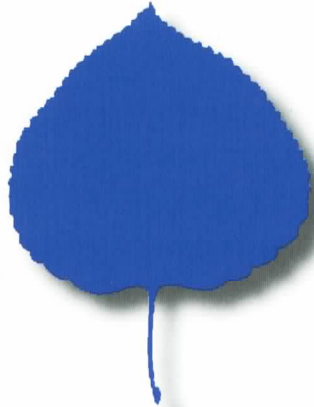


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Aspen Institute Berlin



30 Years Aspen Institute Berlin The Legacy of Shepard Stone

Author: Sonja Bonin

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The Aspen Institute epitomizes the transatlantic community in all its many aspects
– political, economic, cultural.

Javier Solana, former Secretary General of NATO

Whenever radical changes take place, such as the end of the Cold War;
whenever crises occur, as happened with the Gulf War, and whenever unexpected
events hit the headlines, as was the case when the Wall came down,
the Aspen Institute Berlin springs into action.

Marion Countess Dönhoff, the late publisher of *Die Zeit*

It's the unique combination of people and ideas and probing questions and
discussion groups that allow you to think through a lot of important issues in the
company of very smart people."

Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of State

We seek to foster enlightened leadership, the appreciation of timeless ideas and values, and open-minded dialogue on contemporary issues. Through seminars, policy programs, conferences, and leadership development initiatives, the Institute and its international partners seek to promote the pursuit of common ground and deeper understanding in a non-partisan and non-ideological setting. We help people become more enlightened in their work and enriched in their lives. Together we can learn one of the keys to being successful in business, leadership and life: balancing conflicting values in order to find common ground with fellow citizens while remaining true to basic ideals.

Walter Isaacson, President & CEO of The Aspen Institute USA

The Aspen Idea - its Roots in the Rocky Mountains

The first and only time that Albert Schweitzer, the renown philosopher, humanitarian, and Nobel Laureate, visited the United States, it was a place called Aspen, Colorado, in the midst of the Rocky Mountains. The year was 1949 and the famous doctor had been lured to the sleepy little town by a donation to his so-called jungle-hospital in Lambarene, Gabon and by the prospect of a spectacular bicentennial celebration for a great German humanist: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

The people behind the unusual event were three friends sharing one vision: to promote enlightened leadership among the economical, cultural, and political elite by reading, debating,

and discussing the great texts of humankind (from Plato to Montesquieu) in a remote setting removed from the daily routine. Walter Paepcke, the son of German immigrants from Mecklenburg and a successful businessman who owned the American Container Company in Chicago, donated the Aspen property on which the festival was to take place. His plan was to transform the slumbering former mining town into a ski resort during winter and into a "cultural spa," a center for dialogue, in the summer.



Shepard Stone, a member of The Aspen Institute USA staff, Chancellor Willy Brandt and former Bauhaus architect Herbert Bayer in Aspen, Colorado, 1973

Through conversations with friends Robert Hutchins, president of the University of Chicago, and philosopher Mortimer Adler, Paepcke decided to organize a festival to celebrate the grand humanistic values and formidable geniuses in the spheres of science, music and literature on the occasion of the Goethe anniversary.

For twenty days, more than 2,000 guests and several international press representatives gathered in Aspen during that summer, enjoying lectures, discussions, and live concerts in a huge tent that was designed by the Finnish-American architect Eero Saarinen. Besides Schweitzer, prominent writers like Thornton Wilder and José Ortega y Gasset and other celebrities attended. Although it was intended as a one-time event, the overwhelmingly enthusiastic response led to the establishment of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies (AIHS), accompanied by the Aspen Summer Music Festival and the Aspen Film Classics Program, America's first film festival. Over the years, the International Design Conference, the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, and the Aspen Center for Physics, as well as a wide variety of policy programs would follow. Challenging the conventional boundaries of a think tank, Aspen's focus on the traditional humanities and its specific "Aspen method" of gathering, retreat-like, for intensive study and discussion distinguished Aspen from other institutions.

In the summer of 1950, the institute initiated its first "Executive Leadership Seminar." Business people and other leaders came together for an intensive reading and discussion of classic texts that deal with issues of democracy, liberty, duty and responsibility, capitalism and equality. The Executive Seminar continues to be the centerpiece of the Institute's activities. Aspen, Colorado has become a place of meeting for prominent business people, distinguished statesmen, influential publicists, and leading intellectuals, where the best and the brightest assemble.

I was thinking of the Aspen Institute – and I still do – as a global movement of people and ideas and institutions. Joseph E. Slater, former President of The Aspen Institute USA

Bold Ideas and Hopeful Plans

When Joe Slater became president of the Aspen Institute in Colorado in 1970, an air of change was rife – it was time for Aspen to look abroad. The Board had been considering a European engagement for some time. If the deterioration of American-European relations continued, it was likely that "we shall drift back into some 19th century form of uneasy mutual suspicion." Concerned about this possibility, Slater invited Europeans to Aspen whom he had met in the process of his prior engagements at the Ford Foundation and the Salk Institute, including Marion Countess Dönhoff, Lord Alan Bullock, Richard von Weizsäcker, and American Shepard Stone. Both Stone and Slater had close ties with Germany, particularly Berlin. Lord Bullock favored making the divided city Aspen's first European endeavor due not only to its key position in East-West relations, but because he felt that the Institute would be met with more appreciation and more attention in Berlin than other cities like London, Paris, or Tokyo. As Countess Dönhoff recalls, she was sitting at the Aspen pool with Stone and von Weizsäcker one day, chatting excitedly about the Institute's plans to branch into Europe, preferably Germany. Among the three of them, she said, "there was not the slightest doubt in our minds that Berlin was the only possible location. We argued that it might be possible for us at some stage in the future to meet for two days in West

Berlin and then for two days in East Berlin. This was a rather presumptuous concept at the time – some might have said completely unrealistic – but it inspired us to a whole range of bold ideas and hopeful plans.”

Shortly thereafter, on September 28, 1973, Chancellor Willy Brandt was awarded the Aspen Institute Statesman-Humanist Award. During the ceremony, he announced that the Institute had decided to set up an international meeting center in Berlin. He, too, stressed that “the choice of this city is no coincidence: for us, it is the apex and touchstone of the new relationship between East and West. In Berlin, as here, figures of spiritual and intellectual authority will discuss together with young people from all sections of society the tasks of peace and social well-being. International and European problems will have a special place in Aspen Berlin.”

When it was founded, the Aspen Institute was an important window of Berlin to the wider world.
Eberhard Diepgen, former Governing Mayor of Berlin

The Aspen Institute Berlin

Plans were quickly finalized and Shepard Stone was put in charge of laying the ground for the new Institute in Berlin. Stone’s proposal received an enthusiastic response from Governing Mayor Klaus Schütz and the Berlin Senate. The City offered to cover two-thirds of the new Institute’s expenses for a period of five years, an item that was included in the city’s budget with a surprising, non-bureaucratic speed. The Senate would also provide the site, a small bungalow

on the island of Schwanenwerder. The American parent Institute supplied the director’s salary, and additional funding would come from private donors, predominantly German foundations like the *Tagesspiegel Foundation*, the *Thyssen Foundation*, the *Axel-Springer Foundation*, the *Volkswagen Foundation* and the *Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation*.



