

Deutsch 302 • Wintersemester 2014
Sitzung Nr. 11 • 11.02. • Tagesordnung • assignment & deadlines

Vorige Sitzung: Vokabeln

to experience: erfahren expresses objective and perhaps not deep encounters / events; erleben expresses major, often emotional encounters that can affect one's outlook on life; erleiden is limited to medical situations (experience pain, etc.)

experience (noun): Erfahrung refers to skills or to relatively superficial events; Erlebnis means a major event in one's life

kick (a goal) - schießen	kick (a person) - treten (mit dem Fuß / den Füßen)	stumble - stolpern
hinken - limp	hüpfen - hop	springen - jump
verrenken - sprain	Das ist gehüpft oder gesprungen - six of one, half a dozen of the other	rutschen - slip
ausrutschen - slip and fall	sneak - schleichen	gleiten - glide
gorge (geog) - Schlucht	valley - Tal	

Unterlagen u. Grafiken [Zahlen in () beziehen sich auf meine Datenbanksammlung]

Kursbeschreibung

7 Todsünden

Materialien zum Thema Amtsprache, Bürokratie, usw.

Schlüsselwort/begriff des Tages / der Woche

Bürokratie, Ämter, Formulare

Formular- form (document)	Unterlage - supporting document	Auskunft - information
Blockschrift - print (not cursive)	Feld - field, blank	Teil - part
eingeben - enter (data)	ausfüllen - fill out	hinschreiben - write down
achten auf - pay attention to	beantworten - answer (takes direct object, like "Frage")	ausführlich - completely, in detail
nicht zutreffend - not applicable, NA	betr (betrifft) - re	Seite - page
Blatt - piece of paper, sheet	Rand - margin	unterschreiben - sign
Unterschrift - signature	bestätigen - confirm, affirm, testify	in/mit/unter Bezug auf - with regard/ reference to
Vorlage - submitted document; model document	einreichen - submit, turn in	sich beschweren - complain

annehmen - accept	ablehnen - deny, refuse, reject	Beschwerde - complaint
Anlage (Ö: Beilage) - attached document (printed)	Anhang - attachment (electronic)	angehängt - attached

Schwerpunkte (Zeichenerklärung)

- SmallTalk: Nach Wunsch, aber hoffentlich mit unseren Themen verbunden. Heute: Es hat gescheit!
- Weiter über Geldsachen u. Erfolg im Leben/Beruf: 1) Unsere Begriffe vom "Erfolg"; 2) Beispiel Vico Torriani: **sound file; text**
- wieder Hanna und ihre Erfahrung, damit wir die Zahlen richtig verstehen: **Beispiel Hanna** <<http://www.bafoeg.bmbf.de/de/190.php>>
- Zur Ablenkung: Sieben Todsünden
- Arbeitslosigkeit - unsere Erfahrungen
- Arbeitslosigkeit - "Unzumutbarkeit" — *Donnerstag*
- SpeakEasy-Sachen: Geldsachen (Papier usw; später: Geld/Kontoverwaltung); unsere neueste Papierlieferung - falsch!; neue Kartenarten; Google-Doc Datei ("Mutter" / "Happy Mother's Day") - die Grußtexte und ihre Probleme / Feiertage und ihre Probleme)
- Weiter über Wohnverhältnisse (a): Mieterrechte - **Diese Rechte des Mieters sollten Vermieter kennen** •
- Weiter über Wohnverhältnisse (b): **eine Hörverständnisübung: Wohnen mit Kindern**
- Weiter über Wohnverhältnisse (c): unsere Erfahrungen (Erlebnisse!?) mit Mitbewohnern
- Wrap up: assignments for the week and preparation for next meeting - see below

*Beiblatt: { 1) Merkel / Mutter
2) Angst u. Wirtschaft/beld
3) Fachsprache: Dear, thanks, send, sincerely, good-bye*

Aufgabe(n) (assignment & deadlines)

- Due Tuesday, 4 February: **Schulung und frühe Arbeitserfahrung: Was getan, was gelernt?**
- Due Tuesday, 11 January: **Transcribe and translate a broadcast segment about improving training of women in technical occupations**

Vorbereitung auf die nächste(n) Stunde(n)

- Explore issues of bureaucracy, practical law, dealing with personal problems by ••

Vorschau auf die nächste(n) Aufgabe(n) und Sitzung(en)

- Reading (English) about educational standards, with a reflection in English about your own education in specific subject areas.
- Reading about bureaucracy, loans, renting.

From: Mint-DaF 2014 / Erwin Tschirner <mint-daf@uni-leipzig.de>
Subject: **Re: Expertenworkshop 24-6. Juli Leipzig**
Date: February 10, 2014 12:55:13 AM PST
To: "Fischer William B." <fischerw@pdx.edu>
▶ 1 Attachment, 1.4 KB

Sehr geehrter Herr Fischer,

vielen Dank für Ihre positive Rückmeldung. Wir freuen uns sehr über Ihre Teilnahme und werden Ihnen zeitnah weitere Informationen zu unserem Workshop zukommen lassen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

i.A.
Jupp Möhring
Tagungscoordination

Am 10.02.2014 09:20, schrieb Fischer William B.:

Sehr geehrte Kolleginnen und Kollegen,

Ich danke Ihnen für Ihre Einladung und möchte ganz gerne am Expertenworkshop MINT/DaF teilnehmen. Ich bitte um Entschuldigung wegen der Verschiebung meiner Rückmeldung - das hängt mit anderen Reiseplänen zusammen, die ich erst vor einigen Tagen erledigt habe.

Ich hoffe, meine Bewerbung kann immer noch berücksichtigt werden und freue mich im voraus auf die evtl. Zusammenarbeit.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Bill Fischer



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CATCH

18. **Einschnappen:** of locks, bolts, etc., to fall into place with a click or snap. Another sense of *ingeschnappt*: sullenly resentful (colloquial).

