

commitment to both issues remained central to its mission.

After moderating its views on some issues, as Amal had done before it, Hezbollah would gain the right to participate as a party in Lebanese parliamentary elections. Hezbollah also began another aspect of its operations that promised to gain support for its cause. The movement organized a number of social services, including financial and medical services for needy families and basic, religiously based education. Its apparent desire to earn recognition as part of Lebanon's multiparty system, however, was seriously jeopardized when its armed units in the south sparked widespread Israeli air attacks and incursion by ground forces into Lebanon in the summer of 2006.

—Byron D. Cannon

#### FURTHER READING

Bregman, Ahron. *Israel's Wars: A History Since 1947*. London: Routledge, 2002. Traces Israel's confrontations with its Arab neighbors, including shifts from

opposition to specifically Palestinian concerns (largely secular) to defense against Islamic militancy reflected by Hamas and Hezbollah.

Hamzeh, Ahmad Nizar. *In the Path of Hizbullah*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 2004. One of the most comprehensive scholarly studies of the movement from its earliest stages.

Jorisch, Avi. *Beacon of Hatred: Inside Hizballah's Al Manar Television*. Washington, D.C.: Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 2004. Reflects a fairly widespread concern for Hezbollah's use of popular mass media to draw support for its cause beyond Lebanon's borders.

**SEE ALSO:** Jan., 1978-1980: Iranian Revolution; Mar. 14, 1978: Israel Invades Southern Lebanon; Sept. 16-18, 1982: Palestinians Are Massacred in West Beirut; Jan. 20, 1987: Waite Is Kidnapped in Lebanon; Mar. 17, 1992, and July 18, 1994: Terrorists Attack Israeli Embassy and Jewish Center in Argentina; May, 1992: Hariri Begins Reconstruction of Lebanon.

October 1, 1982

## EPCOT CENTER OPENS

*With the opening of EPCOT Center, a theme park dedicated to showcasing international culture and technological innovation, Walt Disney Productions combined entertainment with education and invited visitors to envision the future.*

**LOCALE:** Orlando, Florida

**CATEGORY:** Travel and recreation

#### KEY FIGURES

Walt Disney (1901-1966), innovative pioneer of film animation and founder and president of Walt Disney Productions, 1923-1966

Roy O. Disney (1893-1971), brother of Walt Disney and chief financial officer and president of Walt Disney Productions, 1966-1971

Card Walker (1916-2005), first non-Disney chairman of Walt Disney Productions, 1971-1983

Marty Sklar (b. 1935), vice chairman of Walt Disney Imagineering

#### SUMMARY OF EVENT

The opening of EPCOT Center marked the fulfillment of Walt Disney's final dream, although it was a dream that

had changed greatly since Disney first envisioned the project in 1965. EPCOT (for Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow) had its origins in Disney's work for the 1964 New York World's Fair, for which his company designed several attractions, including Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln, the Carousel of Progress, and It's a Small World. These attractions later became staples at Disneyland, Disney's California amusement park, but the experience led Disney to think about ways to solve the problems of urban living in the United States. He became convinced that a Disney-designed and -operated city dedicated to the happiness of its residents could elevate urban living in the same way Disneyland had transformed the old-fashioned amusement park into the modern theme park.

Disney's EPCOT plan would become the heart of his new Disney World project in Orlando, Florida. The first phase involved building a new amusement park similar to Disneyland; in the second phase, Disney would build an ultramodern city where twenty thousand residents could live and work in an environment free of pollution, slums, and urban blight. Utilizing a radial plan, the city would feature at its center a pedestrian-only downtown

## REAGAN SPEAKS AT EPCOT

*On May 27, 1985, U.S. president Ronald Reagan spoke at Walt Disney's EPCOT Center, an ideal location to promote private enterprise:*

Today we take for granted so many inventions that inspired wonder not long ago—the polio vaccines of Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Albert Sabin; television, first in black and white and now in vivid color; drought-resistant seeds and cold-resistant grains; computers in the workplace and the home; spacecraft that can orbit the Earth for days and then land gently on a desert runway. Despite the predictions so many made during the Great Depression when I was a young man, life in America today is not worse—it's far better. And let us ask, then, what made it so? Was it government directing our daily lives? . . .

Throughout the 1970's . . . government's growth was unbridled, yet our economy stagnated. By 1980 the gross national product registered zero growth. If it was not the Government that spurred our economic growth was it perhaps our natural resources? Our vast land has always been blessed by a mighty multitude of resources—broad plains, powerful rivers, and rich deposits of minerals. Yet in a sense, the primary reality of a resource exists not in the earth but in the minds of the men and women who give it usefulness and value. . . . No, it's not been so much our resources or our government that have given us our enduring vibrancy and growth but the initiative and enterprise of individual Americans.

Air travel, for example, has become commonplace because test pilots like Lindbergh had daring, and engineers like Boeing and Douglas had the wits and determination. The Government might have wished it could simply decree a polio vaccine, but it took years of unremitting effort and

dedication by Doctors Salk and Sabin to make the vaccines a reality.

