

LEADING ON ARDOR, ABILITY & AFFECTION

BY EKTA MAKAN

*As they say, you can't build the economy of tomorrow with yesterday's creed. Popularly called as the undisputed leader of her political party, **Angela Merkel**, the first lady chancellor of Germany is amongst the most powerful architects of the European Union*





ANGELA MERKEL

“MRS. MERKEL PARTICIPATED IN THE STATE’S YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AND WAS ELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE YOUNG PIONEERS FROM 1962”

When your own economy calls, one answers. Mrs. Merkel earned her Ph.D. in quantum physics in 1986 and has served best to the building economies of almost every country in the European Region.

Writing the future of much of Europe with a golden pen, Mrs. Merkel won the third term as German Chancellor. Having first assumed her office as the German Chancellor on 22 November 2005, Mrs. Merkel’s career has been an incredible success story for many young minds seeking their career in politics.

HUMBLE BEGINNING

Having born in Hamburg, West Germany to Horst Kasner who was a theologian and Lutheran minister and Herlind Kasner, an English and Latin teacher in the year 1954, Mrs. Merkel had spent most of her childhood in Templin, East Germany. It was a small town from where the world got its most powerful woman coming of an age dappled by the northern sun and shadowed by tall pines.

In her early days of schooling, she was a shy girl who never wanted to draw too much attention to her as she grew up under Communist rule in the East German town of Templin.

Soon after finishing her school, Mrs. Merkel went to the Karl Marx University

in Leipzig, now known as the University of Leipzig. It was at the same university, she met her first husband Ulrich Merkel who was a fellow physics student and the couple got married in 1977.

Mrs. Merkel was first employed as a member of the academic faculty at the Central Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Academy of Sciences, East Berlin soon after her diploma in 1978. It was in the year 1982 when she the couple decided to part ways.

She gave marriage a second chance with Joachim Sauer, a professor of quantum chemistry, in 1998. Mr Sauer has kept a low profile in 2005 he chose not to attend his wife’s first inauguration as Chancellor. Mrs. Merkel has no children of her own, but her husband has two adult sons from a previous marriage.

PAINTING THE BIGGER PICTURE

Mrs. Merkel participated in the state youth organizations and was elected as a member of the Young Pioneers from 1962, followed by the Free German Youth from 1968. It was at her young tenure only that the face of the woman she grew into compelled the personnel of the Ministry for State Security (Stasi) to become an informant, to which she refused the offer gracefully.

She got her learning in physics and made her political debut in the iconic year of 1989 soon after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Very soon after Mrs. Merkel joined East Germany’s new Democratic Party, Demokratischer Aufbruchfirst, the East Germany saw conducted their first and only democratic elections where she was elected as the deputy spokesperson for the new government led by Lothar de Maizière.

The world then witnessed the union of East and West Germany where Merkel’s political party Demokratischer Aufbruchfirst unified with Democratic Union Party (CDU). The young and vivacious women again bestowed her charm after being elected to the Bundestag (the German parliament) in the first post-unification democratic elections.

Shortly after her election, she was appointed by Helmut Kohl’s, the then Chancellor and CDU party leader, to his



cabinet as the Minister for Women and Youth. 1994 saw her appointment as the Minister for the Environment and Reactor Safety, the chair that has proved to be the stepping stone to her career graph.

Four years later, Kohl's government had to face defeat in elections, after which Mrs. Merkel became the CDU's Secretary-General. The year 1999 gave a financial scandal after which she was elected as the CDU's first female chairperson and chaired the position on 10th April, 2000.

CDU, a male-dominated, socially conservative party with deep Catholic roots witnessed a dramatic change brought in by Mrs. Merkel. Back then, the Party's strongholds were in western and southern Germany, whereas Mrs. Merkel had an upper hand in Northern Germany.

In her tenure, she had proved her worth to far extend and became a popular name amongst the Germans which further helped her become the handpicked candidate for being the Chancellor for the CDU and its sister party, the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), in the 2002 general elections.

CRUSADER OF CHANGE

She was rightly channelizing the wave of change in Germany as her campaigns used to highlight her personal life which was not a usual act there. Mrs. Merkel then became leader

of the conservative opposition in the lower house of the Bundestag.

At the time of her serving as leader of the conservative opposition, it was Mrs. Merkel who advocated deregulation policies which seemed extremely pro-market even for her own conservative party) and supported a strong German – United States relationship and supported the United States invading Iraq, even despite public opposition.

Proving her zeal as an efficient leader and earning the support of the loyal citizens, she picked up eradication of unemployment as her key agenda in her campaigns against the Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of the Social Democrats (SPD) in the national elections, 2005.

The elections saw her narrowly defeating the Chancellor but later on the CDU agreed to form a coalition with the Social Democrats (SPD), and Mrs. Merkel was declared the Chancellor of Germany, the first female to assume this position.

It was on 22nd November, 2005 when Mrs. Merkel took over as the Chancellor. Her focuses on strengthening Germany's foreign relations and signed the agreement for the Transatlantic Economic Council on 30 April 2007 at the White House. A declaration was signed with the Indian government with a view to boost Indo-German relations.

Mrs. Merkel was re-elected for her second term in 2009. She further strengthened Germany's ties with India and the two countries held their first intergovernmental consultations in New Delhi in 2011. She has also led seven trade delegations to China since assuming office in 2005.

The third term as the Chancellor and the third Cabinet of Mrs. Merkel was sworn in on 17 December 2013. In August 2015, she reportedly indicated that she would run for a fourth term in 2017.

As the Chancellor, one of her priorities was the strengthening of transatlantic economic relations which culminated in her signing the agreement for the Transatlantic Economic Council in 2007 which aims at removing barriers to trade in a further integrated transatlantic free-trade area.

Not many know that the powerful politician is also a well-celebrated cook with excellent baking skills.