

Activity: European identity

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Helmut Kohl with another elder statesman named Theo Waigel at a ceremony of the European Union to his honour in 1998.

Helmut Josef Michael Kohl was born on the 3rd of April 1930 in Ludwigshafen am Rhein, he died there on the 16th of June 2017 .

He was a German politician from a party named CDU (Christian Democratic Union).

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After having been three times Prime Minister of Rhineland-Palatinate from 1969 to 1976, he was the sixth Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany to lead a CDU / CSU (Christian Social Union) / FDP (Free Democratic Party) coalition and is thus the incumbent with the longest period of service from 1982 to 1998.

From 1973 to 1998 he was federal chairman, then until 2000 honorary chairman of his party.

Helmut Kohl is considered to be an engine of European integration he was largely committed to European integration and especially to the Franco-German relationship. In fact Kohl and the French president François Mitterrand were the architects of the "Maastricht Treaty" which established the European Union (EU) and the Euro currency.



At the occasion of a wreath-laying ceremony in Verdun on the 22nd of September, 1984, Mitterand and Kohl demonstrated in a token gesture – hand in hand in front of the memorial – that the reconciliation between their countries was reality and that there are no place in Europe for animosities between peoples.

In 1988 Kohl received the “Charlemagne Prize” and in 1998 he was named *Honorary Citizen of Europe* by the European heads of states or governments. George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton described Kohl as “the greatest European leader of the second half of the 20th century”.

He engendered criticism because of his role in a CDU donation affair and his work as a management consultant after the end of his political career.

A “Helmut Kohl hiking trail” exists in Eppenbrunn since 2002. It leads to Roppeviller in France. One of Kohl's hiking boots and one of Charles de Gaulle's shoes are exhibited next to each other in the German Shoe Museum in Hauenstein and in the Museum of Saint-André-Treize-Voies in the French Vendée.

The cardigan that Kohl wore in 1990 at the so-called "cardigan meeting" with Mikhail Gorbachev in the Caucasus is in the collection of the House of History in Bonn.

Helmut Kohl wrote several books. In the book “*Aus Sorge um Europa: Ein Appell*” (“Out of concern for Europe, Appeal”) which was edited by Droemer Knaur/ München in 2014 ([ISBN 978-3-426-27663-1](#)), he makes an evocative appeal for “his” Europe.



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(Quelle Wikipedia & https://www.planet-wissen.de/geschichte/persoenlichkeiten/helmut_kohl/index.html,
<https://www.spiegel.de/geschichte/kohl-und-mitterrand-in-verdun-a-948491.html>)