

ENGLISH



DEMOKRATIE LEBEN  
**SCHMIDT**

DIE AUSSTELLUNG



Bundeskanzler  
Helmut Schmidt  
Stiftung

# Schmidt!

## Living democracy

**Helmut Schmidt's name represents milestones in the European integration process** and far-sighted action in times of major international challenges. When most people think of Helmut Schmidt, they probably think of the »crisis manager« with the »Elblotsenmütze« mariner's cap and cigarette, or the former political leader explaining world events to a wide audience.

**Schmidt lived for parliamentary democracy,** with its fundamental principles of dialogue and compromise. As a pragmatist and political realist, he was also held in high regard well beyond his own Social Democratic Party. Freedom of expression and freedom of the press were fundamental values for the politician, commentator and elder statesman. Particularly in his younger years, Schmidt enjoyed spirited debate, while later preferring a calmer, fact-based style.



picture alliance/dpa | Rohwedder



Michael Zapf

Speaking in a debate in the Bundestag, Bonn | 22.03.1958  
One of many work briefcases from the residence  
in Langenhorn

**The exhibition shines a spotlight on**

**controversial issues**, particularly those of the 1970s and 1980s, and offers insights into a century of German and international contemporary history. Very much in keeping with Schmidt's approach, we also invite our guests to debate and ask questions on the future of democracy in Germany, Europe and the world.

**The exhibition shows:**



- **Achievements and problematic aspects of a politician who was known for his »rough edges«**
- **Historical traces of Schmidt as a politician, commentator and elder statesman**
- **Fascinating insights into nearly a century of German and international contemporary history**



Michael Zapf

Inside the exhibition space

# 1945–1974

## From Barmbek to Bonn



Visum | Rudi Meisel



Michael Zapf

SPD »troika«: Herbert Wehner, Helmut Schmidt and Willy Brandt | 1971

Voting cards from the Bundestag

**Characteristics often attributed to Helmut Schmidt** include ambition, the ability to learn quickly and great self-confidence. Another is a hunger for debate that is honed from an early age – and even as a schoolboy, one of Schmidt's hallmarks is his innate curiosity about the world.

**Schmidt joins the SPD in 1946.** Before this, Schmidt had served as a soldier in the Wehrmacht for eight years, before briefly being held as a prisoner of war. Schmidt completes a degree in economics in Hamburg. After a brief career as a public servant, Schmidt rises through the SPD's ranks and soon holds high-level positions in the party and in government.

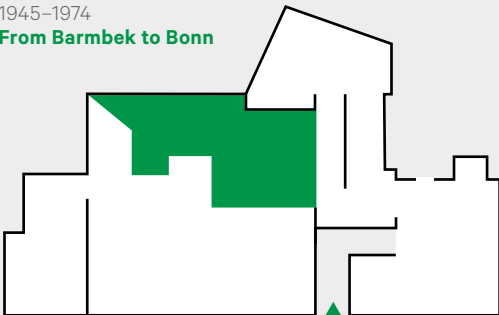
**Schmidt is committed to representative democracy.** However, this quickly brings him into conflict with a grassroots movement in society calling for greater political participation. Schmidt views the political ideologies of these groups with scepticism. After his experiences of war and dictatorship, he is mistrusting of the great societal models of the 20th century.

**The exhibition shows:**

- **Schmidt's experiences and lessons from the war**
- **His political rise »between Barmbek and Bonn«**
- **Formative issues from the first decades after the war**

1945–1974

**From Barmbek to Bonn**



# 1974–1982

## Chancellorship



Sven Simon



Michael Zapf

Taking the oath of office in the Bundestag,  
Bonn I 16.05.1974

A Pentel green ink pen, Schmidt's preferred writing  
instrument

**Increasing living standards, humanizing the working world** and delivering greater educational equity. These are the goals of Helmut Schmidt's social-liberal coalition. Schmidt continues the political agenda set by his predecessor, Willy Brandt.

**But amidst economic and structural crises, the leeway for spending increasingly narrows.**

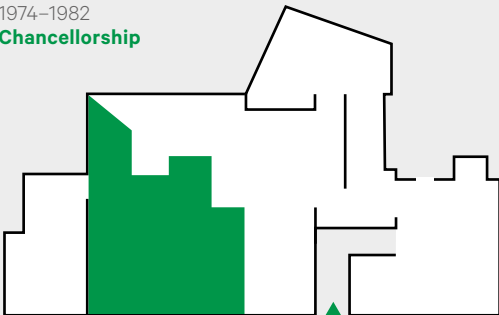
Schmidt's chancellorship marks a transition from the »planning euphoria« of the 1960s to a calmer, pragmatic style of politics.

