

an diesem Tag in der Geschichte (This Week in History)**Was ist am 15. März 1991 geschehen? (What happened on ... ?)**

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gave his consent to German unity at a meeting in the Caucasus with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany was subsequently signed in Moscow by the foreign ministers of the Two Plus Four countries on September 12, 1990.

In a joint declaration issued in New York on October 1, 1990 the Four Powers renounced their rights and responsibilities relating to Germany, thus restoring the country to full sovereignty. Three days later the German Democratic Republic acceded to the Federal Republic of Germany.

While the newly united Germany and the three western powers speedily ratified the Two Plus Four Treaty, Moscow took its time. After a heated debate the Supreme Soviet finally ratified the Treaty on March 4, 1991.

Soviet Ambassador Vladislav Terechov presented German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher with the instrument of ratification on March 15, 1991 - only then did the Treaty enter into force.

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union Russia took over the obligations the former had assumed under its treaties with Germany. When the last allied troops left Berlin in August and September 1994, it was clear the postwar era was well and truly over.



Kohl and Gorbachev's blue sweaters and the traditional caucasian chairs they are sitting in, can now be seen at the Haus der Geschichte in Bonn.

TREATY ON THE FINAL SETTLEMENT WITH RESPECT TO GERMANY

The Foreign Office Political Archive has made available a signed copy of the Two Plus Four Treaty as a PDF. The document contains the complete text in German, English, French and Russian and signature pages.

Two Plus Four Treaty
