

*Abstract****Towards an (ordo-)liberal turn?******Economic journalism of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung during the 1980s***

The paper will analyse how economic journalists of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (FAZ) commented on economic and political developments in West-Germany during the 1980s and how they were involved in political debates.

Generally, the 1980s are conceived to be a time of change towards conservatism and neoliberalism. Whereas Thatcherism and Reaganomics are normally connected with neoliberalism or monetarism, the German Conservative Party CDU always considered itself to be in the tradition of Ludwig Erhard and his idea of a *soziale Marktwirtschaft* (social market economy). Economic journalists of the FAZ which was founded after the war to be the principal paper directed to German economic and political leaders also claimed to act according to this tradition and to be 'defenders' of the German tradition of Ordoliberalism. Many of them were disciples of prominent German economists and in their role as editors gave economists like Friedrich Hayek or Herbert Giersch the possibility to express their views in the popular newspaper.

When in 1982 Helmut Kohl became the German Chancellor, he stated to enhance a 'geistig-moralische Wende' (intellectual and moral shift) against a presumably leftist zeitgeist which ought to include conservative and liberal values. In the following years, the business section of the FAZ supported decisively what they perceived to be liberal measures taken by the Government and would strongly defend them against any opposition.