Among friends: Founding Director Shepard „Shep” Stone, Professor Richard „Rix” Löwenthal, former Chancellor Willy Brandt, publicist Marion Countess Dönhoff in the Aspen office on Schwanenwerder, November 10, 1974

With funding, direction, and a location in place, the Aspen Institute Berlin, legally a non-partisan, non-profit organization, came into existence on July 1, 1974. Until mid-September of that year the Bungalow on Schwanenwerder was being redecorated under the auspices of former *Bauhaus* architect Herbert Bayer, who had already supervised the architecture of the Aspen Campus in Colorado. The official opening of the *Aspen Berlin Institut für Humanistische Studien e.V.*, as it was originally called, took place on October 8 and the Board met for the first time.

Among its members: former Chancellor Willy Brandt, Governor of Bavaria Alfons Goppel, former High Commissioner for Germany John J. McCloy, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, the Governing Mayor of Berlin Klaus Schütz, historian Lord Alan Bullock, the future President of West Germany Richard von Weizsäcker, sociologist and politician Ralf Dahrendorf, professor of politics and journalist Richard Löwenthal, and publicist Marion Countess Dönhoff.

In the month of its inception, Aspen Berlin sponsored a three-day seminar on the "Communications Revolution" and a lecture on the "Changing World Climate." Among the participants from Germany, Great Britain, France, Israel, Belgium, the U.S., and the Philippines were Richard Löwenthal and Theo Sommer, editor-in-chief (currently editor-at-large) of *Die Zeit*. Receptions, meetings, interviews, lectures, and discussions followed. From the Aspen Institute in Colorado, Douglass Cater, Program Director for Communications and Society, wrote to Shepard Stone, "I continue to be pleased with our first test of Aspen Berlin. It worked like a charm." Stone recorded: "Aspen Berlin has received considerable publicity in Berlin and the Federal Republic. Berlin authorities have told me that something new and lively has come to the city. Now it is up to the whole Aspen community to maintain the momentum."

Aspen Berlin kept up the pace and created its own program, independent of Colorado. In November of that year, 20 American delegates to a German-American conference, headed by John J. McCloy, met at Aspen Berlin; in December, a group of 35 young Berliners and foreign artists

were invited to talk to Lothar Loewe, the first correspondent of the West German public radio and TV station ARD in East Berlin. Former Deputy Director James A. Cooney recalls, "We tended to have 15 to 20 events per ten-month year while I was in Berlin. Invariably, each year, we scheduled one non-stop set of events so that everyone worked without a break for three to four straight weeks. The staff was exhausted. Shep always promised never to do that again, but of course it happened every year."



Shepard Stone (left) and Edzard Reuter in a debate at the Aspen Institute Berlin

Topics of discussion during the first two years of the Institute included climate change, journalism in developing countries, prospects of East-West relations, new politics for foreign labor in Europe, European security and disarmament, criminal justice systems in Europe and the U.S.,

a peaceful use of nuclear energy, the future of the universities, the operation of multinational corporations in developing countries, the changing role of women and men, the Soviet Union 60 years after the revolution, the German-Jewish-Israel relationship, and many more. In the years following, European matters, the German question, and issues concerning Berlin amounted to roughly one-third of the program. "Our expectations that we had about Aspen were by far exceeded after only a few months," was heard from the Berlin Senate in 1975, and the press beamed. As Shepard Stone – or "Shep" as his friends called him – had hoped, Aspen Berlin had become "a center for humanistic reflection and action related to contemporary problems, serving to bring together leaders of thought and promising younger talents from all parts of the world, including Eastern Europe and the West and North and South."

The Aspen Institute Berlin, of course, is living testimony to Shepard Stone. To this day my Aspen connections pay off for me almost daily. The Institute was remarkably important and successful and much of that credit goes to Shep.

James Cooney, former Deputy Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin

Stone led both the Institute and the conferences with a unique mixture of charm and authority. When Shep banged his famous pipe on the table, it meant: back to work! "The respect that he commanded from the participants, from the staff, and from our highest-level guests was remarkable. Remember too that our highest level guests included many heads of state. Shep

blended together Prussian authoritarianism with American humor," recalls James Cooney, a former Deputy Director of the Institute. Dubbed by the press a "friendly tamer" of lively debates, Stone initiated open discussions about pressing questions of the time. Representatives from both sides of the Atlantic and both sides of the Iron Curtain quickly realized that they were in a forum defined by respect and a lack of prejudice and were thus enabled to speak honestly, bypassing the official propaganda that was entrenched during the Cold War.

Typically, leading newspaper editors were present at virtually all Aspen meetings; however, the rules had been made clear: reporting was allowed unless otherwise noted, but no names were to be cited. Not one journalist ever broke or challenged this "gentlemen's agreement," and the work of Aspen Berlin was thoroughly and extensively covered by the Berlin and national press. The unique combination of frank and open discussion inside the Institute and discretion outside of the conference room was part of Aspen Berlin's tremendous success. Another secret of the Institute's attraction: Stone's extensive network of influential politicians, researchers, journalists, and businesspeople whom he had met and assisted in their respective careers in his former positions (see his complete biography in this volume).

Before he took over the direction of Aspen Berlin, Shepard Stone had lived and worked in Germany on three different occasions. He first came to Berlin as a student at the Friedrich-Wilhelm University from 1929 to 1933. While earning a PhD in history, Stone perfected his

fluency in German and met his wife, Charlotte Hasenclever. During his second stay, Stone served as an army intelligence officer in occupied Germany immediately following the war; and in 1949 he returned as the Director of the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) under High Commissioner John J. McCloy. Stone established a close network consisting of many influential intellectuals and politicians. Shepard Stone was therefore exactly the right man in the right place when he became Aspen Berlin's first Director in 1974.

"Aspen Berlin fully used Shep's enormous abilities and personality," said Joe Slater. "He was marvelous as advisor to McCloy in Germany, and in charge of International Affairs at the Ford Foundation. He had the ability to convene leaders, of putting the right questions, of nursing relationships after the meetings were over. These and other activities of the Aspen Institute often grew into friendships, support, and ideas. I think probably he was more fulfilled at Aspen than in any of the many other excellent jobs he had prior to that."

What makes Aspen so special? Partly the site close to the Berlin wall which, like a death sentence, serves to clarify the mind wonderfully; partly the informality and restricted numbers which allow a real discussion; partly, of course, Shep Stone – Vermont farmer, Berlin Ehrenbürger and conference catalyst extraordinaire, encouraging the timid and puncturing the pompous.

Jonathan Carr, correspondent of *The Economist*

A Bridge Between East and West

Stone used his vast personal network of policy makers and policy molders to accomplish Aspen Berlin's impressive program. Even when, surprisingly, the Institute initially had problems attracting participants from West Berlin and West Germany, "Shep was constantly on the phone, coaxing politicians and drawing on his huge reservoir of personal contacts to ensure a quorum," reminisces Michael Haltzel, his first Deputy Director. "He was a master of public relations, parlaying most meetings at the Institute into articles in the Berlin press."

