

Joyce M. Mushaben

Becoming Madam Chancellor:
The Rise (and Fall?) of Angela Merkel

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Since 2005, Angela Merkel has transformed not only the way Germans see themselves but also the way that politicians worldwide, male and female, perceive women in power. The East German daughter of a Protestant pastor, this physicist-turned-politician has deployed her life experiences to cultivate a unique set of leadership skills. Her pragmatic, data-driven, and future-oriented approach to politics – grounded in a commitment to democratic pluralism, human rights, and personal responsibility – has produced extraordinary paradigm shifts in many national policies in the wake of major crises. Mushaben explores Merkel's extraordinary political career as well as her achievements across key policy domains. She contextualizes these within broader German history before and after reunification, and uncovers the personal and political factors that have contributed to Chancellor Merkel's hard-earned status as the world's most powerful woman. Finally, Mushaben also analyzes the recent challenges the Chancellor faces in her fourth (and probably final) term in power.

Joyce M. Mushaben is Curators' Professor of Comparative Politics & Gender Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) and is holder of UMSL's Chancellor's award for research creativity and the Governor's Award for Teaching Excellence. She has spent over 20 years studying and researching in Germany, focusing on comparative studies of East/West/multi-cultural "German" identities, European immigration & integration policies, women's leadership, EU gender policies, comparative welfare states, as well as on peace, ecology and Neo-Nazi youth movements. Her most recent books include *Gendering the European Union* (co-edited with Gabriele Abels; Palgrave Macmillan 2012) and *Becoming Madam Chancellor: Angela Merkel and the Berlin Republic* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

