

ZA -Archiv Nummer 0441

Politische Einstellungen (März 1956, I)

1956



1. Do you believe that our present government considers the wishes of the general population too much, too little, or ~~in the right amount in its actions.~~ *just*

Too much

Too little

~~In the right amount~~ *just right*

Partly/partly

No opinion

IF "Too much" or "Too little":

1a. Why do you think so?

2. What do you believe Germany needs most in its present political situation? (CARD)

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A - A national leader who rules with a strong hand

B - A smart man with the ability to effect compromises who can negotiate in the parliament between the government and the Bundestag for the welfare of the people

C - A Bundestag equipped with great authority which as the responsible representative of the people determines the policies of the government and critically judges governmental actions

No opinion

3. Would you like to see a party established which only had the good sides of National Socialism, or would you not like to see that happen?

Yes, would like to see it happen

No, would not like to see it happen

No opinion

IF "Yes, would like to see it happen":

3a. Why would you like to see it happen?

Here are some views that are often expressed by people:

4. Would you tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the following view? (CARD)

We should again have a single strong national party which really represents the interests of all classes of our people

Approve
Disapprove
Undecided

5. Do you approve or disapprove of this view? (CARD)

We should again have, as before, a national leader who rules Germany with a strong hand for the welfare of all

Approve
Disapprove
Undecided

6. Do you approve or disapprove of this view? (CARD)

In our foreign policy we should act only for our own advantage since our Allies would also leave us in the lurch in an emergency

Approve
Disapprove
Undecided

7. Suppose there were a difference of opinion between the Bundestag, as the elected representative of the people, and the Chancellor, as head of the government, on important political questions, whose opinion should then be decisive - that of the Bundestag or that of the Chancellor?

That of the Bundestag
That of the Chancellor
Partly/partly
Qualified answers
No opinion

IF "That of the Bundestag" or "That of the Chancellor":

7a. Why are you of this opinion?

8. To whom should the Bundestag delegate feel more responsible - to his party because it put him up as a candidate, or to his voters because they trusted him as their representative?

To his party
To his voters
To both equally
No opinion

IF "To his party" or "To his voters":

8a. Why do you think so?

9. How necessary do you consider a strong opposition in our form of government - that is, political parties which do not form part of the government?

Very necessary
Somewhat necessary
Not so very necessary
Not at all necessary
No opinion

IF "Very necessary", "Somewhat necessary", "Not so very necessary" or "Not at all necessary":

9a. Why do you consider a strong opposition to be . . . necessary?

10. Some people are talking about our government. (CARD) Which view comes closest to your opinion?

A - Mr. Mueller:

The more independent the government has become during the past few years, the more authoritarian and autocratic its measures have become - we are heading straight for a dictatorship once more, even if of a different kind

B - Mr. Schulze:

Though I do not believe we'll have another dictatorship, some government measures and regulations are disquieting and indicate that the government occasionally abuses its powers

C - Mr. Schmidt:

Our young democracy is secure and sound. Our government is concerned about the welfare of the people and I do not believe that some day it will try to abuse its powers

No opinion

11. Do you see any threat to the political and social freedom of the individual in the following institutions?

The unions

The military

Specific political parties (Which?)

Take down volunteered comments:

12. Is there anything about the political development in our country or about our government that disturbs you or that you consider disquieting? (What is it?)

13. And can you name any leading figures in public life, who, in your opinion, are too autocratic or have some authoritarian tendencies?

Yes, (Who?)

No

No opinion