

Ever since the First World War, the Saar (that rich industrial area bordering France and Germany) has been the centre of a political ~~struggle~~ tug-o'-war...

But to-day, flags are flying in Saarbrücken, the capital - and a torchlight procession from Western Germany (reminiscent of earlier days) proclaims a new future for the Saar...

By a recent Franco-German treaty, the territory has become, politically, a part of the Federal Republic - it's fifth change of national status in less than forty years. Economic union with Western Germany will follow later.

Placed under League of Nations' control in 1919, the territory had to decide by plebiscite, in 1935, whether to join France, or return to Germany. ~~However, typical~~ Nazi demonstrations dominated the polling - and following the plebiscite, Hitler's marching columns moved in. ~~...~~
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In striking contrast is the simple present-day ceremony, as the Federal German flag is hoisted over the Government buildings.

That France and Germany have reached agreement is a triumph for European unity.

~~Meanwhile,~~ Arriving in the Capital for the official ceremony, the Federal Chancellor, Dr Adenauer stressed that centuries of ~~enmity~~ ^{ENMITY} and mistrust had now been buried - paving the way for greater Franco-German friendship...