Since 2005, Angela Merkel has transformed not only the way Germans see themselves but also the way that politicians worldwide, male and female, perceive women in power. The East German daughter of a Protestant pastor, this physicist-turned-politician has deployed her life experiences to cultivate a unique set of leadership skills. Her pragmatic, data-driven, and future-oriented approach to politics – grounded in a commitment to democratic pluralism, human rights, and personal responsibility – has produced extraordinary paradigm shifts in many national policies in the wake of major crises. Mushaben explores Merkel's extraordinary political career as well as her achievements across key policy domains. She contextualizes these within broader German history before and after reunification, and uncovers the personal and political factors that have contributed to Chancellor Merkel's hard-earned status as the world's most powerful woman. Finally, Mushaben also analyzes the recent challenges the Chancellor faces in her fourth (and probably final) term in power.

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