

## **Joschka Fischer**

Joschka Fischer was German foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005. His political career began in the state of Hesse where in 1991 he became the first-ever Green Party minister on the state level holding the portfolios of the environment and energy. In 1994, Fischer entered federal politics and became co-chairman of the Green Party's federal parliamentary group.

Fischer belongs to the realist camp of the Green party. As Foreign Minister, he stood against German popular opinion and faced down the majority of Green Party members who opposed German military participation in the Kosovo campaign, arguing against pacifism in the face of genocide and ethnic cleansing. But, as the Iraq war loomed, he clashed memorably with then US defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld, and positioned himself as the one of the few outspoken critics of the Iraq invasion of 2003.

Joschka Fischer has been one of the most influential leaders of the German Green Party. He led his party into the political mainstream during the 1998 federal election forming social democrat-green coalition on the federal level. Under Fischer's leadership, the Green party expanded its voice in the coalition during the 2002 federal election where it achieved its best voting result to date.

Joschka Fischer currently runs an advisory firm in Berlin and is senior strategic counsel with The Albright Group LLC in Washington DC. Fischer serves on the Board of Trustees of the International Crisis Group and as Co-Chair of the Executive Board of the European Council on Foreign Relations. He is the author of several books and his political commentaries are syndicated internationally.