One of the Institute's most outstanding and differentiating features that was consistently noted in the press and official reports by the Governing Mayor's office, and highly appreciated by the Western participants, was its unique ability to attract delegates from East Germany, the Soviet Union, and other Eastern Bloc countries to its conventions.

At the Institute, discussants gained important insights into the way their Cold War opponents thought and, conversely, how their own policies were perceived "on the other side." In February 1982, for instance, Aspen Berlin facilitated a four-day seminar on American trends and policies. During the forum, a Soviet expert on the U.S. painted a gloomy picture of U.S.-USSR relations, which were, by his account, at "the lowest and most dangerous level since WWII. [...] While Nixon and Eisenhower had searched for common interests with the Soviet Union in order to avoid a nuclear war, Reagan had signaled the Soviet Union that there weren't any common

interests but only confrontation in the sense that whatever was bad for the Soviet Union was good for the United States," he said. "Political rhetoric associating the USSR with evil (Reagan would later dub the Soviet Union the "evil empire") was perceived as a threat as well as an insult in the Soviet Union." American delegates responded with harsh criticism of Soviet policies in Angola, Ethiopia, and Afghanistan. Détente had failed, they claimed, because the Soviets had used it for strengthening their own strategic position. Summarizing the event, David Anderson, then a representative of the U.S. Embassy in West Berlin, reported, "The Aspen Institute Berlin provided a good opportunity for a sampling of European expectations for the Reagan administration. [...] Direct contradictions between the Soviet and the American view became apparent."



Writer Lev Kopelev (left) with Richard von Weizsäcker

The Aspen Institute Berlin's reputation as non-partisan organization that brings key policy-makers together for thought leading to action enabled it to seize the opportunity and attract emerging leaders from Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union to its conferences. East-West bridges among emerging leaders were constructed post haste! As evidenced by the correspondence I still receive from participants in those conferences, the bridges are indeed durable. Jeff Thinnis, former Deputy Director at the Aspen Institute Berlin

Facing Cold War Realities

Above all, Aspen Berlin was of great importance to the divided city itself. On the one hand, the *Viermächteabkommen* (Four-Power Accord) of 1971 and the *Grundlagenvertrag* (Basic Contract) of 1972 had brought some stability to Berlin. On the other hand, Berliners were reaching out for the world's support and feared the loss of the international attention. The national government, too, was keenly interested in the joint German-American operation, particularly since the new *Ostpolitik* drafted by Willy Brandt and Egon Bahr was received with some suspicion in both the Nixon and Ford administrations.

"One could even argue that Berlin in 1974 was more isolated from the West than it had been twenty years earlier," said former Deputy Director Michael Haltzel of the climate at the time of Aspen Berlin's inception. "Bundesbürger" [West Germans] didn't have a clue about the situation in Berlin," he said. By bringing

participants from both sides of the Wall to West Berlin, the Institute fostered a sense of mutual understanding and empathy for the divided city. Shepard Stone made sure that at least one of the evenings of every Aspen conference was spent in East Berlin in order to provide East Berliners the possibility of inconspicuously joining the group. Incidentally, it was also an opportunity to demonstrate the everyday absurdities within the divided city: participants from Eastern Europe and Eastern Germany had to cross the inner city border at a different checkpoint than citizens of West Berlin, West Germans, and Americans. Therefore, they had to be picked up with different vans, driven by student staff who themselves had to be West Berliners, West German, or American, respectively. Stone also made it a habit to take his visitors to the notorious bridge over the Havel called *Glienicker Brücke* that divided East from West. After their stay at Aspen Berlin, visitors had a much better understanding of what the Cold War really meant.



Former AIB Director Catherine McArdle Kelleher (left) with former Governing Mayor Eberhard Diepgen © fotohasse

The Institute brought together Berliners in ways that no one else in the city could.

James A. Cooney, former Deputy Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin

Enhancing Berlin's Cultural Life

Besides its impact on transatlantic, East-West and German-German relations, Aspen Berlin endeavored to add to the city's intellectual and cultural life. Professors from the Free University, for instance, made their inaugural visit to Aspen Berlin and regularly used Shepard Stone's invitation lists as a who-is-who in their own field. When Stone learned that the leaders of Berlin's research and educational institutions never had a chance to gather together and outline common strategies, he single-handedly introduced a monthly meeting, the *Institutsleiterkreis* at the Institute in 1978. The group consisted of representatives from the universities, private research institutions such as the Max-Planck-Institutes, the Hahn-Meitner-Institute, Berlin's Senator for science and research, and a delegate from the national Ministry for Research and Technology. A similar circle for the heads of the major cultural institutions (museums, theaters, opera, film, music, literature, the media) followed in 1981. It was the *Institutsleiterkreis* that formulated the concept of an "Institute for Advanced Studies," similar to the famous Harvard institution, in Berlin. Over the course of two years, the circle planned and organized what was to become the *Wissenschaftskolleg* on behalf of the Berlin Senate.



U.S. President George Bush (right) in David Anderson's office during his visit on the occasion of the Aspen Institute Berlin's 20th anniversary 1994 (left: David Anderson)

"I was delighted to hear the Governing Mayor's talk about the interaction between the Institute and Germany and Berlin particularly. I hope that will continue for another 20 years, because the work of this Institute, its most challenging seminars and conferences, seems to me to lie ahead," is how former President George Bush praised the Aspen Institute Berlin's contribution to the intellectual and cultural life of the city on the occasion of Aspen's 20th anniversary in Berlin.

It was the most serious and fun experience.

Lord Alan Bullock about an Aspen Institute Berlin seminar

Thought Leading to Action – Aspen Activities and their Long-Term Effect

Over the last three decades, the Aspen Institute Berlin has evolved and adapted not only to the

surrounding circumstances of world politics, but also to special interests and innovative ideas of its respective directors and deputy directors. Still, nothing has changed the original Aspen idea of bringing together current and future leaders from both sides of the Atlantic to discuss major world problems and work out tangible solutions or proposals. In respect to this goal, Aspen Berlin has facilitated and hosted more than eleven hundred events in Berlin, Europe, and America.

Conferences, Debates, Roundtable Discussions

Aspen offers a mixture of conferences, debates and roundtable discussions about transatlantic foreign policy, defense, cultural, and trade issues. Recent Aspen programs have focused on democratic developments in the Arab World, the prospect of the International Criminal Court, U.S. – EU trade disputes, and the Kyoto Protocol on global warming. Aspen Berlin draws on its extensive consortium of friends and associates to provide audiences the opportunity to hear former U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Larry Welch give a nuts-and-bolts lecture on the capabilities gap one week; proceeded by the European Union's Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy, offering a critique of President Bush's trade policy the next week; Ambassador Daniel Coats briefs his audience on the situation in Iraq and Lothar Späth envisions proper economical policies for Germany in the weeks following.

"The whole purpose of the Institute is to create a transatlantic marketplace of ideas," says Jeff Gedmin, the current Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin. "We want to reach decision makers, but also a broad public as well."

