

Connection e.V.



International Support of
Conscientious Objectors
and Deserters

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Case study

Alternative service
and conscientious objection
in Germany

Timeline FRG (West-Germany)



1949 Constitution Art. 4, 3: No one may be forced to do military service with a weapon against his/her conscience.

1956 Re-introduction of compulsory military service

1961 Introduction of alternative civilian service, mainly in the social sector

From 1970, increasing numbers of applications for conscientious objectors (student movement)

1991 Unification of West and East Germany

Timeline GDR (East-Germany)



1962 Introduction of compulsory military service in East Germany

1962 Introduction of a construction soldier service (part of the military)

1991 Unification of West and East Germany

Timeline Germany



2011 Suspension of compulsory military service

Figures without East-Germany



Between 1961 and 2011, a total of 8,406,409 conscripts were called up for military service

Between 1961 and 2011, a total of 2,726,636 conscripts performed civilian service (24,5%)

Perspective military



Conscientious objection is questioning the military

Meeting needs according to military criteria

Conscription as a means of registration and
inclusion in military structures

Military as a school of the nation

Denunciation as traitors

Perspective military



Enforcement of deterrent measures for conscientious objection: part of compulsory military service, examination of conscience, longer alternative service, barracking, low payment, suspension of basic rights

Criminalisation of all those who do not submit to these postulates (total refuser)

Perspective

Antimilitarist organizations



Individual right to conscientious objection

CO as an act of resistance against the military

Prevent Cos from being called up for war

Increasing the number of conscientious objectors -
weakening the military

Strengthening the reputation of conscientious
objectors

Perspective objectors and civil servants



Act of resistance against the military

Alternative service is seen by many as an alternative
to the military

Recognition through social commitment

Perspective social sector Welfare organisations



Cheap manpower

Motivated workers

Interest in extending service obligations
(compulsory social year) to increase the number of
cheap labour forces

Summary



Especially in the mid-1970s, conscientious objection was seen as a political act against war and the military

Later more and more CO was seen by many as an individual step that was largely personally motivated

The large number of COs in social institutions changed the view. Though conscientious objection was not seen as positive, its social activity was.

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Mobilisierung



Russland: Wilde Rekrutierungen nach der Teilmobilmachung, Razzien, digitale Einberufung möglich

Ukraine: geschlossene Grenzen für Männer ab 18, Mobilisierung aller Männer