Protest against the Iraq War (January 26, 1991)

Abstract

Iraq's attack on Kuwait presented a dilemma for German foreign policy: Should the expanded Federal Republic cling to its traditional role as a "civil power" that abstained from military operations, or should it join the U.N.-sanctioned American campaign against Saddam Hussein? On January 26, 1991, more than 200,000 people gathered in Bonn's *Hofgarten* to demonstrate for peace and against the Gulf War. Peace groups, the SPD, the Greens, and the Confederation of German Trade Unions [*Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund*] called for participation in the demonstration, while the Federal Government distanced itself from the protests. Public opinion was divided: According to a survey, 49 percent of Germans believed that a war against Iraq was justified, while 48 percent opposed military engagement. A sign printed by the Greens [*Die Grünen*] appears in foreground of the photograph; it reads: "Say No! No blood for oil." Behind it is a sign by the Association of Christian Democratic Students [*Ring Christlich-Demokratischer Studenten*], a group allied with the CDU; this sign reads: "Yes to peace – yes to the United Nations."

Source

Source: Bildarchiv, B 145 Bild-00160158 REGIERUNGonline/Schambeck

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