

## **Spiegel Cover: “One Year of the Grand Coalition” (October 30, 2006)**

### **Abstract**

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Media assessments of the Grand Coalition’s first year in office were mixed. While one commentator from the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* described the Grand Coalition as an “all-too faithful reflection of German society with its antagonistic but well-organized interests and interest groups,” *Spiegel* magazine, in its cover story, emphasized the weaknesses of the leadership provided by Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) and Vice Chancellor Franz Müntefering (SPD). Merkel’s moderate and compromise-ready style left Germans unsure of her ability to set a clear political course. In its customarily trenchant style, *Spiegel* called the Grand Coalition a “coalition of the weak” and dubbed Merkel “Angela the Faint-Hearted.” The cover portrayed Merkel as Don Quixote and Müntefering as Sancho Pansa – an allusion to Cervantes’ classic novel.

### **Source**

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Recommended Citation: Spiegel Cover: “One Year of the Grand Coalition” (October 30, 2006), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/a-new-germany-1990-2023/ghdi:image-3505>> [April 29, 2024].