**Schmidt's greatest strength in politics is his international outlook.** However, in his own country Helmut Schmidt ultimately fails to reconcile the reform elements of the »new social movements« with his own understanding of Social Democratic politics – and Schmidt's party becomes less and less comfortable with the increasingly business-friendly stance taken by its FDP coalition partner.

**The exhibition shows:**

- **Schmidt as the »media chancellor« and the impact of his political career on his personal life and health**
- **The great challenges during Schmidt's chancellorship and their relevance to the present day**
- **Major clashes over the balance between »freedom« and »security«**

1974–1982  
**Chancellorship**



# 1982–2015

## »Off Duty«



Karl-Bernd Karwasz

Election campaign after the fall of the Berlin Wall,  
Güstrow | 12.02.1990

**After almost 30 years as a full-time politician, Helmut Schmidt** departs as Chancellor following the »constructive vote of no confidence« of 1 October 1982. All attempts to convince Schmidt to stand again in 1983 against his successor, Helmut Kohl (CDU), end in failure.

**In May 1983, Helmut Schmidt takes on a new role:** the publisher Gerd Bucerius asks him to become one of the editors at the weekly newspaper DIE ZEIT. In his new position, Schmidt takes every opportunity to press ahead with the »continuation of politics with other means«.

**Schmidt works tirelessly on issues that are important to him:** European integration and international security, as well as economic and financial matters. He flies extensively in the process, meeting old partners, but also making new contacts. A constant presence in the media, Schmidt's political judgement becomes increasingly sought after – the »old« Schmidt is far more popular with Germans than the Chancellor was.





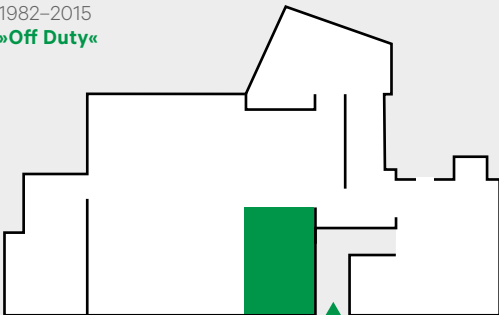
Michael Zapf

View of the exhibition space

### The exhibition shows:

- **Schmidt's contributions and input into topical debates**
- **Schmidt's broader approaches and networks for resolving problems as a commentator and elder statesman**
- **A selection from Schmidt's bookshelves for browsing**

1982–2015  
»Off Duty«



# Schmidt!

## Living Democracy

**»Democracy is not a fixed state of affairs; democracy is a process.«**





Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, holding a speech at the SPD-party congress | 11.11.1975, Lothar Schaak

# Services

## at the exhibition



Michael Zapf

## For school classes

### **Workshops**

From Bonn's »TV democracy« to social media; from the environmental movement to Fridays for Future: Helmut Schmidt and the era in which he lived provide many points of reference for current debates in society. The focus of our changing workshops is on independent exploration of topics and mutual dialogue.

### **Tours and rallyes**

Who was the man with the »Elblotsenmütze« mariner's cap? Chancellor, Social Democrat, commentator, soldier, world affairs analyst, pianist – or all of these at once? This introductory tour offers an initial insight into Helmut Schmidt's personality, covering 100 years of contemporary history in the process.

### **Educational projects**

We enjoy working closely with schools in Hamburg and throughout Germany. We would be happy to work alongside you to carry out your project days, weeks and longer-term partnerships that relate to the exhibition themes.

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## Tours

### **Public tours**

60-minute introductory tours focusing on selected highlights.

### **Private group tours**

Discover our exhibition at your own pace. We'll guide you through almost 100 years of contemporary history. Special focuses are possible by arrangement.

### **Curators' tours**

We'll regularly invite you on tours with our exhibition curators. Find out fascinating background information about how exhibitions were created.

### **Walk: »On the trail of Helmut Schmidt«**

From the Kontorhaus district to the town hall: retrace Helmut Schmidt's footsteps in Hamburg and discover intriguing locations that recall his life and legacy.

