

Perspectives on German-US Relations: Pasts, Presents, & Futures

A Symposium Hosted by the Gustav-Stresemann-Institute (Bonn, Germany)
and Wartburg College (Waverly, IA) on March 18, 2019, at Wartburg College

From today's headlines with the focus on US tariffs on European steel and aluminum imports, the US pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement, and the US withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, it appears that the USA and its close allies, including Germany, are approaching a new low point. However, this is not the only way to view the connections between Germany and the USA for these headlines only cover part of a long, rich, complex, and varied story. Building upon the conclusions and insights gained from the joint Gustav-Stresemann-Institute and Wartburg College symposium, "From Rebels to Democrats – A New Look at an Old Relationship. German-American Relations from 1848 to the Present," held in March, 2018, in Berlin, Germany, this new symposium seeks to continue the conversation. In Berlin, the one-day symposium discussed the German-American relations from 1848 until today and outlined the future of the transatlantic relationship primarily from the German perspective. In Waverly, we will expand our understanding of German-US relations by examining additional pasts, presents, and futures with an emphasis on historical, political, economic, cultural, journalistic, and personal perspectives. Precisely because of today's headlines and the challenges both countries face as they move into the future, an exploration of the multifaceted nature of US-German relations is essential.

Preliminary Program

German-US Relations: Pasts, Presents & Futures

Monday, March 18

Lyceum (Saemann Student Center)

Wartburg College

Waverly, IA (USA)

8:30 Coffee/tea

9:00 Introductions and Lessons from the 2018 Symposium

Dr. Brian Ernsting, VPAA/Dean of Faculty

Dr. Darrel Colson, President Wartburg College

Michael Münz, Head of Project Management, Gustav Stresemann Institute

9:30 Greetings

Dr. Andreas Goetze, German Deputy Consul General Chicago

10:15 Keynote Address/Kleinfeld Lecture: Lessons from "Make America Great Again" for Germany and the EU

Dr. Mark Cassell, Professor of Political Science, Kent State University

- 11:15 My Reflections on the Transatlantic Relationship: A Conversation
Dr. Gerald Kleinfeld, Professor of History emeritus Arizona State University,
Founding Director of the German Studies Association
Dr. Daniel Walther, Gerald R. Kleinfeld Chair in German History/German
Institute Director, Wartburg College
- 11:45 Lunch Buffet for Registrants
Ballrooms
- 1:00 A Legacy of Shared Values
Dr. Daniel Walther
- 1:30 Why American Companies Should Do Business in Germany: A German Perspective
Michael Münz
- 2:15 The German-American Relationship: American Business' Perspectives
Steve Timm, Vice President & General Manager - Air Transport, Collins
Aerospace, Cedar Rapids
Peter Voorhees, President and CEO Standard Golf, Cedar Falls
Kirk Vogel, Senior Relationship Manager, International Subsidiary Banking at
HSBC Commercial Banking, Charlotte, NC
- 3:00 Coffee Break
- 4:00 The USA through the Lenses of German Journalists in America
Alexandra von Nahmen, Deutsche Welle
Juliane Schäuble, Berliner Tagesspiegel
Moderator: Dr. Kristin Wendland
- 4:30 My German Experiences
Dr. Kristi Becker, Wartburg alumna living in Cologne
Moderator: Dr. Daniel Walther
- 5:00 Final Reflections – Thoughts About the Future
Michael Münz
Dr. Darrel Colson
- 5:30 Reception for Registrants
Hagemann Castle Room