Over the course of time, Aspen seminars, lectures, and conferences have mirrored the political and social atmosphere of the respective period and, in doing so, have made headlines in the German and international press on a regular basis. Marion Countess Dönhoff of *Die Zeit*, for example, while covering the Aspen conference on the final agreement of Helsinki in October 1976, wrote: "Never before have Russians, Americans, East Europeans – only the Czechs were missing – and Germans from the FRG as well as the GDR taken seats around one table." A speech in which former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger criticized the lack of Western leadership and warned of the increasing strength of the Soviet Union was applauded by *Der Tagesspiegel* as an "ideal model of an open public discussion." The event followed a two-day Aspen seminar on Schwanenwerder and was attended by more than 1,000 Berliners.

During the 1980's, a number of groundbreaking events took place at the Institute. At a 1983 Aspen convocation on German-American relations, former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt generated intense public debate as he urged the United States to pursue a global strategy of economic and military stability, while harshly criticizing the U.S. government. "The Reagan administration does not understand," he said, "that the U.S. military strategy will fail unless it is made part of a larger effort to seek détente with the Soviet Union, negotiate a stable peace, and create a viable economic world order." The American delegates responded with a warning that growing anti-Americanism in Germany could result in a reduction or withdrawal of U.S. troops.



Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt 1987

Other highlights in those years included a three-day conference entitled "The Berlin Agreement – Symbol of Confrontation, Touchstone of Détente" in 1983; "Forty Years After Potsdam," during which Soviet and Western participants of the famous 1945 conference reconvened; the "German-Jewish-Israel Relations" conference, which included as participants Nahum Goldmann, Heinz Galinski, and Eugen Kogon; and the 1988 German-French convention, at which time Chancellor Helmut Kohl endorsed a common European security policy. Last but not least, the Aspen Institute played an integral part in celebrating Berlin's 750th anniversary in 1987 by arranging an illustrious multi-national conference focused on "Perspectives for the 21st Century," held in the Reichstag overlooking the Berlin Wall. No one expected that just two years later the Wall would "crumble and fall," just like Shepard Stone had always predicted.

In November 1989, however, Stone was already cutting wood on his farm in Vermont. He had retired and handed over the direction of the Institute on March 31, 1988, his 80th birthday – which left his successor, former Ambassador David Anderson, with large shoes to fill. On the occasion of Stone's retirement, Edzard Reuter, then Chairman of the Board, took the initiative to establish a private foundation with the sole purpose of securing Aspen Berlin's future work. Thanks to Reuter, four major German companies contributed to the foundation's endowment: the *Bayer AG*, the *Deutsche Bank AG*, the *Siemens AG*, and the *Daimler-Benz AG*. The *Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft*, under the administration of Dr. Horst Niemeyer, also supported the endeavor. In memory of Aspen Berlin's ingenious founder, mentor, and long-time director, the new foundation was named "Shepard Stone Foundation."

With largely unknown forces reshaping the post Cold War world, the Aspen Institute Berlin functions as a sort of seismograph. It measures the scale of the obvious international changes as well as the more subtle shifting of the globe's political, social and economic forces.

David Anderson, former Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin

With a new director in place, the Cold War a thing of the past, and Germany's reunification imminent, Aspen Berlin, which had cultivated East-West relations more intensively and over a longer period than other similar institutions, was poised to tackle new problems. The Institute reacted quickly to pressing questions about NATO's role in the post-Cold War period,

Germany's emerging foreign policy after unification, security and stability in Russia, the Ukraine, and other former member states of the Warsaw Pact.

Another focal point for Aspen Berlin was the situation in the Balkans. The wealth of expertise of Aspen in this area, under David Anderson, prompted the Institute to establish an independent International Commission on the Balkans in cooperation with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace under the leadership of Leo Tindemans in 1995. The results of this milestone venture were published in the report "Unfinished Peace," which received several editions and translations. In the fall of 1992, Aspen Berlin became the first to initiate a serious dialogue on the alarming increase of racism and right-wing extremism in Germany and Europe.



Founding member of the Board Lord Alan Bullock (left) and David Anderson

The turn of the new century brought new programming with it. A particular highlight among Aspen Berlin's conferences was "The Bundeswehr – Lessons of Democratic Integration" which took place in the Julius-Leber-Kaserne in Berlin in 2000 and was presented by General Jörg Schönbohm, responsible for the integration of the former East German army into the Bundeswehr.

In 2001, Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, gave a highly acclaimed speech at Aspen Berlin, in which he called for a renewal of the transatlantic alliance based upon common cultural values: "I believe that in order to prevent a major split, we should have better mutual understanding and a greater capacity for empathy with one another's positions and one another's dilemmas. [...] On the other hand, America should realize not only that it owes a substantial part of its greatness and strength to the European roots of its civilization; it should also be aware that it might still need Europe very badly indeed. It is not so difficult to imagine that other powers, equally advanced as today's U.S., might emerge elsewhere on our planet in the future and that a close cultural, political, and security link with half a billion Europeans might prove to be very useful for the United States, if merely for the purpose of maintaining balance." Finally, Aspen Berlin covered completely new ground when it hosted the Transatlantic Mayors' Summit, the second in a series of three trilateral conventions of German, French, and American mayors which culminated in the official formation of the International Conference of Mayors that assembles 30 mayors from five continents. This summit series marked the first serious multi-

national effort to develop relationships on a local rather than national level.

Wallenberg Lectures

In order to reach a diverse audience and to intensify its contribution to the cultural and intellectual life of Berlin, the Aspen Institute Berlin started a public lecture series in 1977. Funded by the Axel Springer Foundation, the series was named after the late German-American journalist Hans Wallenberg, who was a persistent advocate of the transatlantic partnership in the media he worked for, including *Die Welt*. Incidentally, Wallenberg was also the first editor of the *Neue Zeitung*, the German-language American newspaper that was founded and sponsored by the American High Commission for Germany under John J. McCloy and Shepard Stone.



General Wesley Clark gave a Wallenberg Lecture at the Aspen Institute Berlin in 1999.

Among the prominent dignitaries who gave Hans Wallenberg Lectures in Berlin, to name just a few, are James Baker, Henry Kissinger, Wesley Clark, Jaques Delors, Marion Countess Dönhoff, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Helmut Kohl, Alexander Lebed, Edzard Reuter, Fritz Stern, Nahum Goldmann, George Soros, and Wolfgang Clement.



Hans-Dietrich Genscher at an AIB Wallenberg Lecture 1996

The Wallenberg Lecture series has been the source of historic speeches, policy recommendations, and evolving theory in international relations. It was upon Aspen's invitation to speak at the Wallenberg Lecture series that Jaques Delors called the European unification our "historical mission." Similarly, the Wallenberg Lecture audience was among the first to hear Javier Solana proclaim NATO "ready for a stronger European role," George Soros elaborate on his financial boom/bust theory of European disintegration, and former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker declare, "Berlin is the birthplace of a special kinship

between Germans and Americans. We started the transatlantic community here, and it is from here that we must extend it. [...] The door to the Euro-Atlantic community is open. But only the Soviets can decide to step over the threshold."

