

PREAMBLE TO THE WEST GERMAN CONSTITUTION

Conscious of its responsibility before God and Mankind, filled with the resolve to preserve its national and political unity and to serve world peace as an equal partner in a united Europe, the German people in the Länder Baden, Bavaria, Bremen, Hamburg, Hesse, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Schleswig-Holstein, Württemberg-Baden and Württemberg-Hohenzollern, has, by virtue of its constituent power, enacted this basic law of the Federal Republic of Germany to give a new order to political life for a transitional period. It acted also on behalf of those Germans to whom participation was denied. The entire German people is called upon to accomplish, by free self-determination, the unity and freedom of Germany.

Art 146

This Basic Law shall become invalid on the day when a Constitution adopted in a free decision by the German people comes into force.