

Germany's Legislature on Economic Stability in War-Torn Areas

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Author Note

First Section: Introduction

Second Section: Background

Third Section: United Nations Involvement

Fourth Section: Country Policy and Involvement

Fifth Section: Possible Solutions

I. Introduction

This paper was originally a position paper for the 2019 Tustin High School Model United Nations Conference, the ECOSOC committee. While this paper does not focus on a specific law or laws, this paper does provide Germany legislature's stance and perspective on bringing economic stability to war-torn areas.

II. Background

In the past 3,400 years, humans have only lived 268, or 8% of that time, in peace without violent conflicts. Since the end of the cold war in the 1990s, over 100 conflicts have been resolved. Currently, there is a record breaking 71 million people who are displaced by war and violence. If the conflicts that displaced them are resolved, the 71 million people will open their eyes to their broken homeland in dismay. Those who stayed in their homelands find it hard to adapt to their new war-torn environment. Those who left their homelands return and find that everything they once called home is now destroyed and in ruins. While these people wish to return to commerce and their old way of life, the constant reminder that they are no longer financially stable stands as a deep splinter that's stuck in them. Hence, post-war areas will usually not have the economic stability that is needed for the state to efficiently run. This problem has a relatively easy solution: provide these areas with international economic aid. There are plenty of nonprofit organizations and plenty of good hearted people willing to donate money to relieve these areas. However, while this is the solution that the world has mostly been relying on, the main problem is that this solution is short-term and fails to bring long-term economic stability to post-war countries.

III. United Nations Involvement

The United Nations has created key committees so address the topic over the past few decades while providing international financial aid to post-war areas. Since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been responsible for supporting higher standards of living and creating solutions to solve universal economic issues. While ECOSOC isn't specifically geared towards solving economic issues in war torn areas, ECOSOC has provided financial aid to post-war areas. Another important committee is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Currently, UNDP is supporting over 4,800 projects internationally to provide economic development in underdeveloped countries. A lot of these underdeveloped countries are either in war, or are recovering from war, making UNDP a valuable keyholder on the topic of giving economic aid to post-war areas. Finally, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has worked since 1946 to provide aid to children in underdeveloped countries. They support over 150 countries world-wide and have been able to help adults in those countries focus less on the survival of their children and allow them to focus on more financial issues. The World Bank, which works independently from the United Nations but is still part of it, have been supporting over 12,000 projects across the globe to bring economic stability to post-war countries. Unlike the United Nations, which have been using non-profit organization, Germany brings to the table a relatively unused solution. However, Germany hopes for continued assistance from prior UN actions to bring long-term economic stability to war torn areas.

IV. Country Policy and Involvement

In 2016, Germany ranked 3rd globally in terms of money going into international economic aid. In 2015 alone, Germany spent 17.8 billion dollars, or 0.52% of its GNI on giving international economic aid to less developed countries. Hence, Germany is open towards giving aid to foreign countries, especially countries with war-torn areas. Despite Germany having a strong economy and having stability in what used to be war-torn areas, Germany too, like other modern under-developed countries, have had to deal with economic instability. Because of the chaos that occurred before, during, and after the Second World War, Germany was left with vast amounts of land that were destroyed as a result of war and had an economy that was in shambles. Fortunately, after the end of the Second World War, Germany experienced an economic miracle: the Wirtschaftswunder. During this “miracle,” Germany’s markets boomed and areas that were once destroyed by war were reconstructed. Since then, Germany’s policies for bringing stability back to war-torn areas have been to open up the region for private businesses. As a result, Germany has been directly involved in providing economic aid to war torn areas as Germany has been in the same position 3 times in the past 100 years alone.

V. Possible Solutions

However, Germany believes otherwise. Germany believes, from our own experience with having to deal with war-torn areas, that the best way for countries to bring economic stability to their war-torn areas, is to open up the market to more private corporations and owners.

After World War II, Germany was put into a period of economic chaos. During this time, it seemed almost impossible to recover from the economic hit that Germany just took and hope

was lost. However, Germany would live on with economic stability and go back to being one of the top economic superpowers of the world within a few decades. Analyzing what Germany had done, it was relatively simple. Oftentimes, governments across the world will centralize their economy when in times of trouble. They'll closely regulate everything and only allow businesses that they see fit to perform in the economic sector. But Germany did the opposite. Germany after World War II opened up the markets and gave private owners more freedom within the market. By opening up the markets for capitalistic growth, businesses will be able to boom and be able to have individualistic growth. Instead of having to rely on the government for everything, they will be able to rely on themselves for goods and products that they need. Hence, Germany proposes that to solve the issue of economic instability in war torn countries, countries allow private owners to start and run their own businesses so that the economy can get running again.

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