Even to the most distinguished statesmen, the Hans Wallenberg Lectures provided a cherished opportunity to articulate one's ideas to a broad public audience and the press. former foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said in his 1996 Wallenberg speech "The Atlantic must not widen again after the Cold War. There is therefore much to say for a transatlantic treaty between the EU, the USA, and Canada." He was thereby suggesting a second "Harmel-Report," a new kind of strategic paper on the future of the alliance, similar to the 1967 document by the Belgian foreign minister Pierre Harmel. The same call, first made at an Aspen event, has recently been repeated by Friedbert Pflüger (speaker on foreign affairs for the CDU/CSU) and by Minister of Defense Peter Struck at the Munich Conference on Security Policy in January 2004.

Study Groups/Young Leaders Program

In later years we decided that a few steady ensembles – study groups of younger leaders – should be invited to return and practice together again so as to smooth discordant tones in the European-American relationship. Some of these ensembles, still playing together, have proven themselves to be among the Institute's most relevant and important productions.

- Daniel Hamilton about the Aspen Institute Berlin's Young Leader Program, 1994

From its inception in the 1970's, Aspen Berlin has put considerable effort into discovering and encouraging promising talents, and fostering lifelong networks within the transatlantic community. Initially, the program consisted of three different study groups – the Shepard Stone Study Group on East-West Relations and similar groups on Germany and the U.S. For each study group, the Institute selected 20-30 young leaders from the U.S., Germany and other European countries, aged 25-45, from various occupational backgrounds. To facilitate the authentic exchange of ideas and experiences, study groups have been diverse enough to include a broad range of views, yet cohesive enough to ensure productive discussions. Members met at regular intervals over a period of at least one or two years. Meetings would last several days in order to allow participants time to formulate concrete recommendations for political action. Members have been diplomats and politicians, journalists and scientists, business people and individuals of cultural influence.

We believe that the pin-pointing of key issues and analyzing how best to resolve them will lead to more informed and effective international leadership.

David Anderson, former Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin

Since 1986, the program has become known as the Young Leaders Program; through it, more than 1,000 people have taken part in some 80 projects in Berlin, Washington D.C., Paris, Brussels, Wye (Maryland), Budapest, Prague, Moscow, Riga, Vilnius, Istanbul, Bonn, Poznan, Warsaw, Chicago, Bled (Slovenia), Sarajevo,

Miami, Austin, and Cambridge, Massachusetts. Time after time, former Young Leaders have risen to important positions within their native governments, economies, diplomatic services, intellectual and cultural spheres, or in supra-national organizations like the EU, UN, or OSCE.



A group of AIB Young Leaders on the Red Square in Moscow, 1991. Topic: Human Rights, Rights of Ethnic Groups, Problems of National Independence, and Nationalism

Among them are Wolfgang Ischinger, the current German Ambassador to the United States; Dr. Friedbert Pflüger, member of the German parliament and speaker on foreign affairs for the CDU/CSU; Prof. Karl Schlögel, Eastern European history scholar at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder; Michelle Van Cleave, U.S. National Counterintelligence Officer; Simon Butt, Deputy Ambassador for the United Kingdom in Kiev; Amity Shlaes, Senior Columnist at the *Financial Times*; Dr. Johannes von Thadden, Managing Director of CDU ; Dr. Tatyana Zhdanova, Director of the John D. and

Catherine T. McArthur Foundation's Moscow Office; Michael A. Almond, President & CEO of the Charlotte Regional Partnership in Charlotte, North Carolina; William Drozdiak, Executive Director of the Brussels Office/Transatlantic Center of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF); Dr. Anne-Marie Le Gloannec, Deputy Director at the Centre Marc Bloch; Bill Inglee, Vice President for Legislative Affairs within the Lockheed Martin Corporation; Prof. Angela Stent, Department of Government at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.; and Brigade General Dr. Klaus Wittmann, Director at the Military Personnel Training Academy, Hamburg.

"Thinking globally has become an imperative for this generation of young leaders, and these programs develop this critical skill," said an American government official and former participant about Aspen Berlin's Young Leader Program.

Highlights from Aspen Berlin's Successful Young Leaders Program

The "German-American-Russian Dialogue" (GARD) was established in 2001. Although the participating members were engaged in activities with a number of bilateral institutions, a forum involving all three countries was glaringly absent. Aspen filled this gap with its GARD program, which consisted of four conferences over a period of two years and a number of smaller, informal gatherings over that time. The innovative trilateral approach facilitated open discussions on a wide range of political,

economic, and social changes and helped determine a common future policy agenda.

"TRANSFUSE," the Transatlantic Networking for the Future of Southeastern Europe, included 15 participants from Southeastern Europe and 15 mid-level staff members from Western governments and international organizations. It pioneered a lasting, cross-national, interdisciplinary network of emerging leaders who are dealing with a region that is paramount to European and world security.

"A New Transatlantic Agenda for the Next Century" is the result of a Study Group's intensive work on major issues involving transatlantic relations and global challenges on the verge of the new millennium. In their 1998 report to Aspen Berlin, the Young Leaders gave precise recommendations on how to improve and revitalize the transatlantic cooperation to face challenges in international trade and finance, security, and technology. They urged the Atlantic partners to clearly define leadership roles within their partnership, to guarantee mutual consultations and transparency within the alliance, and to jointly safeguard national information systems from high-tech terrorism. They proposed raising public awareness of realities and benefits resulting from changes in the world economy (globalization) and expediting trade liberalization between the U.S. and the EU. Additionally, they emphasized the necessity of narrowing the widening U.S.-European technology gap in the defense and aerospace sectors and called for a global promotion of IT literacy.

"The Mediterranean Dialogue" (2000-2002)

assembled emerging leaders from Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, and counterparts from NATO states. The Dialogue fostered trust among participating government officials, scholars, journalists and businesspeople and uncovered potential areas of stronger cooperation.

Congressional Staffers Program

The Congressional Staffers Program (CSP) was created by Aspen Berlin in 2000 as an international exchange program between members of the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, and respective staff and their German counterparts. Young members of the legislative staff from Germany and the U.S. converge for intense discussion on a regular basis, thereby improving mutual understanding, learning about transatlantic issues, and establishing multinational problem-solving mechanisms. Senior experts in leading government and parliamentary positions are invited to share their insights with the core group. The great success of the program is due in part to Aspen's cooperation with the Congressional Research Service, the Congressional Budget Office, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the American Political Science Association's Congressional Fellowship Program.