Er ist furchtbar eingeschnappt, daß er übergangen wurde.

19. Catch and make one's own, in reference to someone else's habits, style, mannerisms, etc. This sense can often be rendered by verbs with the prefix *ab* (*ablernen, abgucken, abhören, ablauschen*).

Er hat diesen Ton abgelauscht (caught from).

CAUSE (s), REASON, OCCASION (s)

1. Cause, as defined by *W.*, is: a person, thing, fact or condition that brings about an effect or that produces or calls forth a resultant action or state. In German this is **Ursache**. *W.S.* says that 'Reason is interchangeable with cause only as meaning specifically a traceable or explainable cause; it always implies therefore, as cause does not necessarily, that the effect is known or has actually been brought about.'

The interchange of **Ursache** and **Grund** appears also in German in this way, but the limits of the interchange are strict. In this sense it is often preceded by *gut*.

Sie versuchen die Ursache des Unfalls festzustellen.

Fahrlässigkeit ist oft die Ursache von Bränden.

Ursache und Wirkung.

Die Ursache ihrer Migräne bleibt unbekannt.

Was war die Ursache (besser than Grund) für den Ausbruch dieser Epidemie?

Es gab einen guten Grund (eine Ursache) für Mark Twains Pessimismus, einen Grund für seine Verdrießlichkeit. . .

Seine Verbitterung war die Folge eines Erlahmens seiner Schaffenskraft, einer gehemmten Persönlichkeit. . . (W.S.).

Seine Gründe angeben (to show cause).

2. In ordinary speech, when cause implies responsibility or guilt, it is more usual in German to say **verantwortlich, schuld sein an** than **Ursache**.

Er ist für meinen Mißerfolg, Untergang, verantwortlich. (an meinem M., U., schuld).

3. (a) In the sense of 'a principle or movement supported militantly or zealously: a belief advocated or upheld' (*W.*). German uses **Sache** which originally meant a law-suit.

Unsere Sache ist eine gerechte.

Die Sache der Aufständischen.

Er diente der Sache der Wahrheit mit weniger Ergebenheit als der Sache der Partei (W.).

(b) If the cause in this sense is not stated, German uses **gute Sache**.

Er ist bereit, für die gute Sache zu sterben.

Der guten Sache hat er alles geopfert.

4. According to *W.S.* 'Occasion applies to any person, place, or event which provides a situation that, either directly or indirectly, serves to set in motion causes already existing or to translate them into acts: German **Anlaß**.

Die Ursache eines Krieges ist oft eine tief eingewurzelte Feindschaft zwischen zwei Völkern, während der Anlaß für den Krieg manchmal ein unbedeutender Vorfall sein kann.

CHANGE

CEILING In the sense of the lining or inside overhead covering of a room (*A.L.*) the term most generally used is **Decke** (which can also mean a covering of various kinds, e.g. *Bettdecke, Tischdecke*). In Austria the French word is used, i.e. **Plafond**.

CHANGE, EXCHANGE, ALTER, TRANSFORM Only *umändern* and *wandeln* and its compounds can normally be followed by *in* (to change into, turn into).

1. **Ändern** is the most general term. It must be used in the sense of 'to change a part' of a whole, 'to make a small change', i.e. 'to alter', and is frequently used in the sense of 'to change a whole', 'to make radical changes'. It is the most usual term in reference to a deliberate or a sudden change, but can also, chiefly in reflexive use, be applied to unconscious changes of nature, particularly in so far as they are sudden (see *verändern*). It is used of external acts, inner movements of feeling and thought, changes of external nature.

Ändern Sie dieses Wort in Ihrem Aufsatz.

Die Tatsache ist nicht mehr zu ändern.

Sie hat ihr Kleid geändert (either made alterations to details or changed it as a whole).

Sie haben ihre Pläne, die Gesetze, ihre Meinungen geändert.

Er hat sich in letzter Zeit geändert (in his conscious self, i.e. his views, conduct, rather than in physical appearance).

Der Volkscharakter hat sich geändert.

Das Wetter hat sich geändert.

2. **Verändern** is mostly used to denote the result of an unconscious process of change in human or external nature. In this sense it occurs mainly as a reflexive or in the passive voice. Used otherwise, it mostly means 'to change' more or less involuntarily something about one's person. It is also, though less frequently, used in reference to the changing of things external to the self, particularly something broad, e.g. the appearance of a whole town. *Sich ändern* = change character or attitude; *sich verändern*: in appearance.

Er sieht verändert aus.

Als ich nach 20 Jahren zurückkehrte, fand ich die Stadt vollkommen verändert.

Der Nationalcharakter hat sich in den letzten 100 Jahren langsam verändert.

Nach dem Krieg haben sich die Machtverhältnisse in Europa stark verändert.

Er verändert den Ton, die Stellung, den Gesichtsausdruck.

Sie haben ihre Wohnung von Grund auf verändert.

Umstände verändern die Sache.

'... den Fluß der Zeit, welcher vieles, . . . fortwährend verändert' (Th. Mann, Dr. Faustus).

3. **Abändern:** to modify certain parts of a thing, often with reference to the text of a document (not isolated words), and to a system.

Wir müssen die Bestimmungen abändern.

Das Prüfungssystem ist abgeändert worden.

Der Plan muß abgeändert werden.

4. **Umändern:** to rearrange the parts so that something new is formed. It may be followed by *in*.

Er hat das Haus in eine kleine Fabrik umgeändert.

CHANGE

5. **Wechseln**: to give, substitute one thing for another of the same kind, whether tangible or intangible, and for the same purpose, often discarding the old. It can translate 'exchange' in a few cases. It is used particularly of money and means 'to substitute' the same value in smaller coins, but not, in correct use, in another currency.

