

## Abstract

This thesis addresses the post-World War II food aid program of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Church) in Germany as the first exception to heavy political restrictions on private food aid distribution during the period 1945-1949. It aims to understand the relationships between food aid, the Church, and reconciliation and see how these interacted on an institutional and individual level. This thesis first addresses the theoretical frameworks of reconciliation and food aid, and then further frames them within the theological and historical understanding of the Church. This conceptual framework is then codified and applied to archival source documents relating the Church's food aid program activities and political exceptions. It discusses the role food aid played in institutional and individual reconciliation and the specific elements of reconciliation associated with these events. This thesis puts forth that food aid served as the material representation and impetus for reconciliation bringing about institutional change and fostering individual friendships and enduring peace within the community of the Church. This thesis offers a unique look into an exceptional food aid program and offers some key conclusions that can be used to examine the current worldwide food aid situation.

## Keywords

Reconciliation, religion, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, food aid, postwar Germany, policy exception