The VIP Discussion Series

The VIP Discussions are Aspen Berlin's youngest program. Indebted to the tremendous material support and guidance from its "Circle of Friends" – a separate non-profit association committed to supporting Aspen's work – the Institute

thought of a way to reciprocate that generosity. In addition to all other events, Friends of the Aspen Institute are invited to exclusive Cocktail or Breakfast Meetings with outstanding public figures in a very private setting. Since November 2002, they have had the opportunity to meet Ambassadors Daniel R. Coats, Claude Martin, Reinhard Bütikofer, Arnulf Baring, Otto Graf Lambsdorf, Wolfgang Gerhardt, Gernot Eler, Lothar Späth, Hansjörg Elshorst, Chairman of Transparency International's German chapter, and others. As Edzard Reuter, Honorary Member and former Chair of the Aspen Berlin Board and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Shepard Stone Foundation said recently when he thanked entrepreneur Reinhold Würth for sharing his life and work experience: "This evening is a good example of what Aspen stands for – talking frankly and openly, like adults among each other."



„No one was so central to the definition and daily life of Aspen Berlin over its first two decades than the late Shepard Stone. This remarkable ex-diplomat had a deep love of Berlin and Germany, and this was amply reciprocated. Indeed, during this directorship, he served as kind of unofficial cultural ambassador in Berlin at a time when few American institutions maintained representation there.“

David McLaughlin, former CEO of The Aspen Institute USA

His American-Jewish heritage and his European experiences moulded his exceptional personality. Clever intelligence, charm, and warm and firm friendliness made him unique. I was very proud when he asked me to chair the Board of his Institute.

Edzard Reuter, former Chairman of Daimler-Benz AG

A tireless communicator

“Everything happens in Berlin,” Shepard Stone used to remind his friends time and again, quoting his former professor at Dartmouth who sent him to Berlin after his graduation in 1929. The young American, born in 1908 in Nashua, New Hampshire, followed his advise and was completely overwhelmed: “Berlin was one of the most bubbling, exhilarating cities in the world,” he later recalled. He was fascinated by German culture, the philharmonic orchestra, the theaters, the museums, the opera, and the private salons. He was also impressed by the high standard of education at the University of Heidelberg, where he spent one semester studying with Karl Jaspers and Alfred Weber, and at the Friedrich-Wilhelm University, where he received his PhD in history in 1933.

Shepard Stone married his Berlin sweetheart, Charlotte “Musi” Hasenclever that year and they returned to the United States, where he earned a living as a reporter and European correspondent for the *New York Times*. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, Stone enlisted immediately. He took part in the invasion on Omaha Beach on D-Day; he was among the first to see the freed concentration camp Buchenwald; he was there when the Americans shook hands with the Russians at Torgau. In spite of all the atrocities he had seen, Shepard Stone would never loose his deep affection for “the better Germany” that he had experienced in the roaring twenties. “I feel I have only met magnificent Germans,” he once beamed.

Stone returned to Berlin as part of the military government where his job was to set up a free democratic press. Theodor Heuss got his license for the *Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung* from Shepard Stone, and Eugen Kogon received support to publish his book "Der SS-Staat." Returning to civilian life, Stone became assistant editor-in-chief of the famous *New York Times* Sunday edition. Only five years later, he was on his way to Germany once again; this time, as head of the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) for John J. McCloy, the newly appointed High Commissioner for Germany. In this very influential position, Shepard – or, as his friends called him: Shep – Stone helped funnel Marshall Plan money to struggling newspapers and innovative educational ventures like Inge Aicher-Scholl's *Hochschule für Design* in Ulm. He facilitated an exchange program between Berlin's Technical University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and supported promising institutions like the *Literarisches Colloquium Berlin* (LCB) and the *German Academic Exchange Service* (DAAD). One of his greatest accomplishments was a million dollar grant he secured from the Ford Foundation to establish the Free University in West Berlin.

After McCloy's tenure in Berlin ended, Shep Stone signed up with the Ford Foundation himself, the world's wealthiest philanthropic organization at the time. As the foundation's Director for International Activities, he spent millions on what has been called the "Cultural Cold Wars in Europe"* After a brief stint as head of the International Association for Cultural Freedom (IACF) in Paris, Shepard Stone found his true calling at the Aspen Institute Berlin, a job he handed over to his successor on his 80th birthday. He was the recipient of an honorary doctorate and professorship from the Free University, the honorary citizenship of Berlin, and Germany's Federal Order of Merit (*Bundesverdienstkreuz*). Shepard Stone died in a car accident in 1990, on his way to his alma mater, Dartmouth, where he was scheduled to give a talk entitled "Our Job in Germany."

*see Volker R. Berghahn: America and the Cultural Cold Wars in Europe

Germany's Best Interpreter

"There are three Americans in Berlin's post-war history who could with complete justification claim "Ich bin ein Berliner!" The first was Lucius D. Clay, during the blockade 1948/49 the father of the Airlift. The second, "Shep" Stone, the legendary founder of the Aspen Institute in Berlin, an international meeting center that measures up to its parent organization in the American Rocky Mountains. The third is David Anderson, who succeeded Shepard Stone in 1988". (Theo Sommer in his eulogy for David Anderson in the German weekly *Die Zeit*)



David Anderson, a specialist in German affairs, was a key player in the U.S. delegation that negotiated the Four-Power Berlin Agreement in 1971 with the Soviet Union, France and Britain. During his tenure at the State Department, which began in 1959, he worked closely with Secretaries of State Cyrus Vance and Henry Kissinger, and served in overseas posts from Brussels to Mali – including as Envoy to the Federal Republic of Germany from 1978 until 1981 and U.S. Ambassador in Belgrade from 1981 to 1985. Anderson was a visiting Professor of International Relations at Simmons College in Boston when he was named Aspen Berlin's Director in 1988.

Known for his diplomacy and professionalism, Anderson achieved a seamless transition into his role as Shepard Stone's successor at a time when the icy Cold War relationship with the Soviet Union evolved into a new world order following the fall of the Iron Curtain in the early 1990s. Under his leadership, Aspen Berlin rerouted its course, concentrating on a balance between the New European Peace Order and the problems arising in the Balkans. Anderson's initiative created an independent International Commission on the Balkans which resulted in a "Proposal for Peace" in 1996. David Anderson died on July 4, 1997 at the age of 60 in Berlin.



Knitting Together Future Elites

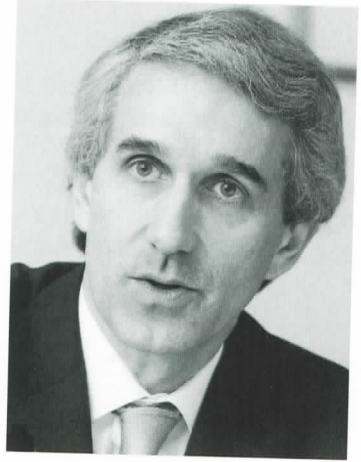
"For almost three decades now, the Aspen Institute Berlin has been among the most important institutions that symbolizes German-American closeness and friendship and has nurtured a lively transatlantic dialogue. More than other, similar forums, this institute has been and still is distinguished by the strength of its leaders," wrote Dr. Ulrich Bopp, CEO of the Robert Bosch Foundation, in his farewell to **Catherine McArdle Kelleher** upon her return to Washington D.C., 2001.

Indeed, Dr. Kelleher has left her mark on Aspen Berlin's work. Coming from a series of assignments at the National Security Council and the Pentagon, she brought to the Institute immense experience with security issues on both sides of the Atlantic, including expertise on NATO, Russia, and the Ukraine. Ms. Kelleher imparted her knowledge to students at the Free University in Berlin, where she taught as a Fulbright Fellow.

