

World's Most Powerful Women – Angela Merkel

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Merkel's political career is divided into three phases. In the first phase, she was largely apolitical like many other female political leaders of her generation in Germany. She was a physicist with no known political involvement or commitments.

The second phase is her apparently unremarkable political ascent. Her appointment as minister in Helmut Kohl's cabinet was largely coincidental.

The third phase stretches from her emergence as party leader during a crisis situation to her election as Chancellor despite a poor electoral result. It was this phase that she began to take her political fate into her own hands, gaining in confidence and ambition. She successively became party chairwoman in 2000, then candidate for the Chancellorship and finally Chancellor.

She was born as Angela Dorothea Casner on 17th 1954. Merkel's youth and early adulthood were remarkably apolitical. She was neither active in the East German Government, nor involved in the opposition to it. Neither did she participate in church related activities, such as prayer meeting.

Her choice of theoretical physics as a profession is further indication of her apolitical orientation. The only indication of politicisation during Merkel's University studies was her weekly visits to a student group, where politically sensitive subjects were often discussed. She worked at a leading research centre, the central institute for Physics and chemistry of the Academy of Sciences in Berlin, where she finished Ph.D. in 1986.

References

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Though she had benefitted from the stereotype of women being 'soft' and 'unsullied' during the party finance affair. Merkel had in fact learned to use 'hard power' to consolidate her political position.

Her placid exterior hides her infighting skills. Although Angela Merkel is Germany's first women And East German born leader. She has an easily recognisable political style.

The leadership style of Angela Merkel is both processes oriented and purposeful. The Accommodating Merkel focuses on the process and considers organizational survival more important than a goal. She is especially interested in good relationships with colleagues. Angela Merkel is also calm, serene and optimistic and she is unflappable, cool and down to earth under pressure. Angela Merkel is authoritative is reflected in the respect that she receives from colleagues. Merkel's leadership style is mainly a combination of the conscientious and the accommodating leadership style. Merkel does not want to be judged by her gender or favoured because she is a woman, and that she will never give insight into her private life in order to gain more votes.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has been named TIME magazine's person of the year just a few weeks after she marked 10 years at the helm of Europe's biggest economic power.