Ich habe mein Geld gewechselt.

Ich muß meine Kleider wechseln.

Er wechselte die Pferde.

Er wechselte sein Zimmer.

Er wechselte seine Pläne.

Er wechselte seine Ansichten.

Er wechselte den Text des Liedes.

Er wechselte seine Diät.

Sie wechselten Blicke.

Sie wechselten Plätze, die Ringe, Briefe.

6. **Tauschen**: to exchange one thing for another, which need not be of the same kind or for the same purpose. It therefore translates 'barter' in a commercial sense. While *wechseln* involves two things but not necessarily two persons, *tauschen* emphasizes the latter and the equality of the exchange. It is used where intimate feelings are implied. The sense of discarding the old is excluded. It is impossible, therefore, with a word such as *Ansichten*.

Sie tauschten Münzen.

Er tauschte ein Pferd gegen drei Schweine.

Sie tauschten die Pferde.

Ich muß meine Kleider tauschen.

Sie tauschten ihre Rollen.

Sie tauschten Plätze (exchanged, whereas *wechselten* could mean simply that they went to other seats, not necessarily an interchange).

Sie tauschten Blicke, Küsse (*wechseln* impossible with *Küsse*), *die Ringe*.

7. **Austauschen** emphasizes the equality of the exchange, a mutual give and take. It is therefore the correct term in reference to free association such as social or diplomatic intercourse. The object may be persons, things or ideas.

Die beiden Länder haben ihre Minderheiten ausgetauscht.

Die Universitäten tauschen Professoren aus.

Sie tauschten Briefmarken aus (more on a friendly than on a strictly commercial basis).

Sie saßen stundenlang da und tauschten Erfahrungen, Ansichten aus.

8. **Auswechseln** means (a) in technical things, to take out an old and put in a new part; (b) to change people from one sphere to another. It is not a dignified term, and so cannot be used in reference to ideas.

Der Fahrer wechselte den Reifen aus.

Die Gefangenen wurden ausgewechselt.

9. **Umtauschen**: to return goods one has bought to the seller and receive others of the same kind, the original purchase not being what is desired; and more generally, to exchange a thing for another thing one wants more.

Ich muß das Buch, die Schuhe, mein Geld, umtauschen.

Ich habe mein altes Radio gegen ein neues umgetauscht.

CHARM

10. **Eintauschen**: to trade in one thing for another, which can but need not be of the same kind. (*Der Bauer hat seine Pferde gegen einen Traktor eingetauscht*.) **Einwechseln**: to change money of one currency for that of another. (*Belgische Franken in englische Pfunde einwechseln*.)

11. **Wandeln**,¹ mostly reflexive, denotes an inner change of nature, a transformation (compare *verändern*). It can be followed by *in*. In itself it does not indicate the extent of the change.

In den letzten 10 Jahren hat sich sehr viel gewandelt.

Seine Anschauungen haben sich gewandelt.

Seine Liebe hat sich in Haß gewandelt.

12. **Verwandeln**² indicates a complete and, generally, a quick change (not necessarily a change of nature). It can therefore suggest magic, or, in reference to the real world, that the result is unrecognizable. It can be followed by *in*.

Der Krieg hat die Landschaft in eine Wüste verwandelt.

Ich erkenne ihn nicht mehr, er ist wie verwandelt.

Sie wurde in eine Hexe verwandelt.

Seine schauspielerische Begabung ist so groß, daß er sich in fast jeden Menschentyp verwandeln kann.

13. **Umwandeln**,³ to transform one thing into another. It is used only of things of considerable size, and almost exclusively of deliberate actions (i.e. not of changes of nature). It is followed by *in*.

Ich habe den Blumenarten in einen Gemüsegarten umgewandelt.

Das Haus wurde in eine kleine Fabrik umgewandelt (stresses the completeness of the change, while *umändern* suggests a rearrangement of parts).

CHARM, APPEAL 1. In the sense of a spell which radiates from a person and produces a harmonious and soothing effect, the only German equivalent is **Scharm**. When a thing produces charm of this kind, **Zauber** may be used. **Reiz** suggests a strong stimulation of the senses, accompanied not by a feeling of harmony, but by desire. It corresponds more closely to 'appeal',⁴ and to 'attraction'.⁵

Er, sie, hat Scharm.

Die Musik, die Landschaft, übt einen sanften Zauber auf mich aus.

Sie hat einen unwiderstehlichen Reiz für ihn.

2. The verb *reizen* means 'to appeal to', 'to attract' or 'to tempt' by rousing desire, rather than 'to charm'.⁵ To charm painful feelings: *lindern*

¹ The noun *Wandel* refers to change as a general phenomenon of life. (*Überall sieht man Wandel. In den letzten Jahren ist ein grundlegender Wandel im politischen Leben der Völker eingetreten.*)

² *Vertauschen* and *verwechseln* mean 'to mistake for', 'to confuse' one thing with another. *Vertauschen* is actually 'to take the wrong' thing (e.g. *sie haben ihre Hüte vertauscht*), *verwechseln* 'to confuse mentally' (e.g. *ich habe die beiden Brüder verwechselt; ich verwechselte die beiden Geldsorten*).

³ To change, turn one thing into another in reference to small things: *machen aus* (e.g. *aus den Fleischresten machte ich eine Pastete*). 'Turn into', with reference to big things, also must be translated in the same way as 'change into'.

⁴ *Anmut* and *anmutig* refer to 'grace' of form or manner, particularly in reference to movement. Thus *ein anmutiges Gedicht* suggests its formal qualities as harmonious movement. *Ein anmutiges Bild* is one which reveals this quality in its lines.

⁵ *Reizen* also means 'to provoke', 'to irritate' (see 'angry'), particularly with a personal subject. *Sie reizt ihn ständig*.

of one's hold on the object, and cannot be used in contexts which emphasize the latter.

