International Journal of Business Diplomacy and Economy

ISSN: 2833-7468 Volume 2 | No 4 | April -2023



«Economic Miracle» In Germany: Essence and Features

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Abstract: This article analyzes the post-war revival of Germany, preconditions for the German economic miracle and the secrets of success. The author traces the revival and development of the German statehood and economy.

Key words: occupation, reparation, black market, state program, reform, economic miracle, protectionist policy.

The economic consequences of the war were catastrophic for Germany: the volume of industrial production in 1946 G. was 33% of the pre-war level, agriculture was thrown back to 30 years ago, steel production declined by 7 times, coal production fell more than 2 times .

Destroyed cities, destroyed factories, agricultural production thrown back decades. The presence of a 12-million army of immigrants. The amount of money in circulation and not having a commodity cover has increased 5 times. The introduction of the rationing system stimulated the dawn of the "black market". Barter transactions from the times of "subsistence farming" are being revived. The Western occupation authorities were forced to annually import foodstuffs and the most necessary consumer goods worth 1 billion dollars. In 1947, they also proposed to evacuate up to 20 million Germans as doomed to starvation. In the second half of the 40s. 20th century the people of Germany received a cruel lesson of universal financial, economic, moral and spiritual exhaustion. G. Stolper in 1947 described Germany as follows: "... a biologically crippled, intellectually mutilated, morally destroyed nation without food and raw materials, without a functioning transport system and anything of worth currency... a country where hunger and fear have killed hope . " One of journalists wrote: "Germany is a heap of rubbish in which 40 million hungry Germans are swarming."

But the harder the time, the more great people it puts forward. For Germany, one of the creators of the revival was Ludwig Erhard, scientist, Minister of Economics, author of one of most effective economic reforms, known as the "German economic miracle". It was under his leadership that the "economic miracle" took place, the chronological framework of which is 1948 - 1960. Its preconditions include:

- 1) domestic investment in industry;
- 2) assistance from the United States under the "Marshall Plan" about 3 billion dollars;
- 3) extraordinary strengthening of the Germans in the 50s. Germany had the longest working week in Western Europe;
- 4) until 1956, the FRG did not have significant military spending;
- 5) protectionist policy of the state, etc.

Erhard's ideology, called the "social market economy", was based on the synthesis of the ideas of an efficient market economy, the dominance of private property, economic freedom, state regulation and philosophy of social responsibility. This ideology is also known under the terms



"ordoliberalism", "solidarism" or the so-called "third way". Market freedom must be limited by the economic order and moral foundations. Significant contribution to the development of the ideology was introduced by Walter Eucken and Erhard's closest associate, Professor Alfred Müller- Armak, and also Alexander Ryustov and Wilhelm Repke. The role of the state was to setting development priorities, oversight and regulation, creation of favorable investment and entrepreneurial climate, effective legislation, which in aggregate and constitutes the essence of the "economic order".

Erhard's experience is interesting because the first posts of the state turned out to be an economist a scientist who has applied his knowledge to perfection practice. Erhard was a good speaker, he knew how to explain to the people the meaning of the economic policy of the Government, attached great importance to this, wrote a lot in newspapers and spoke. Responding to question about factors for the successful development of the economy, Erhard said that these are: "the resourcefulness of entrepreneurs, discipline and the industriousness of the workers, the skillful policy of the government." Of course one of the most important - freedom of enterprise. Erhard created the model rational market, where According to the Christian Democratic idea, the requirements of market efficiency were as important as observance of social justice. He was alien to dogmatism, his method included the synthesis of the most positive ideas from different economic schools.

He was for free market, but Not shied away from government interference, but only up to that thin line when its excess leads to decline in the efficiency of the economy. Like the social democrats was for common human values, but saw them implementation is not on base of the distribution system, and on basis of private property, accessibility, unlocking the potential of the free market for by realizing the economic opportunities of citizens. At the same time, the German model of the economy with demonstrated a high level of social security from the outset, achieved in including through the rational distribution of social income.

German economy - is not economics of the "pipe" and Not "soap bubbles" - German goods and their quality is known all over the world. The German model as a model of the real economy has its undeniable advantages, clearly visible in against the backdrop of the American model of "consumer economy", which actually caused the global crisis. A number of economists are now looking at it's attention. We want an innovative model of the economy? Here she is - Please. We have a lot to learn from Germany.

In the book Welfare for All, published in Germany in 1957.

- L. Erhard notes that he saw the main goal of economic reforms in :
- a) the creation of a "social market economy";
- 6) increasing the purchasing power of all segments of the population;

c) the concentration of all the efforts of the national economy on increasing the state income.

Erhard considered free private initiative and competition, combined with the active role of the state in economic life, to be the levers for the economic revival of the FRG. L. Erhard's plans were based on monetary reform, free prices, competition between private entrepreneurs, the regulating role of the state through a flexible credit and tax policy, stakes on small and medium-sized businesses.

The whole course of the "German economic miracle" can be broken down into stages:

The first one took place in 1948-1949. under the sign of monetary and price reforms, the beginning of an increase in real wage rates, taking into account the growth of labor productivity, a significant increase in production;

2nd - 1950 - 1951 - the time of greatest tension in the history of post-war German market development, the average annual employment rate rises;

3rd - 1952 - the cessation of price increases and the verification of the economic system being created for strength and suitability;

4th - 1953 - 1955 - the beginning of the era of "welfare for all". In 1954, the level of all-German production in 1936 was doubled;



5th - 1955 - 1960 - a period of slowdown in economic recovery and a transition to calm progress.

The most important result of the miracle is the revival of the country's economic potential, as a result of which the FRG is turning into an advanced country in Western Europe, overtaking its former winners in economic terms. By the mid 50s. it came second after the US in terms of gold reserves;

The success of reforms in Germany became possible thanks to the diligence of the German people, honesty, professionalism, purposefulness of its leaders. The Adenauer- Erhard government has always acted in the interests of the majority of the population, seeking "welfare for all", which allowed him completely legal to be at power for about 15 years. They were not characterized by such a widespread political disease as the creation of "preferences" for a narrow circle of groups and companies. The reforms had a positive impact on character of the German nation.

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