

**GERMANY AS A CIVILIAN POWER?;
the foreign policy of
the Berlin Republic
by Sebastian Harnisch and
Hanns W. Maull (eds)**

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Rating: ****

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The concept of *Civilian Power* was first applied to post-war Germany in 1990 by Hanns W. Maull and has established itself since then as a major analytical tool in the study of German foreign and security policy. This volume edited by Maull and Harnisch, both from the University of Trier, seeks to re-evaluate Maull's initial thesis in light of the dramatic change of government in Germany in September 1998 and with an overview of many of the most pressing issues facing German foreign policy since unification in 1990. The need for Harnisch and Maull *et al.* to reassert the explanatory strengths of the Civilian Power role concept has been further necessitated by Germany's decision to participate in 'Operation Allied Force' in Kosovo and Serbia. The chapters within the book deal with NATO enlargement, human rights issues, non-proliferation, negotiating EU integration, Germany's participation in 'out-of-area' NATO operations, and its involvement in 'Operation Allied Force'. Predictions that the changes that Germany has undergone in the last ten years would lead to it developing a dramatically different foreign policy role are countered within this book's chapters. What emerges from the case studies is that despite the new pressures placed on Germany from its extensive multilateral commitments, and the change to the Red/Green coalition under Chancellor Schröder, Germany holds true to the Civilian Power *ideal type*. This book presents a thoughtful and stimulating assessment of a major conceptual approach to the study of Germany's foreign and security policy and is highly recommended reading.