
Day of German Unity Special

Navigating challenges with bold reforms

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The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 not only paved the way for Germany's reunification in 1990, it also marked the end of Europe's division by the Iron Curtain.

At that time, there was widespread

hope the continent would never again face division, conflict or worse — war.

Thirty-five years later, Russia's war against Ukraine has shattered that hope. Our security is under serious threat. Ukraine continues to suffer increasingly deadly attacks while our European and NATO partners face daily hybrid threats: disinformation campaigns, cyberattacks, drone incursions and violations of NATO airspace. These Russian provocations pose

a grave danger to peace and stability.

At this critical moment, Germany's commitment to freedom, democracy and the rule of law remains unwavering. Protecting the rules-based international order with our European allies, the United States and partners like Japan is a top priority.

Germany's economic strength, capacity for innovation and social cohesion are the cornerstones of our future. Yet we face major challenges: demographic change, skills shortages and the need for far-reaching reforms to secure a just and inclusive society.

Germany remains committed to a balanced and responsible migration policy while investing in its future with artificial intelligence, quantum computing, green technologies and sustainable growth. Modernizing the economy through digitalization, streamlining and robust social reforms will be key to staying competitive and resilient in the decades ahead.

Germany's close friendship with Japan — spanning over 160 years — has become

increasingly important in today's uncertain world. Shared values form the basis of this partnership and economic cooperation is a central pillar. The German-Japanese Forum, with Federal Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul as a long-standing member, continues to bolster these ties.

The upcoming 40th anniversary of the Japan-German Center Berlin will provide another opportunity to celebrate and deepen academic, cultural and political exchange between our countries.

Germany stands united with its partners in defending freedom, embracing innovation and shaping a better future. Together, we will meet today's challenges with courage and optimism, building a secure, democratic and prosperous Europe for generations to come.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.