Konrad Adenauer] Once again, Germany has a responsibility. It intends to put all its efforts into shaping Europe, into securing peace. This is the greatest task that can ever be assigned to a nation. We shall seek to achieve it. Our aim was to establish a large people's party, a people's party that anyone could join, irrespective of religious belief or occupation.

[Hermann Kunst] He had no desire whatsoever to see a revival of the Centre Party. The conservative evangelist forces had no political orientation, and Konrad Adenauer directed his efforts towards them. There was a good reason for this. Since the past century, there has been a very socially-orientated faction in the Catholic Church. Adenauer's 1947 manifesto essentially also had its origins in this faction. Konrad Adenauer wanted to find a counterbalance to it and believed that he had found it in the former conservative factions of the Evangelist Church.

[Commentary] The former National Socialists, most of whom were just supporters, presented a different kind of problem. There was grave danger that society would remain permanently divided. What was to be done with the Nazis and their supporters?

[Johann B. Gradl] They lived in our country and there were a lot of them. They could not simply be pushed aside; attempts had to be made to gain their confidence and win them over in order to ensure, at the very least, that they did not cause any trouble but that they support the development processes that had already been got under way or were still to be set in motion. He was therefore in favour of integration, and that was actually what all reasonable people wanted at that time.