### **Current dates at:**

[www.helmut-schmidt.de/ausstellungen/schmidt-demokratie-leben](http://www.helmut-schmidt.de/ausstellungen/schmidt-demokratie-leben)

### **Booking:**

[buchung@helmut-schmidt.de](mailto:buchung@helmut-schmidt.de)

2017–

## Founding and functions



## Bundeskanzler Helmut Schmidt Stiftung

The Bundeskanzler-Helmut-Schmidt-Stiftung, established in 2017, remembers one of the most important German statesmen of the 20th century. As Minister for Home Affairs in Hamburg, leader of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag, as a minister and above all as West Germany's fifth Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt was committed to democracy. Above and beyond his political impact, he also initiated and shaped debates in society as a commentator and public intellectual.

**Taking the ideas and interests of its namesake as a starting point, the foundation stimulates current debates in three subject areas.**

### **These are:**

- The future of democracy and social cohesion in Germany
- The future of European integration and the role played by Europe, in promoting peace in a world that is increasingly being shaped by resurgent geopolitical rivalries
- The future of the welfare state and a just global economic order



Wolfgang Wilde

Helmut Schmidt I Hamburg, 29.03.2011

**The permanent exhibition in Hamburg's city centre and the Helmut Schmidt-Archiv at the residence in Hamburg-Langenhorn closely relate to the subject areas. In addition, archives and exhibition aim to**

- Put the impact of Helmut Schmidt into current and historical context
- Increase interest in nearly a century of German and international contemporary history
- Support debates and research relating to contemporary history

Using a wide range of event formats, the foundation brings together representatives from a wide range of academic disciplines, civil society groups and political organizations together for discussion. We place a particular emphasis on young people to develop new perspectives for Germany and Europe in the 21st century.

# Residence and archives in Hamburg-Langenhorn

Loki and Helmut Schmidt's former residence, located at Neubergerweg 80 in Hamburg's Langenhorn district, is a home full of contemporary history. The private living quarters can be viewed in a virtual tour on the Internet. The Foundation also offers tours in small groups.

Around 3,200 folders, more than 600 metres of shelving: the archives that Helmut Schmidt bequeathed to us occupy an entire building in Neubergerweg. Schmidt's archives, as well as those from Loki Schmidt and Willi Berkhan, one of Helmut Schmidt's friends and political confidants, are available for academic research.



Michael Zapf





Sven Simon

The Schmidts in front of their home  
in Langenhorn | 1968

## **Helmut Schmidt-Archiv**

Neubergerweg 86

22419 Hamburg

Tel. +49 40 5313777

[archiv@helmut-schmidt.de](mailto:archiv@helmut-schmidt.de)



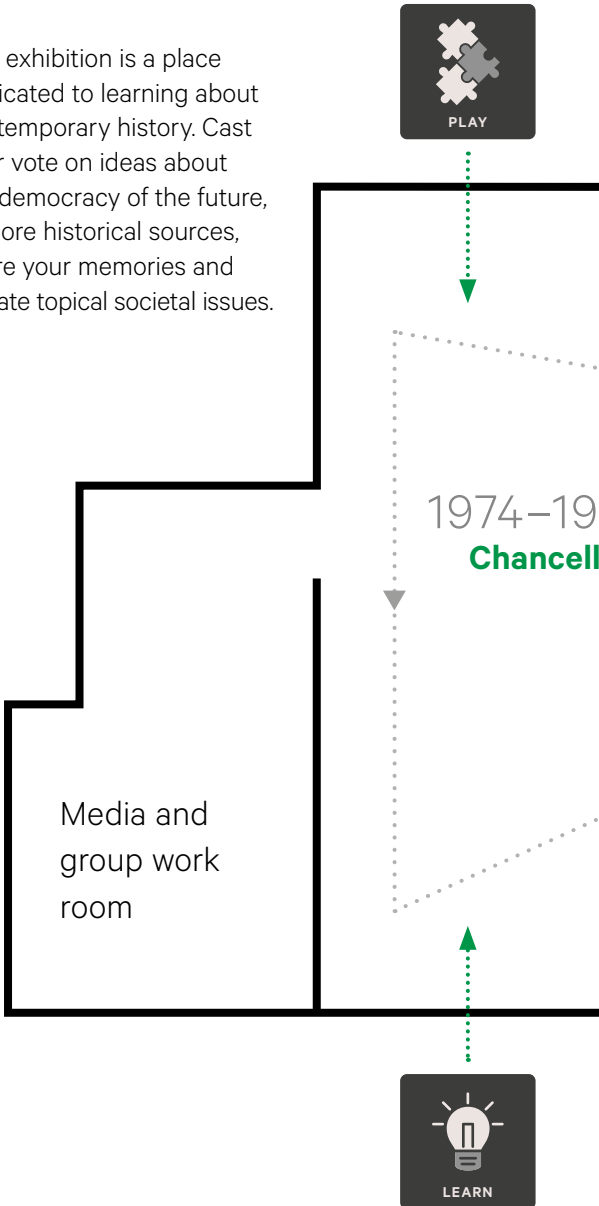
Michael Zapf

Looking into the living room of the Langenhorn home | 2020

# Floor plan

## Schmidt! Living democracy

The exhibition is a place dedicated to learning about contemporary history. Cast your vote on ideas about the democracy of the future, explore historical sources, share your memories and debate topical societal issues.



