

HISTORISCHE FEIERTAGE IM JUNI

D-Day / Allied Invasion of Europe
(der 6. Juni 1944)

The Week in Germany

Editorial

Dear TWIG Readers,

Jun 6, 2014

World leaders stood in solidarity on Friday as they marked the 70th anniversary of the Normandy landings (D-Day) on the western coast of France - the largest seaborne invasion in history and a turning point in the Second World War. Both German Chancellor Angela Merkel and US President Barack Obama were among the attendees at the ceremony. This is only the second time a German leader participated in the commemoration in Normandy, which makes it all the more significant.



Ten years ago, former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder joined world leaders in marking the 60th anniversary of D-Day. His attendance ultimately became a symbol of how far Germany has come since the war. "The French receive you as a brother," French President Jacques Chirac told Schröder on that day. In a speech delivered at a memorial site in Caen, Schröder emphasized the good that came out of the Allied invasion - both for the Allies and Germans. While France was liberated from German occupation, Germans were liberated from Nazi tyranny, he said.

Today, Chancellor Merkel attended the historic commemoration, together with President Obama and other world leaders. Unlike the Schröder visit - which was the first of its kind - the presence of a German chancellor is now almost expected, and shows the advanced level of cooperation and trust between former wartime enemies. The memory of D-Day no longer just unites the Western Allies - it unites leaders around the globe in their effort for reconciliation and building a better future. This was exactly the aspect of D-Day that Chancellor Merkel harnessed when she spoke today with Russian President Vladimir Putin about the situation in Ukraine.

D-Day Commemoration: From Conflict to Cooperation



In the coastal town of Ouistreham, the heads of state and government of the then-warring nations joined veterans of those fateful days in an official commemoration of the 70th anniversary of D-Day. Chancellor Angela Merkel took part at the invitation of French President François Hollande.