Sie ergriff den Eimer, um das Feuer zu löschen.

Er ergriff das Gewehr und schoß auf den Feind.

Er ergriff die Feder und unterzeichnete das Todesurteil.

Er ergriff meine Hand und dankte mir.

Die Polizei ergriff den Dieb.

2. **Greifen** with a direct object is only used in a few fixed phrases. *Die Polizei hat ihn gefriffen.*

3. **Fassen**: to seize, grasp firmly and retain one's hold.¹ It thus approximates more closely to 'catch' than does *ergreifen*.

Fassen Sie das Seil (e.g. said to a drowning person).

Er faßte das Fensterbrett und zog sich hinauf.

4. **Packen** suggests not only greater violence and effort in the act of seizing, but a firmer grip in retaining one's hold.² It is particularly appropriate where a struggle is implied.

Er packte den Ertrinkenden am Arm.

Er packte ihn bei der Kehle und schüttelte ihn tüchtig.

5. When 'seize' is followed by 'from' (i.e. snatch from), **entreißen** is used, with both small and big things.

Er hat mir das Messer entrisen.

Er entriß seinem Bruder den Thron.

6. **Sich bemächtigen**: to secure control of, power over, a person or thing by effort or violence.

Der Feind hat sich sofort aller Flottenstützpunkte bemächtigt.³

Die revolutionäre Partei hat sich des Staatsapparates bemächtigt.

7. **Beschlagnahmen** must be used in the sense of 'confiscate'.

Die Polizei hat seinen Briefwechsel, die gestohlenen Waren, beschlagnahmt.

8. Special senses of 'seize' must be translated by specific terms, e.g. *erbeuten*, to steal as booty.

Die Diebe haben große Mengen von Kleidern erbeutet.

B. Figurative uses.

1. **Ergreifen**.

(a) The idea of stretching out one's hand and grasping what one wants appears in such phrases as: *die Gelegenheit, die Initiative, ergreifen*.

(b) To grip suddenly and violently, with a strong or impulsive feeling as subject.^{4,5}

Die Sehnsucht ergriff ihn, seine Heimat noch einmal zu sehen.

Die Furcht ergriff ihn, daß er die Gelegenheit schon versäumt habe.

¹ *Anfassen* means no more than 'to touch'. *Fassen Sie den Ofen nicht an. Den Hund können Sie ruhig anfassen.*

² *Anpacken* is only used figuratively. *Er hat die Sache richtig angepackt* (tackled).

³ *Besetzen*, 'to occupy', is more common with reference to military or any other armed occupation, but does not in itself suggest force.

⁴ *Ergreifen* with a personal object also means 'to move', i.e. emotionally. See 'move'.

⁵ With weaker feelings *ergreifen* is inappropriate. *Der Wunsch, das Verlangen, überkam ihn.*

2. **Packen** is used of sudden, paralysing feelings such as terror, and of thoughts which suddenly and forcibly take possession of one.¹

Eine plötzliche Angst hat ihn gepackt.

Der Gedanke packte ihn, daß sein Leben in Gefahr sei.

3. **Erfassen**: to comprehend, to lay hold of a matter.

Er hat den wesentlichen Unterschied sofort erfaßt (grasped).

SELF-CONSCIOUS, SELF-ASSURED 'Self-conscious' must be translated by such terms as **befangen** (embarrassed), **sich genieren** (to feel awkward). **Selbstbewußt** only means 'self-assured'.

Er fühlt sich befangen, wenn er Fremde empfangen muß.

Er geniert sich zu fragen.

Er trat sehr selbstbewußt auf.

SELFISH *Selbstsüchtig* and *selbstisch*, which can also mean 'self-centred', 'absorbed with self', are little used in conversation, the common terms being *egoistisch* and *an sich selbst denken*.

Seien Sie nicht immer so egoistisch.

Er denkt immer nur an sich selbst.

SEND 1. **Senden** is a more dignified term than the more common **schicken**² and refers to the sending of persons and things of importance, particularly on a mission. *Schicken* is an almost exclusively human term, while *senden* is also applied to the world of nature (e.g. *die Sonne sendet ihre Strahlen zur Erde*) and to such utilizations of the forces of nature as radio, electricity, telegraph. Only *schicken* means 'to send away' in the sense of 'to get rid of'.³

Er wurde als Botschafter nach Paris gesandt.

Schicken Sie den Brief per Luftpost.

Ich habe ein Telegramm an ihn geschickt.

Schicken Sie die Kinder weg, sie machen zu viel Lärm.

Wir senden Ihnen einen Katalog der in diesem Jahr erschienenen Bücher.

2. **Abschicken** should be used when it is a question of whether a thing has been sent or not.

Ich habe den Brief schon abgeschickt.

3. **Zuschicken**, followed by the dative, suggests more definitely a personal interest in the receiver than *schicken*, often a good turn. It is, however, never obligatory.

Ich kann Ihnen das Buch zuschicken lassen.

4. **Verschicken** and **versenden** are commercial terms and are used particularly in reference to bulk. *Verschicken* is also used of sending people away, particularly for reasons of health.⁴

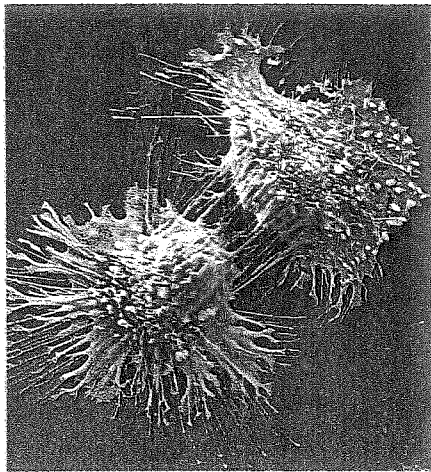
Der Verlag schrieb mir, daß die Bücher baldigst versandt würden.

