

The long term perspective

History of the Federal Academy for Security Policy



In 1992, the Federal Academy for Security Policy was assigned parts of the "Rosenburg" in Bonn as preliminary seat, but without any facilities for conferences and tuition.

... shortly before the Wall came down

The foundation of the Federal Academy in Bonn

Security policy calls for diversified and global networking. This has not always been the case. However, when the Cold War was drawing to a close, the Federal Republic of Germany decided that its leaders had to acquire the expertise to enable them to effectively represent national interests at the international level. As it turned out the decision was made in due time.

As early as summer 1987, the Federal Security Council decided to set up an interdepartmental committee to investigate into "advanced education at a higher level in interdepartmental security policy and strategy". The result: on 20 June 1990, the Federal Cabinet decided to establish a "Federal Academy for Security Policy". Henceforth, it was to provide "present and future leaders" from ministries at federal and Länder (state) level with the skills to represent the "long-term security interests of the Federal Republic of Germany as part of the community of democratic nations [...]".

The end of the Cold War and the historic events of Germany's reunification also left a staying mark on the founding process of the Federal Academy. Since then security policy can no longer be limited only to territorial conflicts and military confrontations. The separating line between internal and external security has disappeared. For an assessment of the security situation the focus widened to an increasing extent also on social, economic, ecological, cultural and humanitarian factors.

As a result, the foundation of the Federal Academy for Security Policy, or BAKS for short, on 1 January 1992 was a logical step: right

on time, it provided Germany with an educational establishment that was capable of communicating a comprehensive approach to security policy at the strategic level. It is a platform that takes into consideration the political and social contexts to cope with the new challenges. Right from the beginning, analysing the different aspects of security policy and connecting the relevant actors became the Federal Academy's credo. Consequently, it was the BAKS's founding fathers' central idea to recruit personnel not only from Germany's Federal Foreign Office, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of the Interior, but from all departments represented in the Federal Security Council.

Still, the idea of security policy being a matter reserved for diplomats and soldiers was then more widespread than today. Aside from the Federal Academy's President's perseverance to address members of the government directly, real crises such as the Kosovo War in 1999 and the terrorist attacks

of 11 September 2001 triggered a rethinking process. Decision-makers in politics, business and society were looking for a new approach to security issues.



A key event for the BAKS's activities as well: the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001

At home in the "Berlin Republic"

Moving from Bonn to Berlin

Following its relocation to Germany's new-old capital in 2004, the Federal Academy for Security Policy had to find new partners for its daily operations. In a new era the Federal Academy is responsible for conveying the complex comprehensive approach to security for a unified Germany.

The new home was important for the Academy in two respects: for once hand it had finally found a residence adequate for its position as educational establishment of the Federal Government – now also with its own lecture and conference rooms. This became necessary,

because as a prerequisite for the move to Berlin, the BAKS's core task, the Senior Course for Security Policy, had been extended from two to six months. The improvised teaching and learning situation of the "Rosenburg" in Bonn had not been acceptable any longer.

Secondly, relocation resulted in closer interaction with political decision-makers: on the occasion of the opening ceremony of its new residence on 19 March 2004, Gerhard Schröder was the first Federal Chancellor to pay the Academy a personal visit.

Even before the BAKS was relocated, security policy related events have once again developed dramatically. NATO's intervention in Afghanistan since 2001, the US intervention in Iraq in 2003 and the subsequent civil war have had a lasting effect on security policy considerations all over the world – and the same holds true for Germany.

The contents of teaching of the BAKS have always reflected these developments. And continually, there are new uncertainties:



A tradition establishes itself: since 2005 the Senior Course for Security Policy ends with background talks in the Federal Chancellery.

from national debt crises to failing states, from cyber crime to cyber war. In an era of globalisation and digitalisation, security is becoming more and more multi-faceted and, in consequence, security policy more and more complex. In its function as advanced secu-

rity policy education establishment of the German government, the Federal Academy is making an effort to communicate these interrelations.



The Berlin Republic determines its position in a dynamic world, and the Federal Academy for Security Policy stimulates its discourse on security policy.

