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Issues in  
German Politics

# Germany and the use of force

The evolution of German security  
policy 1990–2003

Kerry Longhurst



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**Abstract** Mobilising the concept of strategic culture, this study develops a sophisticated and innovative framework to explain German security policy from 1990 to 2003. Germany's contemporary security policies are characterised by a peculiar mix of continuity and change. In the early 1990s, Germany's security policy was shaped by its role in Bosnia and a full combat role in Kosovo in 1999, the pace of change in German security policy. This change has recently, however, been questioned, as seen most vividly in Berlin's response to '9/11' and Iraq in 2003. Beginning with a consideration of the notion of strategic culture, the study refines and adapts the concept to the rearmament of West Germany. The study then critically evaluates the transformation of the role of the Bundeswehr in Germany's troubled efforts to enact defence reforms as well as the complex politics surrounding the policy of [More](#)

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