¹ *Packen* also means 'to grip' one's interest. *Das Stück hat mich sehr gepackt.*

² *Schicken* is the factitive verb to (*ge*)*sehen* and originally meant 'to make happen', then 'to arrange, to dispose one's affairs'.

³ Neither *schicken* nor *senden* corresponds to 'send' used figuratively. I sent him word = *ich ließ ihm sagen*. To send regards = *grüßen lassen*.

⁴ *Verschicken* can also mean to deport undesirable subjects.



Divided they stand

gut, liver, breast and the endometrial lining of the womb constantly proliferate, multiplying the opportunities for mutation. Cancer of the heart, whose muscle cells last undivided for their owner's lifetime, is all but unknown.

As to the causes, smoking aside, the remedies that circulate in the popular imagination seem almost irrelevant. Eat your vegetables or don't; there is little evidence it makes a huge difference. Worry about radiation if you must, but even the accident at Chernobyl pushed the local death rate (from all causes) up by only 1%. Ditto chemical pollution. In the Love Canal scandal in upstate New York a school built in the 1950s on the site of an old chemical tip was expected to increase the risk of cancer. It did not. As to mobile-phone use or living near electricity transmission lines—well, just grow up. If you really want to avoid cancer, don't smoke (30% of cancers are caused by smoking), and don't be fat and lazy (obesity and inactivity account for a further 20%). A mixed and balanced diet helps (10-25% of cancers can be attributed to poor diet), but faddily eating lots of this or none of that will not. Alcohol accounts for a further 4% of cancers, so not drinking helps a bit as well.

Clifton Leaf, a business journalist, takes a different tack from Mr Johnson. His interest is personal, too. He had Hodgkin's lymphoma as a teenager. But his book is less a description of the disease, and more a rant against the huge cancer-research apparatus, both public and private, that has grown up in America in the wake of the National Cancer Act. This spends \$16 billion a year but has still, in his view, failed to make much of a dent in the problem.

Mr Leaf's main point is that although the standardised death rate for cancer in America (ie, adjusted for changes over time in the size and age of the population) has indeed fallen, the total number of cancer deaths in the country has risen by 74% since 1970. That difference is explained by a growing and ageing population, but it still

stands in contrast to the figure for deaths from heart disease, which has fallen by 19% in the same time in the same population.

Mr Leaf is critical of what he sees as a piecemeal effort that has been captured, because of flaws in the original legislation, by individual researchers pursuing individual agendas rather than being the goal-directed, co-ordinated project, similar to the moon-shot, that many had in mind back in the 1970s. At the same time, though, those agendas have become more and more conservative in order to appeal to the risk-averse committees who dole out the dollars. Radical thinking and serendipity have thus been squeezed out.

These are both fair criticisms, though possibly incompatible ones; a goal-directed, moon-shot operation requires strong central direction and is the opposite of "letting 1,000 flowers bloom". At different points in the book he recommends both approaches. Fair too is his other criticism that research is directed too much towards cure and not enough towards prevention. But in the end, the prescriptions do not quite match the problem. Nowhere in Mr Leaf's final-chapter list of seven things to do to deal with cancer is the advice: stop smoking; stop eating too much; and get off your backside and do some exercise. ■

German economic history

Where the angst comes from

The Downfall of Money: Germany's Hyperinflation and the Destruction of the Middle Class. By Frederick Taylor. Bloomsbury; 416 pages; \$30 and £25

GERMANS are terrified of inflation. German politicians (and their colleagues in the euro zone) understand this, though mostly they ignore it as they try and steer their way out of the euro crisis. By the end of "The Downfall of Money" it is clear why these fears are so deeply embedded. At the root of the trauma lie the events of 1923, when the German currency plummeted from 7,500 Reichsmarks to the dollar to a rate of 2.5 trillion.

This is not just a story of financial mismanagement. The dice were loaded against Germany as soon as it became clear, late in 1918, that it would lose the first world war. As often happens, the winners wrote the history and set the terms for peace. The Treaty of Versailles, signed in 1919 but not finalised until 1921, was designed by the allies to suck dry what was left of Germany. Worse still, France entered and occupied Germany's industrial heartland, the Ruhr and the Rhine, in January 1923, making it even harder for Germany to

keep up its reparation payments.

Add to that a weak central government, threatened daily by extremists on the left and right, and it is remarkable that the world's second-biggest economy didn't disintegrate. Frederick Taylor, who has written several books on this era, is careful to blame no one—except perhaps the French. He is quick to offer parallels with the recent financial crisis, when many governments turned to quantitative easing (buying assets with newly created money) to avoid recession or even depression. And his book has suggestions about where the world may be heading if it is not careful.

Living in hyperinflationary Germany was very hard, unless you had a good supply of dollars. For civil servants, whose salaries never kept up, and savers, whose holdings shrank to nothing, it was a slide into poverty and worse. Manual labourers were better rewarded than white-collar workers. Landlords earned a pittance in rent. Pensioners starved. House-buyers had a better time of it; at least their mortgages shrank to nothing. For the quick-witted it was a game of barter and raiding the countryside where most people at least were not starving. Two million migrated back to the land from German towns. Fat cats thrived by trading property and black-market goods and so did a handful of industrialists.

Karl Helfferich, a nationalist politician, Hans Luther, the finance minister, and Hjalmar Schacht, who later became Hitler's economics minister became intent on currency reform. Helfferich first proposed the idea of a currency indexed to the price of rye and other agricultural products. That evolved into the introduction of a "gold" mark whose issuance was severely restricted by a new bank, called the Rentenbank. Just in time, as it happened.

Things came to a head in November 1923. The central government was nearly toppled by the communists and socialists in Hamburg, Saxony and Thuringia, and by Hitler and his Nazi party in Bavaria. The putsches failed, although Hitler lived to fight another day.

