

The Hague Congress
7.-10. May 1948
from the German
perspective

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Meeting in the Hall of Knights in The Hague

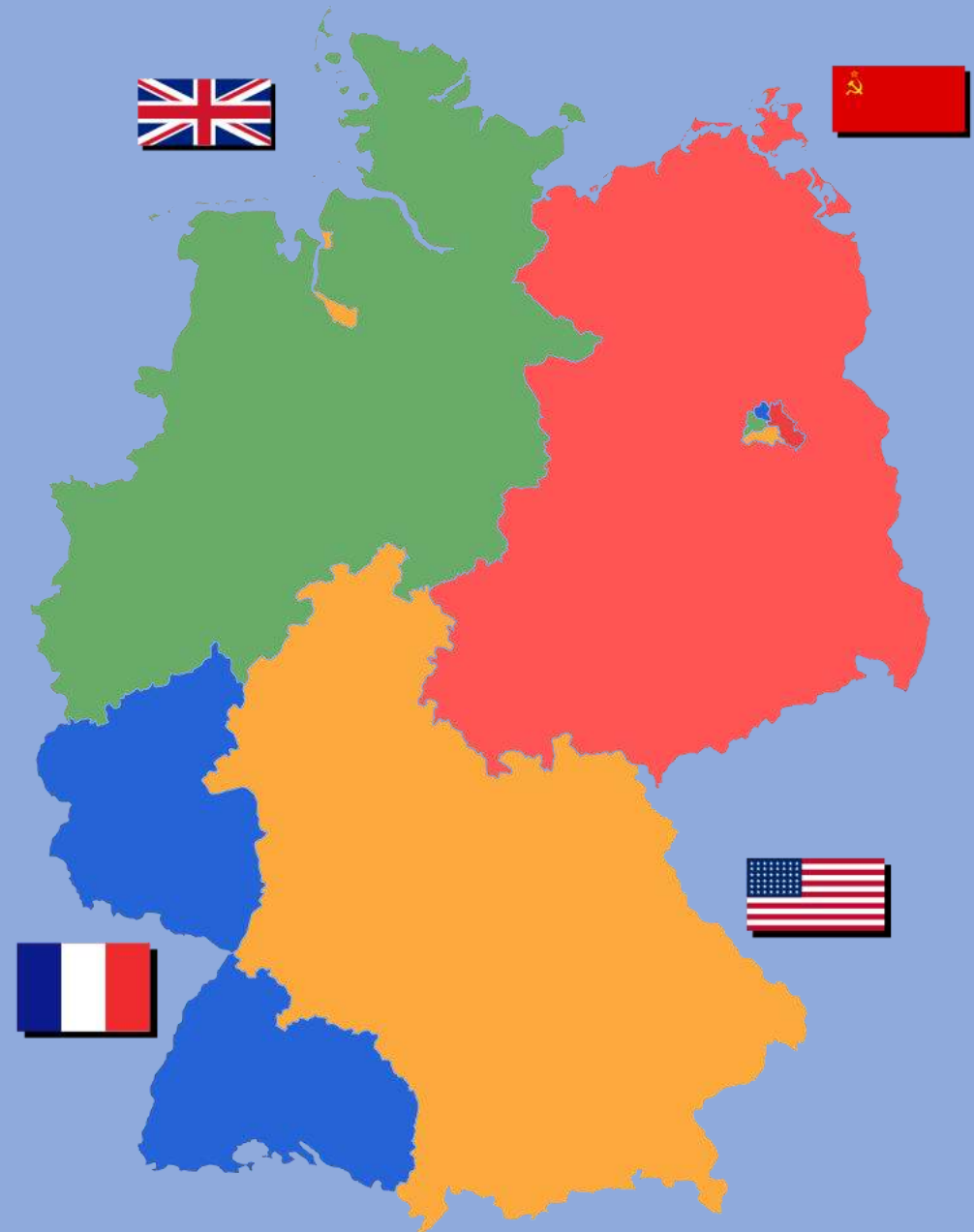
Only 3 years after the Second World War, the (West)German participants were for the first time equally involved in a European conference.

Konrad Adenauer (first German Chancellor from 1949 on) and his later important European political comrade-in-arms Walter Hallstein also met for the first time in The Hague. One of the British initiators, Duncan Sandys, became co-founder of the German Council of the European Movement in 1949.

Germany in 1948

Germany is divided into four occupation zones after the Second World War.

The diverging interests between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union become increasingly apparent. The first concrete steps towards a constitution for the three Western zones are taken. On 23 May 1949 the German Grundgesetz (Basic Law) comes into force, the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG / BRD) is established. The German Democratic Republic (GDR / DDR) was founded on 7 October 1949.



Adenauers perception:

„From our point of view, preserving the federalist principle as such, we can only hope and wish that the efforts to build a federal Europe under the equal influence of West Germany will progress as quickly as possible. This is truly the salvation of Europe and the salvation of Germany.“

Source:

https://www.cvce.eu/en/obj/bericht_von_konrad_adenauer_uber_den_haager_kongress_koln_21_mai_1948-de-1e9d5dab-981b-4853-b6f6-26a4ef8117c2.html



Konrad Adenauer at the Hague Congress