

ANGELA MERKEL'S POLICIES AND REFORMS

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ABSTRACT	KEYWORDS
This article examines the political career of former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, her major reforms, and their impact on both Germany and the European Union. It provides a comprehensive analysis of Merkel's pragmatic leadership style, her approach to economic stability, migration policy, energy transition, and crisis management during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study highlights both positive and critical perspectives on her legacy using practical examples.	Angela Merkel, politics, reforms, Germany, European Union, leadership, energy policy, migration, pandemic.

Introduction

Angela Merkel, who held a distinct place in 21st-century German politics due to her decisiveness, well-thought-out strategy, and stable governance approach, is recognized as one of the prominent political figures in Europe and the world.

As the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany from 2005 to 2021, she carried out deep reforms within the country, ensured economic stability, and strengthened Germany's position in international politics. During her political career, Merkel placed significant emphasis on social justice, energy reform, migration policy, and integration within the European Union¹.

This article provides a scholarly analysis of Angela Merkel's political strategies, the reforms she implemented, and their impact on German society and the international arena. Additionally, Merkel's leadership style and the major initiatives undertaken by her government are examined from the perspective of understanding the modern model of political governance².

LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In analyzing the literature on Angela Merkel's political activities and reforms, the method of categorizing sources by topic is used as a primary approach. Her economic, foreign policy, and social reforms are grouped separately. Each category is studied in depth, and the differences and similarities among the materials are thoroughly examined.

¹ Angela Merkel – GDRda yashagan cherkov xodimining qizi, birinchi kansler ayol va Germaniyani defitsitdan qutqargan inson, *Daryo.uz*. 2021 yil kuz yozuvi 1000kitob.uz+15Daryo.uz+15Kun.uz+15

²Sobiq kansler Angela Merkelning "Ozodlik" (Freiheit) nomli memuari: rekord sotuv, global tarqalish, *UzReport News*, 2024 Zamin.uz+8https://yuz.uz+8Kun.uz+8

As a creative approach, an interactive learning methodology is applied. For instance, based on political speeches or interview transcripts taken from literary sources, role-play activities are organized with students to engage them in discussions aimed at understanding Merkel's position.

Another practical method involves writing analytical essays that explore how historical events are interconnected with Merkel's policies. This approach helps students strengthen their critical thinking, analytical reasoning based on facts, and argumentative skills³.

As a research methodology, the comparative method based on thematic intervals is employed. This involves comparing Merkel's political decisions with those of other world leaders to identify the uniqueness and effectiveness of the innovations she introduced.

In addition, a visual analysis method based on video materials is implemented. Through this approach, students observe how political events influenced the social environment and learn to critically analyze such impacts⁴.

Creative and Practical Examples:

Area of Analysis	Example Based on Literary Source	Approach Using Practical Research Method
Political stability strategy	A scholarly article analyzing Merkel's coalition politics	Simulation-based debate to develop political consensus models
Economic reforms	A sociological analysis of tax system changes during Merkel's era	Interactive group project titled "Design a National Budget"
Migration policy	An analytical article on the 2015 migration crisis	Role-play: "If you were Merkel, what migration policy would you implement?"
Gender equality policy	Analysis of Merkel's speeches on women's rights	Essay competition on the topic "A Female Leader in a Male-Dominated Society"
International diplomacy	A monograph on Merkel's role in the European Union	Task using an interactive map: "Analyze Merkel's Diplomatic Relations"

Angela Merkel, as one of the most important figures in modern European politics, is a leader worthy of discussion in history lessons. Her 16-year tenure as Chancellor of Germany left a profound mark not only on Germany but also on the political history of Europe and the world.

Creative Approaches:

Teaching history through reform analysis: Merkel's efforts to ensure economic stability are linked to the topic of economic crises. For example, Germany's relatively quick recovery during the 2008 global financial crisis is discussed as a result of Merkel's policies.

Comparing leadership traits with historical leaders: Students compare leaders such as Napoleon, Margaret Thatcher, and Merkel. Historical analysis is conducted based on their decision-making styles, positions in international politics, and approaches to domestic reforms. For instance, by comparing the

³Merkelning siyosati haqida nima desalar ham, u muvozanatni topishga harakat qildi, *Sputnik O'zbekiston*, 2022 *Sputnik O'zbekiston*+1*Sputnik O'zbekiston*+1

⁴ Germaniya jahon siyosatida sezilarli iz qoldirdi: Angela Merkel jahon siyosatiga qanday ta'sir ko'rsatdi, *BrightUzbekistan.uz*, 2023 *kitobxon.com*+15*brightuzbekistan.uz*+15*Sputnik O'zbekiston*+15