1974-19  
Chancell

Media and  
group work  
room

LEARN

1945–1974

**From Barmbek to Bonn**

82  
**orship**



1982–2015

**“Off Duty“**



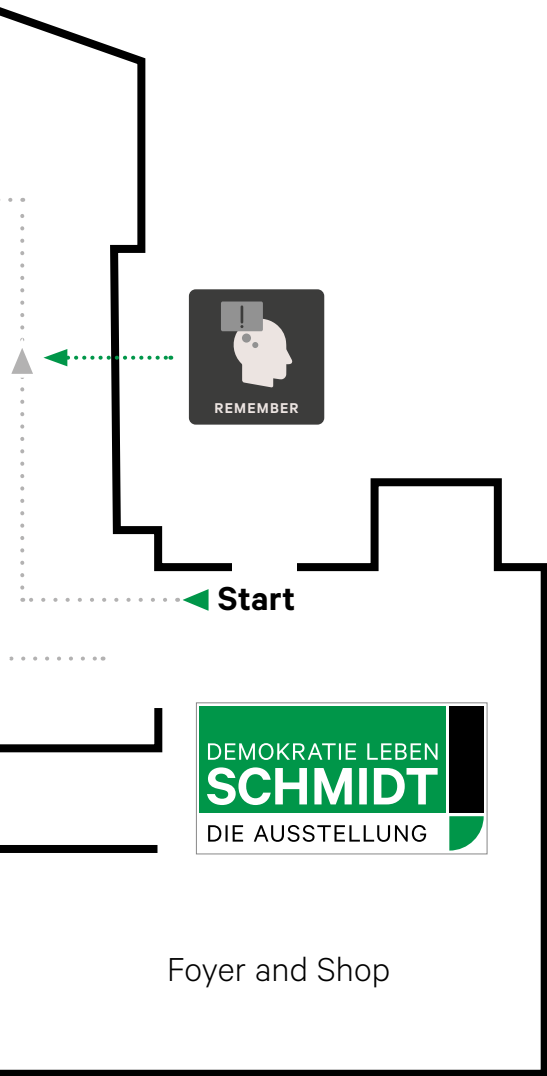


Photo credits for the front page (from top-left to bottom-right): Meeting between Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Helmut Schmidt | 1977, Heinrich Sanden/dpa; Helmut Schmidt (old) | 25.09.2000, J. H. Darching/Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung; SPD party conference at the Olympiahalle in Munich | 20.04.1982; Harald Hoffmann/Bundesarchiv; Helmut Schmidt, swearing-in ceremony in the German Bundestag | 16.05.1974, Sven Simon/Ullstein Bild; Helmut Schmidt, speaking in a debate, Rohwedder/picture alliance; Helmut Schmidt (young) | 1932, Sven Simon/Helmut Schmidt-Archiv; Helmut Schmidt in Essen | 17.05.1984, Martin Athenstädt/picture alliance; Loki and Helmut Schmidt at Brahmsee lake | 03.08.1972, J. H. Darching/Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung



Bundeskanzler  
Helmut Schmidt  
Stiftung

# Exhibition shop



Bundeskanzler-Helmut-Schmidt-Stiftung | 100 Jahre in 100 Bildern



Bundeskanzler-Helmut-Schmidt-Stiftung | Zuhause bei Loki und Helmut Schmidt



Matthias Naß | Der Elblotse



All photos on this page by Michael Zapf

Inside the exhibition shop

# Contact

## Schmidt! Living democracy

### Opening times:

Wednesday to Sunday

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free entry!

### More information:

[www.helmut-schmidt.de](http://www.helmut-schmidt.de)

### Helmut-Schmidt-Forum

Kattrepel 10

(at the ZEIT Pressehaus)

20095 Hamburg

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[ausstellung@helmut-schmidt.de](mailto:ausstellung@helmut-schmidt.de)



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Cooperation partners:



Katharina M. Trebitsch



Bundeskanzler  
Helmut Schmidt  
Stiftung



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung  
für Kultur und Medien