

Unfair to Merkel

Julian Preece seems to be under the impression that in my piece on Germany and Europe I was most concerned to evaluate the twists and turns of Merkel's political education ([Letters, 5 May](#)). There is lots to be said about this, but my subject was the German belief that other European countries must follow Germany in the name of European unity, and the disastrous effects this has for Europe. As to Merkel herself, when 'Schroeder took a lead in opposing' the Iraq War, she travelled as opposition leader to Washington one month before the war began to reassure Bush that 'Schroeder does not speak for all Germans.' With her as chancellor, Germany would have joined the 'coalition of the willing'. Not to forget her recent trip to Istanbul to have Erdogan close the Balkan migrant route in exchange for expedited accession to the European Union, which she had always opposed. Too bad she hasn't yet made it to Athens or Madrid to end the economic plight of the Mediterranean countries sacrificed on the altar of the German balance of trade and for the sake of the banks that have recklessly lent to them. There is reason to doubt that this will happen.

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