

# Germany,

*the peace battle winner*

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It is apparent that the human resource with its entire assets of knowledge, skills, abilities and unique discipline mechanism remained intact.

All of a sudden, the German enormous achievements that had been developed before for war time within the fields of chemistry, physics, engineering, logistics, communication, industry, aeronautics, pharmacy and medicine, were then made available as an undrainable resource at the disposal of peace and life as the new battle. Even the remarkable innovations Germany achieved within the missile and space domain before the end of the war that could not pursue after that, were made available as a revolutionary technology for the East and West to make use of.

Germany has now assumed its role as a main player of a leading economic and financial impact, not only within the EC, but also globally.

In fact within this framework, Germany has been able to achieve yet another miracle, the rebuilding of the Eastern part of Germany. Within the past 3-4 years the Eastern part has become an ideal case study of development. What West Germany achieved in forty years, unified Germany has emulated in this very short period of time. It is estimated that the growth rate of the standard of life in the Eastern part is almost higher now than in the West.

According to German reports, some 14,000 businesses and 16,000 properties have been sold to German and foreign buyers for a total of more than DM 40 billion. About 30,000 hectares (74,100 acres) of arable land were also sold, and 1 million hectares (2,470,000 acres) were let at lease. A total of 1.5 million jobs and investments totalling a good DM 180 billion have been pledged contractually. The beginning of 1994 also saw the securing of the biggest individual investment, the building of a modern oil refinery worth DM 4.3 billion - which is the first such project in Europe on the whole for 20 years.

The new small to medium-sized entrepreneurs naturally have little capital of their own at first. But in the context of the "solidarity pact" between the Federal government and the leading economic and social forces, western German banks approved generous credits. Up to the beginning of 1994, the State "Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau" (Reconstruction Loan Corporation) alone had made available a total of DM 30 billion in credits for about 60,000 investments of above all small to medium-sized enterprises.

The strong demand for labour in eastern side of Germany is partly also caused by the fact that more than 400,000 Eastern German commuters work in western side of German "border" areas. A total of 50,000 Eastern German youths have also taken up apprenticeships in western side of Germany. On the other hand, more than 100,000 people have moved from West to East.

But life is not just economics and politics. Culture is probably the most enduring element in a country's life. This is what the Federal Republic of Germany realised in the past, giving great importance to cultural relations.

In fact external cultural relations were regarded as "the third pillar of foreign policy", earmarking for it in 1992, for instance, DM 1.2 billion, a figure which was higher than the USA, Britain and France have spent.

Recent statistics show that there are 17 millions learning the German language all over the world, out of whom 11 millions live in Central and Eastern Europe. There is what one might call "German Euphoria" in this part of Europe. I would add, not only in Central and Eastern Europe but also in the Third World, including, of course, Egypt.

One cannot but realize that, Germany that was defeated in war battle 50 years ago, has been a continuous peace battle winner since then.

If the world was shaken by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern, Communist bloc, it was no less shaken by the reunification of Germany. One cannot overlook that both events had opposite directions whether in the action or the consequences. Certain people consider both events to be linked since the division of Germany reflected the last forty year confrontation between East and West. There is no doubt that German reunification has altered 50 years long established world perceptions. Germany now has increased in size and has acquired an unrestrictedly sovereign status. While the Federal Republic of Germany was considered, in the words of analysts, an economic giant, unified Germany is now most qualified to play a leading role in the international community.

Speculations never stopped about the German miracle and the comprehensive reconstruction of Germany after the total incredible destruction of the war. Documentary films are still bringing to us scenes of the complete destruction of Germany in 1946. Wherever you look, there was nothing, but ruins, debris and piles of stones and bricks.

In no time Germany was able to start the most outstanding reconstruction process known in modern history. It was not only a physical rebuilding of destroyed cities and towns, but to a great extent an economic, social and mental rehabilitation. The Germans were there with a full persistence and dedication prepared for the new battle of peace, reconstruction and life.

It seemed that the total ruin and destruction that prevailed over assets and materials did very much less affect the German determination.