1987
The Federal Security Council demands for setting up a "national institution for education in the field of security policy"

1990
The Federal Cabinet agrees to establish an institute for further education on security policy matters

2+4 negotiations and German reunification

1992
Foundation of the Federal Academy for Security Policy



Admiral (ret.) Dieter Wellershof is appointed first President of the BAKS

1995
The Dayton Agreement puts an end to civil war in former Yugoslavia



Ambassador Dr. Günter Joetze is appointed second President of the BAKS

1999
During the Kosovo War, Germany participates in a military operation for the first time since World War II



Vice Admiral (ret.) Hans Frank is appointed third President of the BAKS

2001
After the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 Chancellor Schröder declares Germany's full solidarity with the USA

2004
Relocation of the Federal Academy from Bonn to Berlin



Dr. Rudolf Adam is appointed fourth President of the BAKS

2007
The Federal Security Council develops a new overall structure for the Academy

2008



Lieutenant General (ret.) Kersten Lahl is appointed fifth President of the BAKS

The altered overall structure is followed by a new concept for the Federal Academy

2011



Ambassador Dr. Hans-Dieter Heumann is appointed sixth President of the BAKS

2012
The "didacta" trade fair for education confers its eLearning award on the Federal Academy for its "virtual study platform"

2013

First "German Security Policy Forum" held by the BAKS





Pankow city hall: in 2004 the BAKS moves into this neighbourhood in the third district of the Federal Capital.

The Place and its past

The historical environment of the Federal Academy for Security Policy

The Federal Academy for Security Policy is located right in the middle of the most densely populated district of Berlin, namely in Pankow. "It has become an integral part of social life in our township," says District Mayor Matthias Köhne. This township has a colourful history.

1661 to 1945: Schönhausen Palace

Today a further sub-district of Pankow, Niederschönhausen was once located three quarters of a mile north of Berlin. The small village has first been mentioned in a document as "Nyderren Schonhusen" in 1375. In 1691 Elector Frederick III of Brandenburg bought the summer residence there of his father's late war minister Joachim Ernst von Grumbkow and had it further extended.

It was here that the secret negotiations with the Holy Roman Emperor's Court were held, which led to the crowning of the first Prussian King in 1701: Elector Frederick became "King in Prussia" as Frederick I. In 1740, his grandson, Frederick II the Great, gave the palace as a present to his wife Elisabeth Christine to serve as a summer residence.

In 1764, during reconstruction after the end of the Seven Years' War, the palace assumed its present form. In the course of the subsequent hundred fifty years, Schönhausen Palace was used as a summer residence, as a widow's residence and as military barracks.

Following the abdication of Emperor Wilhelm II in 1918, the Prussian State took possession of the palace. During the Nazi dictatorship, it was used as storage for so-called "entartete Kunst", i.e. "degenerate art".



Summer residence for Elisabeth Christine, wife of Frederick the Great (right), then used as widow's residence, military barracks, seat of the GDR State Council, and guesthouse: Schönhausen Palace looks back on a turbulent past.



In the "Städtchen": Walter Ulbricht, Lotte Ulbricht, Willi Stoph and Erich Honecker in front of the house at Majakowskiring 2

The Niederschönhausen part of the Pankow district became a central political location after the end of World War II. The Red Army had occupied the bourgeois residential neighbourhood, including Schönhausen Palace, and declared it a restricted area. The inhabitants had to leave their houses, and the occupying power billeted there high-ranking Soviet officers and the "Ulbricht Group", leading officials of the Communist Party of Germany who had returned from emigration to Moscow.

In 1949, the palace was converted into the official residence of Wilhelm Pieck, the first President of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). This included the erection of a wall around the palace grounds. In 1960, the building temporarily became the seat of the State Council of the GDR, and from 1965 on it served as guest house of the East German government.

Since the palace had already proven to be too small to be the seat of the GDR President, more buildings were added south of the palace garden in the early 1950s. In 1952, two guardhouses were built at the entrance of Ossietzkystrasse. Behind them, two further large buildings were constructed. The building to the west was initially used as chancellery and had a ballroom which – like the entire building – was used for holding conferences. In December 1970, for example, a summit of the Warsaw Pact states was held here.

The opposite eastern building was initially used as clubhouse and casino, later as a guesthouse. Two more guardhouses formed the middle guard station shielding the conference section from the palace proper. Until the fall of Communism, the palace grounds as a whole remained closed to the public, with the exception of visits of foreign guests.

After 1949, almost the complete leadership of the East German communist party SED had moved to the nearby residential area at "Majakowskiring". Aside from politicians, well-known writers and artists like Hans Fallada and Arnold Zweig lived here.

1945 to 1990: The GDR's exclusive residential area in Pankow

To live in the "Städtchen" – as the district was also called based on the Soviet "gorodki" model – was a political privilege, reserved for the most senior leaders. The top party officials had a comprehensive apparatus at their disposal, which took care of and supported them. Protecting the "Städtchen" was the responsibility of the "Felix Dzerzhinsky Guards Regiment" of the Ministry of State Security. Only those in possession of a permit were authorized to access the area, which was monitored on a 24-hour basis.