The gold mark came in on November 15th, and the paper mark settled down to a rate of 4.2 trillion to the dollar by the end of the year. Germany became stable enough to attract foreign investment and a huge American loan. But the residual fear of hyperinflation helped Hitler's rise to power a decade later. Mr Taylor notes similarities between the Treaty of Versailles and European economic and monetary union. Both, broadly, were attempts to tie down Europe's giant and help prevent another war. Versailles failed. As for the EU, this book, if written five years ago, would have had a happy ending, he says. Now "Germany finds itself widely hated...and the root of the problem is, once more, a currency in difficulties." ■



A safe pair of hands

BERLIN

Perceptions of Germany's chancellor, who is likely to win re-election on September 22nd, are completely different at home and abroad

SUPERSIZED and without commentary, a pair of hands went up the other day on the side of a building just outside Berlin's main train station, with Germany's parliament and government buildings in clear view. The idiosyncratic bracing of thumb and fingers made the digits on the poster instantly recognisable as belonging to Angela Merkel, who is up for re-election as chancellor on September 22nd. The "Merkel rhombus" has become something of a symbol.

Asked about it, she replies, in a disarming and characteristic deadpan, that she adopted the position to solve a practical problem, as any trained scientist would (she earned her PhD with a dissertation on quantum chemistry). The problem was what to do with those hands. The solution was to neutralise them against each other, which happens to be pleasingly symmetrical and also pushes the shoulders up, improving posture.

The explanation is pure Merkel—unpretentious, pragmatic, artfully plain. With a similarly choreographed candour she has let it be known that she likes to cook potato soup for her husband (a scientist who otherwise stays out of public view). She does her own shopping, occasionally getting lost in the supermarket aisles. Mrs Merkel "fits the cliché that we Germans have of ourselves: frugal, sombre, awkward and a bit unpolished in a likeable way," says Ralph Bollmann, author of one of a ream of biographies published this year. That common touch, he thinks, is why the Germans identify so much with their chancellor that in the past few years they have started to call her *Mutti*—"Mum".

The rhombus makes for a striking poster. As telling, though, is what the huge poster lacks. There is only one tiny bit of text: the initials CDU, tucked in the corner. They stand for the Christian Democratic Union, the centre-right party that Mrs Merkel

leads, a big tent of churchgoers, conservatives and free-market liberals. Parties and platforms, not personalities, are supposed to play the lead role in German parliamentary elections. But this time, for the CDU, Mrs Merkel's person is the platform.

What is that platform's content? Outside Germany, Mrs Merkel is identified above all with a particular stance in the euro crisis, one which says it can only be solved with "austerity" (meaning brutal budget cuts) on the part of formerly profligate governments and wider economic reforms to make the entire euro zone competitive again. This explains the cheeky banners Irish football fans held up during last year's European championship: "Angela Merkel thinks we're at work". It also accounts for the odious posters of Mrs Merkel defaced with a Hitler moustache brandished by demonstrators in Greece.

Ganz, Schön, Lustig

Germans see things differently. Mrs Merkel has achieved close to nothing of what she promised in previous election manifestos. There has been no overall tax simplification, for example, only a few giveaways to special interests. She has undertaken no big reform—the last one, liberalising Germany's labour market, occurred a decade ago under her predecessor, Gerhard Schröder. Where she has made bold domestic changes, above all in deciding to give up nuclear power after the 2011 disaster at Fukushima in Japan, she has been adopting policies already favoured by the opposition parties. To Germans, therefore, Mrs Merkel is the opposite of ideological. She is a caregiver, like a *Mutti*, not a taskmaster, like her Irish or Greek caricatures.

By temperament, Mrs Merkel tries to slow political processes down. She also tries to break down problems into discrete units, observing and testing each solution separately before moving on to the next, as a good scientist would. That is what she has done in successive Brussels summits dealing with the euro crisis. Where the world saw a dogmatic Prussian forcing others to be disciplined, the Germans saw a chancellor giving ground to demands from crisis countries and France (on bail-outs, rescue funds and banking union), but cautiously and in the smallest possible increments. As taxpayers, Germans felt she was protecting them even as they understood that more concessions might follow. Mr Bollmann sees this ability to accustom the Germans gradually to new realities, and to know when they are ready to accept more, as Mrs Merkel's particular genius.

Her "politics of small steps" is communicated in a way her countrymen appreciate and foreigners find baffling. Mrs Merkel speaks with soothing tones and simple, reassuring phrases which often have little content—a "sanitised Lego language, snapping together prefabricated phrases made ▶▶

of hollow plastic," as Timothy Garton Ash at Oxford University describes it. In part, Mr Garton Ash allows, this is just the modern German fashion. "Because of Hitler, the palette of contemporary German political rhetoric is deliberately narrow, cautious, and boring." But Mrs Merkel has taken it to new extremes of moderation.

Peer Steinbrück, who as leader of the Social Democrats (SPD) is her main rival in the elections, parodies her well. When he says, "A good foundation is the best precondition for a solid basis in Europe, ladies and gentlemen," it usually brings the house down because it really does sound like Mrs Merkel. In so doing it allows Mr Steinbrück to position himself, in contrast, as one who dishes out "straight talk"—*Klartext*. To Mr Steinbrück's frustration, however, his straight talk often leads to gaffes. When he says that he would not pay less than €5 (\$6.63) for a bottle of Pinot Grigio the German public spends a few days affecting outrage that a Social Democrat with blue-collar interests at heart would say such a thing. But when Mrs Merkel does her *Mutti*-talk, she gets away with it.

