



THE 2022 HENRY A. KISSINGER PRIZE

REMARKS

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It is my great honor to make some remarks about this occasion that honors the Bundespräsident Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

My life has been related to Germany for as long as I exist. I left Germany in 1938, at the age of 15, and then had the privilege of serving first in the American army and then in the American government. Throughout, the destiny of America and the destiny of Germany have been closely related, and both of our societies have committed ourselves to working together in democracy and in freedom and in progress. In this time, the Bundespräsident and I have become good friends, and his attitude was expressed in a celebration for my ninety-fifth birthday, to which he invited me at the Bellevue Palace, where he lives as president. Steinmeier pointed out on that occasion that the program was technically in my honor, but the real honor was for Germany: that a former refugee returned to the country, to be willing to come to the house of the president for an occasion of this nature. And he assembled leading Germans who had worked with me over the decades of our cooperation. It was one of the most moving occasions of my life.

The Bundespräsident, on that occasion and on many others, spoke of the imperative of the cooperation of Germany and the United States, and about the fact that our future was identical and had to be elaborated by our mutual cooperation. On many occasions, indeed whenever I visited Germany, I considered it necessary for my own understanding of the situation to ask for a meeting with the Bundespräsident and on each occasion I was exposed to the thoughtful thinking, moderation, and faith in a common future.

We are now going through a new crisis. No one expected that central Europe would again experience war and unprovoked aggression, and it is a phenomenon for which we were not prepared. But the Atlantic alliance has worked together and it is now striving for three objectives: one, to decide to end the war; second, to restore the victim of aggression to borders that the Ukraine itself supports and in which it can live in freedom and dignity; and third, to come to a conclusion as Europe did at the end of the Second World War, in which the aggressor finds a place back into the European and Atlantic community. All these tasks will have to be fulfilled in the next decade.

The Bundespräsident has been a steady friend of America and a reliable personal associate. Nobody would've believed it possible that I would return to Germany as an infantryman in the American army, that Germany and the United States would restore their democratic future as allies and as equals.

We now have another task: To restore peace, to restore fulfillment for Ukraine, and to bring back Russia into a community of nations on the basis of democracy and cooperation. In all of this, Frank-Walter Steinmeier will play an important role. We respect his conduct in the past, we have faith in his views and his representation for Germany and for the future, and in this



manner, this occasion is a tribute to the Bundespräsident and an expression of our faith in the future.

Thank you.