During her tenure at Aspen Berlin, Dr. Kelleher founded the Congressional Staffers Program and launched the German-American-Russian Dialogue (GARD). Building on the work of her predecessors, Ms. Kelleher breathed new life in to the programming on the Balkans with the creation of the Study Group project TRANSFUSE, (Transatlantic Networking for the Future of Southeastern Europe) and other highly successful programs for senior policy makers. Javier Solana, Rudolf Sharping, Jaques Delors, and General Wesley Clark were among those who accepted invitations to speak at the Aspen Institute Berlin. Under her direction, the Institute also devoted energy to topics such as E-business, biotechnology, and U.S.-EU trade relations.

Dr. Kelleher is currently a Watson Institute Senior Fellow and professor at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. She has been awarded the "*Ehrenkreuz in Gold*" of the *Deutsche Bundeswehr*, the U.S. Defense Department's Medal for Distinguished Public Service, and the Manfred Wörner Medal for Outstanding Services Rendered to Peace and Freedom in Europe. She founded the organization "Women in International Security" and has written several books, among them "The Future of European Security," "Nuclear Deterrence," and "Weapons".

The High Art of Political Debate



"We should not hesitate to take up controversial topics," Jeff Gedmin declared when he first toured Germany's capital as the newly appointed Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin in December 2001. Introducing himself to the city's political and cultural elite and giving non-stop interviews to a wide range of national and international press while establishing a transformed agenda for the Institute "almost felt like being in the middle of an election campaign," he laughed. "Vote Aspen!"

Der Tagesspiegel lauded the "fresh air" Dr. Gedmin promised to bring to Aspen Berlin. Opening the Institute to a younger and broader audience, he introduced a number of initiatives including a "Book Notes Series" and forums for debate and discussion. Flashy locations like Kulturbrauerei and Grüner Salon in Berlin's city center have lured interested citizens and visitors to Aspen events.

Prior to joining Aspen Berlin, Dr. Gedmin, who holds a PhD from Georgetown University, was a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington D.C. where he coordinated and directed the New Atlantic Initiative, a coalition of international institutes, politicians, leading journalists, and business executives dedicated to the revitalization and expansion of the Atlantic community of democracies. His articles on foreign and defense issues have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Weekly Standard*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Die Zeit*, and elsewhere. He is a columnist for *Die Welt* and *The American Spectator*, and author of "The Hidden Hand: Gorbachev and the Collapse of East Germany" (1992). He was executive editor and producer of the award winning PBS television program, "The Germans, Portrait of a New Nation." It comes as no surprise, therefore, that the most influential names in international politics have flocked to the city on his invitation: Benjamin Netanyahu, Otto Schily, Gregor Gysi, Richard Perle, Walter Isaacson, Arnulf Baring, William Kristol, Amitai Etzioni, Ralph Nader, Wolfgang Clement, and Henry Kissinger. To ensure lively, controversial debates, Dr. Gedmin remains always watchful for worthy sparring partners.

Former Assistant/Deputy Directors:

Dr. Michael H. Haltzel was instrumental in the launching of the Aspen Institute Berlin as its first Deputy Director (1975 – 1978). He has held various positions at a number of esteemed institutions including the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies and the OSCE.

A former professor of history at universities in the U.S. and Europe, Mr. Haltzel has published numerous books and articles on Western Europe and transatlantic relations. He currently serves as Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to Senator Joseph R. Biden (D-Delaware), and is also a Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as well as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

James A. Cooney is Executive Director at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Director of the McCloy German Scholars Program at Harvard University. A former Fulbright scholar, he has taught political science at Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wellesley College, Hampshire College, and Aichi Prefectural University in Japan. His publications include "Foreign Policy: The United States and the World" and three edited volumes on German-U.S. relations. He worked at the Aspen Institute Berlin from 1978 until 1982.



Ralph Nader, candidate for the presidency of the United States of America, facing the press in front of El Sol Café after his lecture "American Critique of Globalisation", May 19, 2002 (Jeff Gedmin in the background) © Andreas Amman

Dr. Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling, a leading international expert on women's issues, worked at the Aspen Institute Berlin from 1976 to 1987. Through her work, the Institute broadened its scope in the areas of education, labor market policy, economic, social, and cultural development. She is proud to have conducted several international conferences on women's rights which popularized innovative legal measures and policies for women in education, the labor market, and the family from the USA and Scandinavia in Germany. Through recurrent roundtable discussions with Berlin's political, scientific, and cultural leaders, Dr. Schöpp-Schilling strengthened ties between the Aspen Institute, international and intellectual institutions, and the Berlin government.

Dr. Daniel Hamilton is the Richard von Weizsäcker Professor and Director of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, with primary responsibility for transatlantic security issues including U.S. policy toward NATO and OSCE. Mr. Hamilton also worked as a foreign policy advisor to Madeleine Albright, Warren Christopher, and Richard Holbrooke. His most recent book is called "Partners in Prosperity: The Changing Geography of the Transatlantic Economy". Dr. Hamilton holds Germany's Federal Order of Merit (*Bundesverdienstkreuz*), and the State Department's Superior Honor Award. His tenure at the Aspen Institute Berlin lasted from 1979 to 1982.

Prof. Dr. Margarita Mathiopoulos is Founder and CEO of EAG European Advisory Group GMBH Berlin/HongKong/Washington, and Founding and Executive Director of the Potsdam Center for Transatlantic Security and Military Affairs. She holds an Honorary Professorship for U.S.-Foreign Policy and International Security at the University of Potsdam. Before Dr. Mathiopoulos has held senior management positions at BAE SYSTEMS plc London/Berlin (1997-2001); Norddeutsche Landesbank Hanover (1992-1997); Associate Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin (1987-89) and manager at IBM-Germany in Stuttgart (1985-1987). She has the Chair of the FDP-National-Committee on Foreign- and Security Policy. She has published numerous books and articles on U.S.-European relations, transatlantic security/defense and military issues. During her Aspen-years Dr. Mathiopoulos organized among others "The Berlin Conference 1987 - Perspectives on the 21st Century" and chaired from 1988 to 1989 the Aspen Institute's East-West-Study-Group on "Perspectives for a 'European House' within the Framework of the CSCE-Process". The participants of this group are still meeting regularly around the world on a private or professional basis. Aspen, Dr. Mathiopoulos is convinced, is one of the leading political networking institutions in the world.

Dr. Dana Allin is editor of the academic journal *Survival* and Carol Deane Senior Fellow for Transatlantic Affairs at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London. He has published "Cold War Illusions" and various papers and articles. In Berlin, he served as Deputy Director of both the Aspen Institute and the International Commission on the Balkans, a joint project of Aspen Institute Berlin and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, which published the very successful report "Unfinished Peace" in 1996.



