



## German History in Documents and Images

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Survey Results on German Reunification (1951-89)

Surveys of the West German population conducted between 1951 and 1989 showed widespread skepticism about whether Germany would be reunified in the near future. Nevertheless, there were greater hopes in 1989 as compared to previous decades due to reform efforts in both the Soviet Union and Poland.

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Question: “Do you expect that the division between the GDR and the Federal Republic will cease to exist in the foreseeable future and that a united Germany will emerge?”

	1951 %	1952 %	1953 %	1954 %	1955 %	1956 %	1957 %	1958 %	1959 %	1973 %	1983 %	1989 %
Yes, absolutely	10	6	18	13	9	10	10	4	5	2	2	6
Yes, probably	17	15	25	24	18	22	21	14	16	7	5	17
Unsure	36	41	36	43	43	43	39	46	51	32	33	44
No	28	28	16	16	27	22	27	34	24	53	60	33
No response	9	10	5	4	3	3	3	2	4	6	--	1

Source: „Wiedervereinigung als Möglichkeit im Zeitvergleich (1951-89)“ [“Reunification as a Possibility: A Comparison over Time (1951-89)“], in Erwin K. Scheuch, *Wie deutsch sind die Deutschen? Eine Nation wandelt ihr Gesicht* [How German are the Germans? A Nation Changes its Face]. Bergisch Gladbach, 1991, table 43, p. 201.