Its vast jurisprudence is the envy of the world’s great constitutions, as its pre-eminence as a leading model of constitutional governance around the world. The Basic Law has stood the test of time and the change. First, despite economic down- swings and changing social con- ditions, the political system has continued to operate as much as it was intended by the founders. Second, Germany has experi- enced no crisis of constitutional allegiance. All social, economic, and political changes have taken place within existing constitu- tional arrangements. Third, there has been no future crisis.

The art works of this and the following pages are from All Work. Art in the 20th Century From “Futurist” to “Neo-Realist” by Günter Uecker. The show traces the German Republic’s history through artistic developments in the visual arts. Left: “1956 – 2006” by Hans Hartung (1904-89). Above: Hommage to Khrushchev by Günter Uecker (1963).

---

Donald P. Kommers is the Joseph and Elizabeth Riehle Professor of Political Science and Professor of Law at Notre Dame University. He is currently a 2009 spring seminar fellow at the American Academy in Berlin.