In this setting, one story of a private initiative is particularly appropriate. Back in Missouri in the early 1900's there lived a farmboy who discovered that he had a knack for drawing barnyard animals. As an adult, he began to put his animals into cartoons, and he became convinced that he could entertain people by telling stories about a little creature with a high voice, red trousers, and yellow shoes and white gloves.

Professionals in the field made fun of the idea, and to produce his first cartoons the young man had to sell or pawn virtually everything he owned. But today, 57 years later, this man and his creation have become permanently fixed in the history of our popular culture. His name was Walt Disney; his little creature was Mickey Mouse.

The determination that each of these heroes of progress demonstrated came from within. Yet in each case it was crucial to the success of their efforts that they were operating in a climate of economic liberty—in a free market where they could make use of pooled resources, experiment with new techniques and products, and submit their plans and hypotheses to the test of practical experience.

This aspect of freedom, economic freedom, is one of the distinctive characteristics of life in our nation, as interwoven into the American legacy as freedom of speech and press. It has enabled our people to make our nation into a marvel of economic progress, and, as with all the freedoms that we enjoy, it's our duty to cherish and protect it.

of restaurants, shops, and hotels, all enclosed and climate-controlled. Moving out from the downtown would be areas designed for apartments, parks, schools, and finally homes in wooded neighborhoods. Residents would work for different companies located in industrial parks beyond EPCOT's borders, with all areas linked by electric public transportation such as monorail or PeopleMover. The only time people would need to use their cars was when they left the city.

Disney believed that by constantly incorporating new concepts in urban design and energy efficiency as well as advances in medicine and conservation, EPCOT, a city envisioned as twenty-five years ahead of its time, would become a living laboratory of the future and would influence city living for generations to come. He presented the ideas for his plan, including a three-dimensional

model and conceptual drawings describing EPCOT's layout and operation, in a thirty-minute promotional film made in October, 1966. The film ended with Disney enthusiastically telling the audience that he and his company were so excited they could not wait to begin. Only two months later, however, Walt Disney unexpectedly succumbed to lung cancer. The grand dream of EPCOT was over before it had really begun.

Walt's brother, Roy O. Disney, took over leadership of Walt Disney Productions (the company changed its name to the Walt Disney Company in 1986) and committed himself to completing the first phase of the Florida project, which he rechristened Walt Disney World, by building the Magic Kingdom theme park and hotel resort area. The park and resort were successfully opened in October, 1971. Roy's death in December, 1971, then left

Walt Disney Productions without a Disney at the helm for the first time; it also left Disney's leaders, including new chairman Card Walker, with the momentous decision of what to do about EPCOT.

Many anticipated the dangers of building such a city and felt that the company should let EPCOT die. (Walt's former assistant on the project, Marty Sklar, humorously dubbed it "Waltopia.") In the preceding century, similar model cities, such as Marne-la-Vallée, France (which became the site of Euro Disney in 1992), had failed because of conflicts between the cities' residents and their governing bodies. Thirteen such model cities had failed in the United States alone in the mid-twentieth century. Many Disney executives felt that any attempt to build Walt's dream city without his leadership, not to mention his business and industry connections, was doomed to failure. Others argued that, as Walt Disney World incorporated many of the ideas Walt had proposed, it already embodied the spirit of EPCOT. In 1974, after much discussion, Card Walker decided that the company would go ahead with EPCOT, although the form it would take was yet to be determined.

Under the leadership of Marty Sklar, WED Enterprises (now called Walt Disney Imagineering), which had designed and built California's Disneyland and Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom, focused its energies on Walt Disney's long-dormant dream. After years of conceptualization, and taking its cue from the 1964 World's Fair, EPCOT, now called EPCOT Center, would become not a living city of the future but a perpetual world's fair about the future that would remain true to Walt's ideals. The park would consist of two sections: Future World and World Showcase. Future World would display the latest innovations of American industry, medicine, agriculture, and energy production. It would also highlight humankind's ecological stewardship of Earth with pavilions devoted to the best uses of the land, the oceans, and the air. World Showcase would feature international pavilions focusing on the accomplishments and cultures of other countries. Each showcase would be staffed by workers native to the country represented and would display reproductions of famous landmarks associated with the locale.

Construction began in 1980 on a 550-acre site two and one-half miles south of the Magic Kingdom, the very site selected by Walt Disney for the downtown section of the city he originally envisioned. Costs of the construction eventually rose to between \$800 million and \$1.2 billion, making EPCOT Center the largest private construction project in the world at the time.

EPCOT Center opened on October 1, 1982, to slow attendance, but the numbers of visitors to the park quickly increased over the first months; eventually, EPCOT Center matched the Magic Kingdom in terms of attendance. Mindful that the advances showcased at EPCOT would quickly become outdated, Disney Imagineering made plans to review the exhibits on a regular basis and redesign any that no longer appeared to reflect future trends.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Although it was not the utopian city Walt Disney first envisioned, EPCOT Center (known simply as Epcot since 1996) showcased technological advances to the general public and helped to increase international understanding through the mingling of the American public with the multicultural staff of the World Showcase pavilions.

