

Germans favor Christian Democrats

# Kohl wins first united elections

BONN, Germany - Chancellor Helmut Kohl's center-right coalition on Sunday easily won the first free all-German elections since 1932, buoyed by his popularity as the man who crafted swift unification.

The balloting capped a breathtaking transformation that began with a revolt last year against East Germany's Communist government and led to the merging of East and West Germany on Oct. 3.

East Germany's former ruling Communist Party, now called the Party for Democratic Socialism, won some seats in the new German Parliament, but lost much of the support it had earlier this year.

In perhaps the biggest surprise, the Greens environmental party of former West Germany, Europe's best-known ecology movement, lost all their seats. Only the Greens' sister party in eastern Germany won seats in the new parliament.

A jubilant Kohl was greeted at his Christian Democrat party headquarters by a throng of well-wishers.

"This is a day of great joy," he told them. "This is a great success and something to be proud of."

At the headquarters of the rival Social Democrats, the scene was somber.

"We have lost the election," Kohl's rival Oskar Lafontaine told his supporters.

According to forecasts based on partial returns from most election districts, Kohl's coalition was expected to win 55 percent of the vote, compared with about 34 percent for the Social Democrats. The projections, broadcast on television, have been highly accurate in the past.

Official results were not expected until today.

Berlin, divided until just over a year ago by the Wall, held its own united elections. Social Democrat Mayor Walter Momper lost to his predecessor, conservative Eberhard Diepgen of Kohl's party.

The ARD television network said Kohl's Christian Democrats and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, increased their parliamentary seats from 305 to about 316. It said the Social Democrats, who had 226 seats before the vote, captured about 240.

ARD based its forecasts on a poll of 453 of 477 election districts.

## Three Palestinians knife bus riders outside Tel Aviv

RAMAT GAN, Israel - Three Palestinians boarded a bus on a busy street outside Tel Aviv Sunday, knifed a Jewish yeshiva student to death and wounded three people, police said.

A policeman killed one attacker, and the two others were wounded.

Stunned bystanders looked on as frightened passengers, some dripping blood, poured out of the bus into a busy shopping area in Ramat Gan, a city adjacent to Tel Aviv.

It was the bloodiest incident in greater Tel Aviv, Israel's most populous area, since Arabs began a wave of stabbing attacks on Jews in October. The attacks followed the police slaying of Arabs on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

Palestinian militants, in clandestine leaflets, had declared Sunday "a day of escalation" of their 3-year-old struggle against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The three attackers were from the West Bank village of Azmut near Nablus, army radio said. They had boarded the Tel Aviv-bound bus in the Jewish suburb of Pardes Katz, and sat in the back seat.

Soon after boarding, they jumped up shouting "Allahu Akbar! (God is Great)" witnesses said.

The driver, David Shelef, said he saw the Arabs in his rear-view mirror "jumping in the air, waving knives in their hands and lunging at the passengers seated in front of them."

He said he braked, opened the doors to let out his approximately 20 passengers, and approached the Arabs with his pistol. Shelef said he fired one shot in the air, told them to sit still and they obeyed.

## Germany's Elections

The coalition led by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, overwhelmingly won the first free all-German elections since 1932.



### At stake

3,969 candidates from 23 parties are vying for 656 seats in the Bundestag, the more powerful lower house of parliament. The majority party picks the head of government, or chancellor.

### Main parties

**Christian Democratic Union**, head of the current right-centrist coalition government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

**Bavarian Christian Social Union**, a government coalition partner.

**Social Democratic Party**, the main opposition party, fielding Oskar Lafontaine as their choice for chancellor.

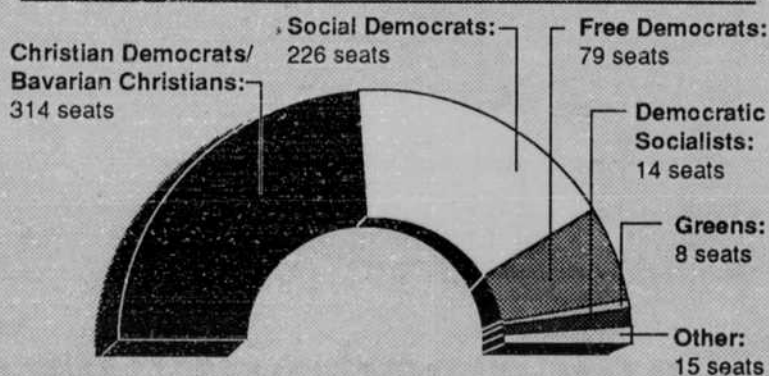
**Free Democratic Party**, a liberal party of the center and junior coalition partner in the current government.

**Greens**, a leftist, ecology-oriented party, on a joint list with Alliance 90, a similar group in former East Germany.

**Party of Democratic Socialism**, renamed party of the former East German Communists.

**Republicans**, ultra-rightist.

### Parliamentary Results\*



\*Preliminary results according to ZDF Television Network.

Along with Kohl, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was among the big victors. ARD said Genscher's Free Democrats, Kohl's junior coalition partner, would increase their representation from 57 to 79 seats in the 656-seat Parliament.

The poor showing of the Greens was one of the biggest election surprises. ARD said the Greens lost all but about eight of their 48 parliamentary seats. In the former West Germany, they garnered only about 4.8 percent of the national vote, ARD said, less than the 5 percent needed for parliamentary representation. That

means the Greens' main leaders will be excluded from Parliament.

The Greens' sister branch in former East Germany won about 6 percent of the vote, said ARD.

Lafontaine blamed his Social Democrats' loss on Kohl's ability to capitalize on the tumultuous events that began with East Germany's peaceful revolution in October 1989 and led to unification.

"There were official events which gave the stage to the government and gave the opposition difficulties in articulating its program," he said.

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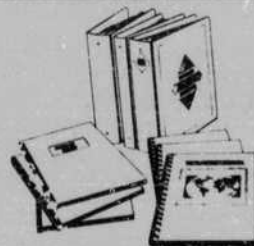
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