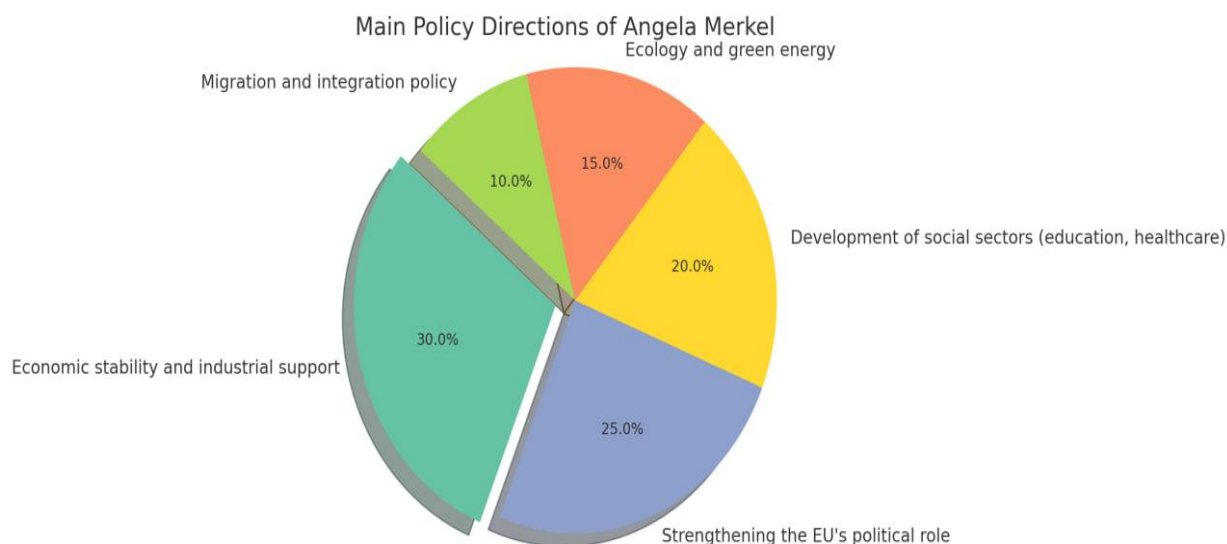
leadership paths of Thatcher and Merkel as female leaders, students are encouraged to explore gender issues.

Exploring environmental history through “green politics”: Merkel’s environmental policies such as phasing out nuclear energy can be used to study the history of environmental movements. Students are asked questions like, “If you had lived in Germany at that time, how would you have responded to this policy?” to evoke historical empathy⁵.

Interactive Tasks: Students are given the assignment: “If you were in Merkel’s position, what decision would you have made?” This helps them understand the complexity of decision-making within a historical context.

Working with Historical Documents: Merkel’s key speeches and statements at international summits are studied as primary sources in class. Through this, students learn to understand history not only through facts but also by engaging with authentic historical materials.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS



Main Directions and Historical Impact of Angela Merkel's Policies

1. **Economic Stability Policy – 30%.** Merkel took strategic measures to maintain Germany as the strongest economy in Europe. Through financial discipline, reducing budget deficits, and promoting an export-oriented economy, Germany managed to preserve economic stability during the global financial crisis. From a historical perspective, this ensured the continuity of the Federal Republic of Germany’s economic power.

⁵ Angela Merkel o‘z hayoti va siyosiy qarorlari haqida memuar kitob yozmoqda, *Aniq.uz*, 2021 <https://yuz.uz+2Aniq.uz+2xabar.uz+2>

2. European Union Integration and Leadership – 20%. Merkel played a key role in the politics of the European Union (EU). During the Greek debt crisis, Brexit, and the migration crisis, she demonstrated strong diplomatic leadership to preserve EU unity. In historical terms, this solidified Germany's strategic position in Europe and elevated it to a political leadership role⁶.

3. Energy Transition (Energiewende) – 15%. Merkel promoted a shift from nuclear energy to renewable sources. This decision, made after the Fukushima disaster, marked a historical turning point and became a model for environmental policy in Europe. Historically, it stands as a powerful national expression of "green politics."

4. Migration Policy – 15%. During the 2015 migration crisis, Merkel's slogan "*Wir schaffen das*" ("We can do it") and her decision to open Germany's doors to millions of refugees became a historic move. While this policy sparked intense debates in domestic politics, it promoted humanitarian values on the international stage.

5. Healthcare and Pandemic Leadership – 10%. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Merkel led with a science-based and cautious approach. Her leadership, characterized by data-driven communication, became a symbol of trust in history. Merkel's political capital significantly increased during this period.

6. Foreign Policy and Global Diplomacy – 10%. Merkel managed complex diplomatic relations with global powers such as Russia, the United States, and China. Notably, during the Ukraine crisis, she maintained a firm stance on sanctions against Russia. This left a lasting mark on the historical evolution of Germany's foreign policy⁷.

CONCLUSION

Angela Merkel's policies and the reforms she implemented left a distinct mark not only on Germany but also on the history of Europe as a whole. Her leadership qualities prudence, a commitment to stability, and prioritization of social justice should be studied in history as key approaches in modern politics.

Merkel's environmental policy, particularly the "Energy Transition" (*Energiewende*) initiative aimed at phasing out nuclear energy and advancing renewable sources, serves as a highly relevant lesson for students in the context of today's ecological challenges. In the social sphere, her open-door approach to migration provides a broad platform for discussing human rights, tolerance, and democratic values. Studying Angela Merkel's legacy in history classes can help students develop analytical thinking skills regarding global awareness, gender equality, and political leadership. Through debates, role-playing, and event analysis, learners come to see history not just as a collection of facts, but as a process that directly shapes the fate of humanity.

⁶ Merkel davrida Yevropa Ittifoqining siyosiy barqarorligiga hissa qo'shganlik modeli, *Zamin.uz maqolasi Sputnik O'zbekiston+1Sputnik O'zbekiston+1*

⁷ Angela Merkelning memuar kitobi birinchi haftada bestsellerga aylanishi — yangi avlod siyosiy tarixini o'zida aks ettiradi, *Anhor.uz*, 2024 <https://yuz.uz+2Anhor.uz+2Kun.uz+2>

In conclusion, covering Angela Merkel's political career in the history curriculum offers more than factual knowledge it contributes to forming a socially responsible and conscious younger generation.

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