In addition, Walt Disney's vision for his Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow changed a number of practical aspects of the daily lives of Americans, even though Disney never built the city he envisioned. Many EPCOT features, from mall-like shopping areas and pedestrian-friendly downtowns to neighborhoods featuring residential greenbelts and buried power lines, were subsequently adopted by cities around the world. EPCOT's proposed traffic patterns, designed to diffuse congestion by emphasizing walking and pollution-free public transportation, became part of cutting-edge urban planning in the early twenty-first century. Even Disney's idea of concentrating workplaces in industrial parks outside city limits came to fruition in places such as California's Silicon Valley.

Although the idea of establishing utopian cities came to be viewed as impractical, Walt Disney's vision endured into the twenty-first century in the minds of urban planners all over the world, just as Epcot continued to thrive as a popular theme park showcasing prototypical concepts of the future and communicating to the world the spirit of international cooperation. The park remains an embodiment of Disney's unwavering belief in an optimistic future where science, industry, and individuals will come together to solve the problems of the world in the best spirit of the American free enterprise system.

—Richard Rothrock

### FURTHER READING

Dunlop, Beth. *Building a Dream: The Art of Disney Architecture*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996. Uncritical, enthusiastic presentation of the architecture of Disney from the original Disneyland forward. Features photographs and architectural drawings.

Finch, Christopher. *The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdoms*. Rev. ed. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2002. Illustrated history reviews Disney's pioneering achievements in movies, television, and theme parks.

Gabler, Neal. *Walt Disney: The Triumph of the American Imagination*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. Biography shows how Disney's dreams reflected the desires of the American public in the first half of the twentieth century.

Kurtti, Jeff. *Since the World Began: Walt Disney World—The First Twenty-Five Years*. New York: Hyperion/Roundtable Press, 1996. Contains detailed descriptions of Walt Disney's EPCOT plans as well as how EPCOT Center evolved.

Mosley, Leonard. *Disney's World: A Biography*. New York: Stein & Day, 1985. Unflattering portrait focuses on the dark side of Disney's personality and accomplishments.

Watts, Steven. *The Magic Kingdom: Walt Disney and the American Way of Life*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997. Provides in-depth discussion of how Walt Disney became the primary architect of modern mass culture.

**SEE ALSO:** Nov. 2, 1976: Atlantic City Legalizes Casino Gambling; 1990's: Disney Emerges as an Architectural Patron; Feb., 1992: Pequots Open Gaming Facility; Apr. 12, 1992: Euro Disneyland Opens.

**October 1, 1982**

## KOHL BECOMES CHANCELLOR OF WEST GERMANY

*The Free Democratic Party's abandonment of its twelve-year coalition with the Social Democratic Party and its new alliance with the Christian Democratic party led to the first successful "constructive vote of no confidence" in the West German Bundestag, allowing Helmut Kohl to replace Helmut Schmidt as chancellor on October 1, 1982.*

**LOCALE:** Bonn, West Germany

**CATEGORY:** Government and politics

### KEY FIGURES

*Helmut Kohl* (b. 1930), chancellor of West Germany, 1982-1990, and Germany, 1990-1998

*Helmut Schmidt* (b. 1918), chancellor of West Germany, 1974-1982

*Hans-Dietrich Genscher* (b. 1927), foreign minister and vice chancellor of West Germany, 1974-1990, and Germany, 1990-1992

*Franz Josef Strauss* (1915-1988), minister-president of Bavaria, 1978-1988

*Willy Brandt* (Herbert Ernst Karl Frahm; 1913-1992), chancellor of West Germany, 1969-1974

*Petra Kelly* (1947-1992), founding member and a leader of the German Green Party, 1980-1990

*Otto Lambsdorff* (b. 1926), minister of economics of West Germany, 1977-1984

### SUMMARY OF EVENT

In 1982, the West German government led by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was based on a coalition of the Social

Democratic Party (SPD) and the Free Democratic Party (FDP) first established in 1969. Thanks to the support of the liberal FDP, Willy Brandt became the first Socialist chancellor of West Germany in 1969, providing an alternative to the conservative Christian Democratic Union and Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CDU/CSU) chancellors who had dominated that position since 1949. The small FDP, which supported Christian Democratic chancellors before 1966, represented the crucial swing party between the SPD and CDU/CSU coalition, the two largest West German parties. After the discovery of an East German spy on Brandt's staff, Brandt was forced to resign on May 6, 1974. Schmidt became the new chancellor, and the FDP leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher assumed the crucial post of foreign minister.

Schmidt's coalition won the elections in 1980, but within two years the coalition succumbed to internal strains. One issue, which had united the majority of Free Democrats with the Socialists, was support of a policy of détente with the Soviet Union and East European countries (*Ostpolitik*) first initiated by Brandt. This policy, which involved de facto recognition of the loss of German territory to Poland after 1945, was initially bitterly opposed by the Christian Democrats, and particularly by Franz Josef Strauss, the leader of the Bavarian branch, the Christian Social Union. Moreover, Strauss's social conservatism alienated Genscher and many in his party. It was only after Strauss failed in his candidacy for chancellor in the election of 1980 that this obstacle to an FDP-