A more personal lunge at Mrs Merkel over the euro crisis missed the mark. Trying to make her incrementalism into a shortcoming, Mr Steinbrück suggested that Mrs Merkel lacked "feeling" for the European project because she spent the first 36 years of her life in East Germany, outside the European Communities from which the €U grew. It is true that she has a different (though not necessarily lesser) emotional connection to the €U than that felt, say, by Helmut Kohl, the pro-French CDU chancellor who oversaw German reunification and the conception of the euro and who brought Mrs Merkel into national politics. But as Mr Steinbrück discovered, a lot of people were offended that he could suspect Mrs Merkel of insufficient euro-passion merely because she grew up an Ossi (easterner).

A good bit of what passes for campaign fisticuffs between these two politicians is in fact kabuki. They know and respect each other. In Mrs Merkel's first term, from 2005 to 2009, she led a "grand coalition" between the CDU and the SPD (see chart 1) with Mr Steinbrück as her finance minister. They worked well together. When the financial crisis struck in 2008, the two gave a joint press conference to assure German savers that their bank deposits were safe. That image endures as the moment when the German public calmed down.

Both are also known for a wry sense of humour. In Mr Steinbrück's case, it is broadly ironic (he blames his Danish grandmother for teaching it to him). Mrs Merkel's humour tends nowadays to be low-key and reserved for private occasions, or at least situations removed from the public glare. The block of flats in which she lives has fewer tenants than it did, for



Once and future chancellors

security reasons; so her doorbell, marked discreetly with her husband's name, Sauer, sits in a row with others marked Ganz, Schön, Lustig, Schön, Ganz (roughly translated: really quite funny, quite really). She is also a woman of culture and emotion. The risk of controversy does not stop her attending the Wagner festival in Bayreuth every summer; while she will sit through and enjoy the Ring Cycle, her particular favourite is said to be "Tristan and Isolde", with its morbid and tragic beauty.

A good foundation

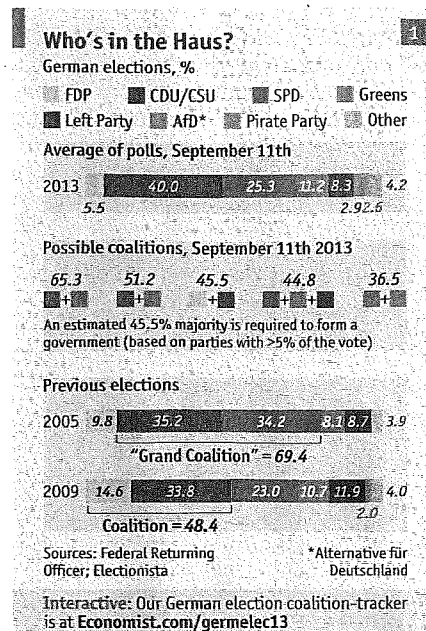
One of the problems for the SPD and the other large opposition party, the Greens, in running against Mrs Merkel is that, in an admirable display of responsibility, they both voted with her at every step in the euro-rescue. Yes, the Greens, in particular, would have liked to go faster and would have been open to Eurobonds (issued separately by each euro-zone government but guaranteed by all), which Mrs Merkel has ruled out. Bolder action at the beginning

might have nipped the crisis in the bud, says Jürgen Trittin, a leading Green; instead Mrs Merkel "always delays, then eventually does what we said". But to most Germans, this just sounds like nitpicking.

More annoyingly for Mr Trittin, voters now have the same blurred view of the parties' differences in energy policy. For most of the 30 years since the Greens entered parliament, their signature demand was for Germany to say *Nein, Danke* to nuclear power. Having previously backed nuclear power, in the days after Fukushima, Mrs Merkel made the most abrupt volte-face of her career. She decided to start turning the plants off and to exit nuclear power altogether by 2022.

For the Greens, this should have been a huge victory. Instead, it allowed Mrs Merkel to neutralise the entire subject. The *Energiewende* ("energy turn"), which also encompasses a large and generously subsidised push into renewable energy, means putting up prices when in competitors such as America energy is getting cheaper; this looks worrying to some businesspeople. But there is a consensus behind it among all the main parties. Mr Trittin is reduced to bickering about operational details (power lines and so forth) rather than attacking Mrs Merkel head-on.

This is part of a pattern that has been called Merkelvillianism. By small, sly moves, Mrs Merkel has inched the CDU leftward, poaching one policy after another from her centre-left rivals. For decades the CDU favoured military conscription. Then Mrs Merkel abolished the draft, as the left wanted. When the SPD and Greens promised a minimum wage, Mrs Merkel quickly put forth a similar idea (albeit with flexible wage floors across regions and industries). When old-age poverty became the issue earlier this year, she promised to provide higher pensions for older mothers. When the left called for rent controls this summer, she supported them, too. On only one weighty subject does she squarely oppose the left. They want to raise taxes; she does not.



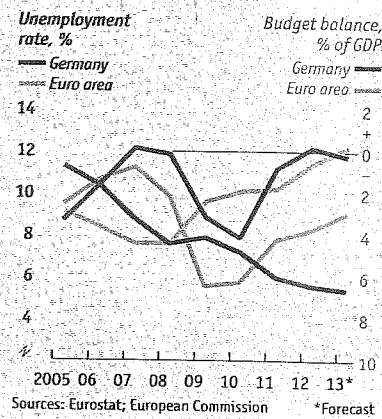
Mr Steinbrück reaches for every available metaphor to paint Mrs Merkel as a plagiarist lacking any conviction. Living in a country run by her is like driving endlessly round a roundabout—few fender benders but also no direction; her finger doesn't point the way but only measures which way the wind is blowing; and so forth. Mrs Merkel drives some people in her own centre-right camp just as batty. A book by a veteran CDU adviser calls her Germany's "godmother"—in the mafia, not the maternal, sense—a person with no values who betrays the ones held by the CDU whenever it suits her. Peter Kohl, the estranged son of the former chancellor, has said that he will abstain from voting because Germany now has, in effect, three social-democratic parties: the SPD, the Greens and Mrs Merkel's CDU. Outside Germany, she is seen as unbending. ("Austerität, that new word: it sounds so evil," Mrs Merkel jokes in her aw-shucks way.) Inside Germany, she looks as stiff as a plateful of spaghetti.

