German and U.S. Pro-Social Behavior in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and to Global Climate Change:
A Comparison

Honors Capstone

Presentation Overview

01 **Background**

02 **Research Paper**

03 **Language**

04 **Challenges and Conclusions**

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Research

23%

Of municipal waste in the US was recycled in 2018

2024: ?

69.1%

Of municipal waste in Germany was recycled in 2022

THESIS

Germany's response to the coronavirus indicated that they are a socially conscious population motivated by a government structure that is well-prepared for environmental crises, providing a model for the United States to follow.

What is Pro-Social Behavior?

Theory

- Macro Pro–Social behavior

- Happiness Association

The COVID Connection

- Increases during crises

- "Perceived responsibility"

1 Personal Mindset

2 Business Owner's Mindset

Pro-Social Mindsets

Personal
- **Distance from antiquated systems**
- **Social Cohesion**
- **Considering Consequences**

Business
- **Legality & Rule–Following**
- **Financial Stability**

(Sjölander–Lindqvist 5)

(Zimmerman 1349).

(Kraus 24)

Government Response: COVID

Germany:

- Bottom-up, negotiated federal state
- 16 "Länder" governments:
- 87% support of government
- "Coronationalism"
  - (Bouckaert 9)

Climate Government Response Comparison

Germany
- Ratified Paris Agreement in 2016
- Few climate stakeholders
- Five ministries
- Answers to the EU
- Follows 17 Sustainable Development goals

United States
- Pulled out in Nov 2020, back in Feb 2021
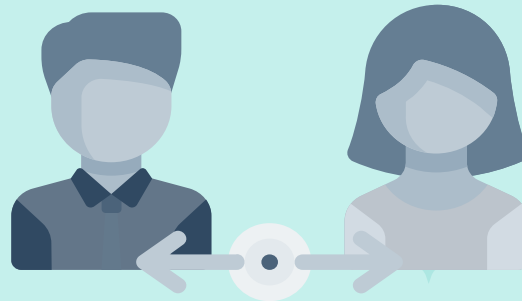- Thirty Committees

Ditmar Reiter, East Side Gallery

Language

Digital Wanderbus: Sustainability Lab

Geschlechtergerechtigkeit

Gender Equality

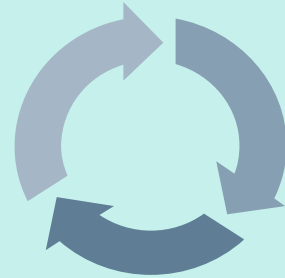# Naturkatastrophen

Natural Disasters

die Umweltverschmutzung

pollution

Wiederverwerten & Wiederverwendung

Recycle &
Reuse

Part

4

Conclusions

Challenges and reflections.

Challenges

Language Learning

Research/sources in German
Conversation v Listening

Scope

Finding a purpose
International Political Science

Conclusion

Germany is a progressive country that can teach the United States a lot, but it is not free from its own internal struggles and downfalls. Also, consonants are hard.

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