As a result, in the 1950s the name Pankow became sort of a code for how the SED state was perceived in the Federal Republic of Germany: West German politicians like Konrad Adenauer – he even used the term "Pankoff regime" – and media used this concept to decry the political system of the GDR, the privileges of the SED party leadership and their dependence on Moscow.



Past and present: What has been once under control of the State Security, became an open campus in 2004.



1989 until today: The Historic Ballroom

After the Wall came down in 1989, the Central Round Table of the GDR brought citizens' movements and political parties together with the SED government led by Hans Modrow. They met in the ballroom of the Schönhausen Palace conference building. From 27 December 1989 to 12 March 1990 all Round Table meetings were held in this place.

In June 1990, the ballroom was again at the centre of political attention when the second round of the Two-plus-Four negotiations took place there. They resulted in the Treaty on the Final Settlement of German Reunification which was signed in Moscow on 12 September 1990 and entered into force on 15 March 1991.



In 2009 and 2010 the Historic Ballroom was subjected to extensive restoration: the original furniture was maintained, and it is used as a venue for events today.



Historic monuments and security policy

2002 to 2004: Conversion of Schönhausen Palace into the Federal Academy

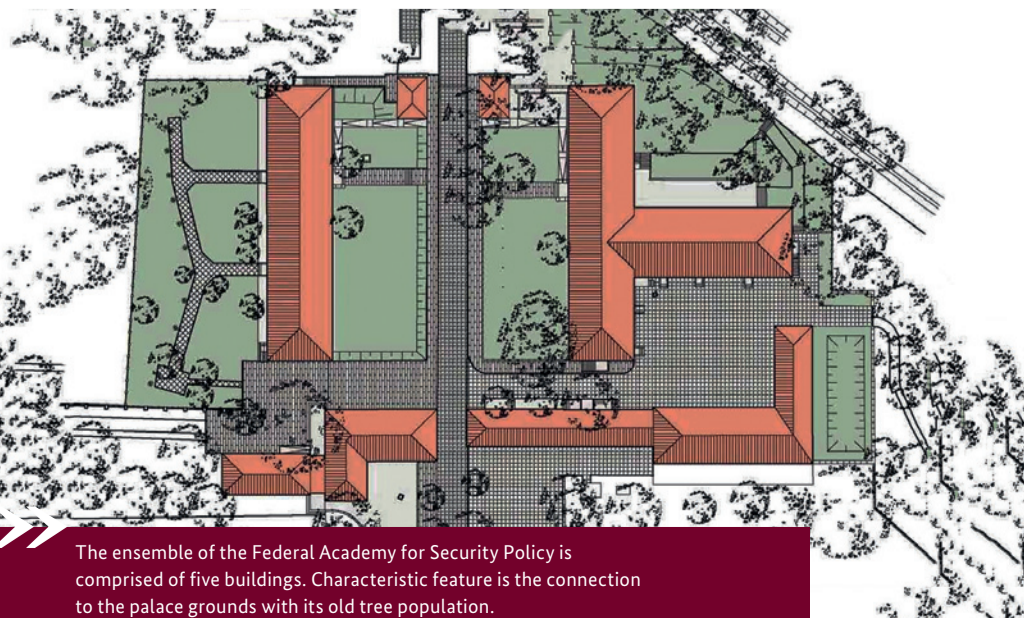
In order to prepare the relocation of the Federal Academy from Bonn to Berlin, the former casino and the conference buildings of the GDR guesthouse were turned into a modern educational establishment.

The ensemble of buildings of the present-day Federal Academy for Security Policy is classified as a historic monument, including large parts of the interior. The whole is the garden monument "Am Schlosspark, Schloss und Schlosspark Niederschönhausen".

Detlev David Hesse and his team "Architekten am Kaiserdamm" were tasked with renovating the ensemble. His architectural concept is characterized by adding new installations to existing historical building structures. Regarding proportion and position, they sensibly complement what already exists instead of overlapping it.



Working with new materials – metal and glass with wood – and colours resulted in a clear distinction between what is new and what is old. The non-competing interplay of both aspects creates a positive tension, whereas the various architectural styles typical of their respective periods during the GDR era remain clearly discernible.



The ensemble of the Federal Academy for Security Policy is comprised of five buildings. Characteristic feature is the connection to the palace grounds with its old tree population.