The best precondition

There is strategic method in her flexibility. By creeping into the political terrain of the opposition parties, Mrs Merkel hopes to reduce their supporters' readiness to go to the polls. In doing so she knows that she will induce some CDU supporters to stay at home, too. But as long as she dampens turnout more for the parties of the left than for her own, she wins. Her political consultants call it "asymmetric demobilisation".

It is not an elegant or very principled strategy, but it seems a workable one. The CDU is the strongest party, with about 40% in most polls. Though it will not secure an absolute majority, most coalition scenarios play out well for Mrs Merkel. One possibility is a continued partnership between the CDU, its Bavarian sister party (the CSU) and the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), her current coalition partner. Another possibility, which would provide a bigger majority but trickier internal politics, is a grand coalition between the CDU and the SPD like the one that Mrs Merkel ran in her first term. Mr Steinbrück has said that

Raising the wunderbar



he would not serve in such a government again, but that is not in itself a deal breaker.

A third option is a pact with the Greens. This is less likely because the Greens are at the moment further to the left than the SPD on such issues as tax hikes. But there are moderate greens, especially in south-western Germany. And the party, which shares power in six states, and has shared it with the CDU at state level in the past, is hungry for a return to federal government.

By contrast, an SPD-Green coalition, the only one that Mr Steinbrück has said he would accept, has almost no chance of winning a majority. The only remaining risk to Mrs Merkel is thus an alliance between all the parties of the left, including the party called the Left. But the Left is a pariah in mainstream politics because of its roots in East Germany's communist party and its goal of leaving or dissolving NATO. Mr Steinbrück wants no part in such a "red-red-green" pact, though others in his party could enter one without him.

Mrs Merkel thus has a good chance of staying in power. A victory would not be an endorsement of her domestic record, since that record is muddled. Instead, it would show that Germans forgive her for not having clear visions at home because she has governed during such unusual times. The global financial crisis began in

her first term and spilled over into the euro crisis in her second. Disaster management took precedence over domestic reform.

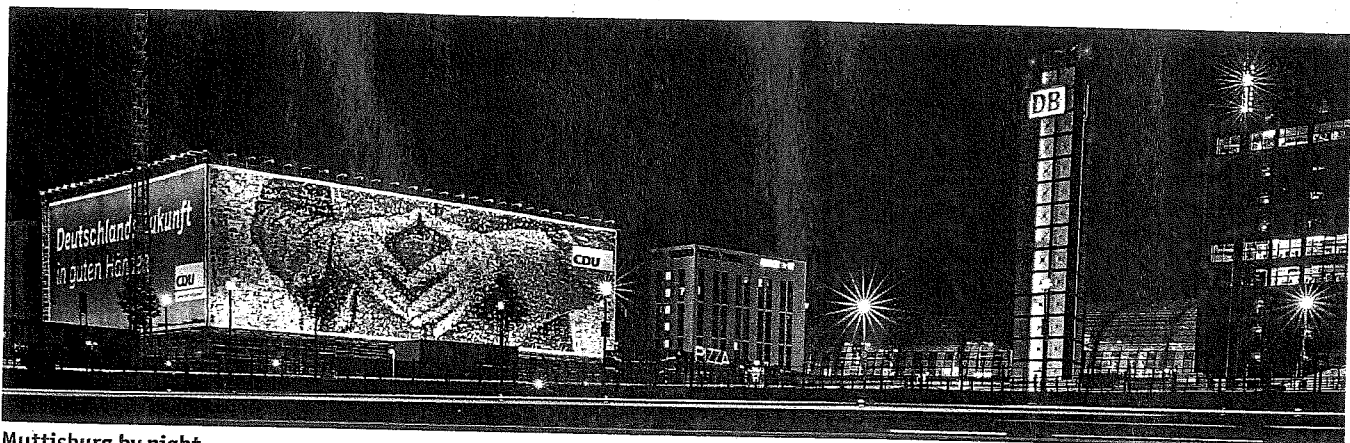
And Germany has without question managed the crisis well (see chart 2). Tax revenues are gushing; the federal government could start repaying its debt in 2015. Youth unemployment is the lowest in Europe. Part of this is down to luck. Germany happens to be good at making the industrial goods that strong economies like China have been demanding. Part of it is down to Mr Schröder's reforms, which made Germany's labour market more flexible. But what Germans see is that, while many of its EU partners are struggling, Germany under Mrs Merkel looks strong.

If Mrs Merkel has a vision, it is that the euro zone and the entire EU should become strong, too. "I experienced the collapse of the German Democratic Republic, I don't want to see the EU falling behind," she has said. Her advisers believe that the trauma of 1989 informs her view of the euro zone today. Mrs Merkel often adds a statistic: that Europe has 7% of the world's population, 25% of its output and 50% of its welfare spending. This is her way of warning that the status quo may not be affordable for much longer.

A solid basis in Europe

Europe "has no legal right to be leading in world history," she says. "So we have to be careful that solidarity also leads to results, lest we all get weak together." This message is aimed in part at France, Germany's longtime partner, which is not reforming as fast as Mrs Merkel would like. In part, she is addressing Spain, Portugal and Greece, to encourage them to keep reforming. And in part she is talking, softly but sternly, to the Germans, lest they forget that as recently as the 1990s, Germany was called "the sick man of Europe".

Keeping the European family healthy takes never-ending hard work and forbearance, says the Protestant pastor's daughter and *Mutti* of her nation. For an otherwise protean woman, such sentiments probably do come from conviction. ■



Muttisburg by night