Jaques Delors, former president of the EC Commission (left), and AIB founding Member of the Board Alexander Kwapong.
© fotohasse

Dr. Hildegard Boucsein works as a political consultant in Berlin. In 2002, she served as an advisor to the Bavarian Governor and candidate for German Chancellor, Edmund Stoiber. In keeping with her distinguished career in public service, Dr. Boucsein has been head of the Personal Office of Governing Mayor of Berlin, Permanent Under-Secretary for Federal and European Affairs, and Berlin's Envoy to

the Federal Government of Germany. At the Aspen Institute Berlin (1990 – 1991), Dr. Boucsein led both the German-American and the East-West Study Group. In addition, she has been associated with the RIAS Berlin Commission, the Checkpoint-Charlie-Foundation, and the German Marshall Fund. Dr. Boucsein is a Member of the Board of the Aspen Institute Berlin. Since 1993, she has also served as a member of the International Board of Texas A&M University.

Mario Lemme is the President and CEO of WEISSKER Inc. in Moscow. During his tenure at the Aspen Institute Berlin (1988 – 1993), he served as an expert on Russia and Eastern Europe and was in charge of the Shepard Stone Study Group on East-West Relations.



Discussant David Kay, (third from right), Aspen Institute intern Christina Stansell (second from right), guests, and chef at Dadarski`s, 2004

Jeff Thinn was with the Aspen Institute in Berlin (1990-1993) and Colorado (1993-1995), where he facilitated numerous international conferences, mainly on international trade, politics and security. He has worked for DaimlerChrysler North America and is the founder and Chairman of JTI, a business development consulting company. A trained political scientist, lawyer, and public administrator, he is an Advisory Council Member of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies and a member of Rotary International.

Steffen Sachs spent more than six years (1993 – 1999) at Aspen Berlin, serving as Assistant Director, Deputy Director, and as Acting Director after the death of David Anderson. He created the Transatlantic Study Group and was particularly interested in Young Leaders Groups comprising participants from the U.S., Western and Central/Eastern Europe. Prior to Aspen, Mr. Sachs worked as a Political/Economic Advisor with the Foreign Service of the United States in Hamburg. Following his tenure at the Aspen Institute Berlin, he accepted a position with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels as Director of the Political Committee.

Steven E. Sokol served as Deputy Director of Aspen Berlin from May 2000 until September 2002. His major responsibilities included the Institute's project management and strategic planning, internal institute development, and fundraising. He oversaw the management and reporting on the Congressional Staffers program and the Mediterranean Dialogue. He was also responsible for the Aspen Franco-German Dialogue (with Aspen France) and the three Transatlantic Mayors' Summits (with Aspen France and the United States Conference of Mayors). In addition, he organized conferences and roundtables on a range of subjects including U.S. and European foreign policy, transatlantic security, and regional economic development. Prior to Aspen, Mr. Sokol worked at the Bonn International Center for Conversion and before that at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. He is now Vice President for Programs at the American Council on Germany in New York City.

Current Director of Finance and Administration:

Folkard Wohlgemuth was trained as a banker before studying economics at the Free University in Berlin. Following a year of schooling in the U.S., he volunteered extensively with international exchange programs. From 1998 to 2003, he served as Finance and Program Manager with the anti-corruption organization Transparency International in Berlin, focusing, among other issues, on private sector and NGO financial accountability. He joined the Aspen Institute Berlin in the summer of 2003.

During its first twenty years the Institute ensured that the city bounded physically by the Wall was less bound intellectually by the same ugly barrier – by bringing the best minds together to Berlin and challenging them to look beyond the bounds of their professions and nations. It was the world's window on a divided city, in a divided country, on a divided continent. During its next twenty years the Institute can play a role as the world's window on the emerging Berlin Republic, Europe's central power, and on societies no longer divided but far from united, on a freer but more tempestuous continent."

Daniel Hamilton, former Deputy Director of the Aspen Institute Berlin

Germany Needs Another Revolution

An Interview with Jeff Gedmin

You have been living and working here for three years now. How do you like Berlin?

Jeff Gedmin: Berlin is great, I enjoy living here. The city itself is a work in progress. As such, you also witness how it struggles with low growth, high unemployment, the legacy of communism in the East. You can still smell it, touch it, taste it. Like the rest of the country, Berlin needs another revolution; one that will tear down the walls of high taxation and regulations that stifle the energy and creativity. Now is the time to unleash the dynamism of this fascinating city.

How does the Aspen Institute try to contribute to the public policy debate?

Jeff Gedmin: We see ourselves as a market place of ideas, a forum to debate, argue and test policy ideas of the day. We do this in Berlin and across Europe by the way – in Paris, London, Rome, Prague, Istanbul.

You have been outspoken about your opinions – despite the controversy your position may create.

Jeff Gedmin: Everyone has a view of the issues of the day. Some express their opinion more openly than others. Of course, being frank wins you both friends and enemies. But that's natural. I think it is positive in our business to be intellectually honest and say what you mean.

Diplomats have a different role. But we are not diplomats. Nor can the purpose of an institution like Aspen Berlin be to function like a passive appendage of some government ministry – be it American or German!

Since the war in Iraq, you have suggested that Atlanticists are losing ground. What does this mean?

Jeff Gedmin: Things are changing on both sides. The fall of the Wall meant Germans would be less dependent on the U.S. But the reverse was also true. September 11th was the moment where it became especially clear: Both sides need to think carefully about the renegotiation of our relationship. We are growing together economically – despite competition and cultural differences. But the strategic partnership faces considerable challenges in the years ahead. Iraq was symptom, not the cause.

It is this kind of fundamental transatlantic debate, incidentally, which makes groups like the Aspen Institute Berlin necessary and important, today more than ever.

The Aspen Institute Berlin has evolved and grown over the last 30 years. How do you see its role changing in the next three decades?

Jeff Gedmin: Like a business, we have a customer. Ours is the politician, the journalist, the business executive with policy interests. Just follow the market and keep an eye on the competition. The most important thing at any time is to be able to say that the Institute matters in the debate.

Robert Kagan says, "Americans are from Mars and Europeans are from Venus." Are the differences really so stark?

Jeff Gedmin: It is true that history, culture and temperament matter. So do capabilities. Imagine Germany or the EU decided that the use of force in a particular instance was necessary. Then Germany would be willing to act, but probably not capable. It will take time for the EU to develop more significant military capabilities.

This new anti-Americanism as you see it, is it a passing trend, or a new ideology?

Jeff Gedmin: Anti-Americanism has never been a passing trend. It predates Schröder and Bush. It predates the Cold War. It predates Weimar. It predates the First World War. In the 19th century you had a lively debate in European intellectual circles about the inferiority of American culture. Anti-Americanism is here to stay. The question is how pronounced it is at any given moment and whether politicians and other elites encourage it or try to dampen it.

Interview: Sonja Bonin and Jennifer Bourguignon



Aspen Book Notes Series: Krieg dem Westen: Terrorismus im 21. Jahrhundert by Walter Laqueur (right), April 3, 2003, Theodor Tucher



After a lively Aspen Debate with author and professor Martha Bayles about The Legacy of Miles Davis, „Lars Kuklinski und die Boys“ playing at the Kunstfabrik Schlot, May 13, 2002 © Monika Schürle

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