

8. The Chairmen of the Parties

Willy Brandt

Chairman of the Social Democratic Party
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

Born on 18 Dec 1913 in Lübeck, married, four children

1932	Higher leaving certificate at the Johanneum grammar school, Lübeck
1933	Persecuted by the National Socialists, emigrated to Sweden
1933-1947	Journalistic and political work in Scandinavia, studied history at Oslo
1945-1947	Correspondent of Scandinavian newspapers in Germany, attached to the press office of the Norwegian Diplomatic Mission in Berlin
1948	Berlin office of the Social Democratic Party (SPD)
1949	Member of the Bundestag
1950	Member of the Berlin House of Representatives (Parliament)
1955-1957	President of the Berlin House of Representatives
1957-1966	Governing Mayor of Berlin
1958-1962	Chairman of the SPD in Berlin
1958	Member of the SPD Executive
1964	Succeeded Erich Ollenhauer as Chairman of the SPD
1966-1969	Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Oct 1969	Federal Chancellor
Dec 1971	Nobel Peace Prize

Biographical Data

WILLY BRANDT

June 17, 1971

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

Willy Brandt was born on December 18, 1913 in the old port city of Luebeck on the Baltic. He began his journalism career before graduation from high school by writing articles for a local newspaper.

At the age of 17, he joined the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD). In 1935 he escaped Nazi prosecution by fleeing to Norway.

He studied history at the University of Oslo and became a newspaperman.

After the German armies occupied Norway in 1940, Mr. Brandt went to Sweden, where he continued to work as a journalist until after the war when he returned to Germany.

In 1948, the leaders of the Social Democratic Party asked Mr. Brandt to head the SPD's secretariat in Berlin.

In 1949, West Berlin's Social Democrats appointed Mr. Brandt as one of their deputies to the Bundestag (Lower House of the Federal Parliament) in Bonn. He served in the Bundestag until 1957, specializing in intra-German relations and foreign affairs.

A member of the Berlin city parliament since 1950, he became its president in 1955 and was elected Governing Mayor of Berlin in 1957.

In 1958, Willy Brandt was elected Berlin party chairman, in 1962 deputy national chairman and in 1964 national chairman. He was his part's candidate for the Chancellorship three times -- 1961, 1965 and in 1969.

He was appointed Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor in 1966 when the SPD joined the Government coalition with the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (CDU/CSU).

Under his leadership, the Social Democrats have continued to broaden their popular support. Following the September 1969 elections, the SPD formed a coalition government with the Free Democratic Party (FDP).

On October 21, 1969, Mr. Brandt was elected Federal Chancellor by the Bundestag.

The Chancellor is the author of a number of books. His latest, "A Peace Policy for Europe", was published in 1968 while he was Foreign Minister. He holds honorary degrees from the University of Pennsylvania (1958), Harvard University (1963) and Oxford University (1970).

He is married and has four children.

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June 1971