



COUNTRY IN PERSPECTIVE

GERMANY



*Schloss Neuschwanstein. Palace in Bavaria
Flickr / Kay Gaensler*

Ti
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*Wheat fields in Bildern
Flickr / Marlis Börger*

Chapter 1 | Germany in Perspective

Geography

Introduction

The Federal Republic of Germany sits in the heart of Europe. With nearly 81 million people, Germany is the second most populous nation in Europe after Russia. Germany shares borders with nine nations. The North Sea and the Baltic Sea form much of Germany's northern border, interrupted only by a small land border with Denmark (140 km/87 mi). Poland (447 km/278 mi) and the Czech Republic (704 km/437 mi) lie to the east. Austria (801 km/498 mi) and Switzerland (348 km/216 mi) lie on Germany's southern border. Belgium (133 km/83 mi), France (418 km/260 mi), Luxembourg (128 km/80 mi), and the Netherlands (575 km/357 mi) mark the western border.^{1, 2}

The German landscape is quite varied. The northern region consists of plains, which are dotted with lakes and marshes. Further to the south, as the elevation increases, rivers and valleys shape the landscape. Several mountain ranges, including the Alps, stretch along Germany's southernmost region. Much of the country lies north of the 49th parallel. Despite the northern latitude, most of the country enjoys a temperate climate. Microclimates throughout the nation create many weather variations. Cold winters and snow in the higher elevations of the Southern Alps give way to palm trees and lemon groves around Lake Constance on the Swiss border.^{3, 4}

Geography and Topological Features

Northern German Plain

The northern region of Germany is a vast lowland plain stretching from the border with Denmark to the cities of Köln and Hamburg. Many of the nation's major cities, including the capital, Berlin, are located in this region. Elevations rarely reach 200 m (656 ft).⁵ The landscape of the northernmost section is covered with wide expanses of sand, marshlands, and mud flats. The soil, along the southern part of the plains near the Ruhr Valley is particularly fertile. Much of the region's western section was formerly covered with coarse grasses and heather. Peat bogs cover much of the land, stretching toward the northwestern coastal regions. Many of these bogs were reclaimed, and the land is now used for agriculture. Located in the Lüneburg Heath, the highest point in the Northern German Plane is Wilseder Hill (Wilsdeder Berg), which has an elevation of 169.2 m (554 ft).^{6, 7} Moorland sheep, known as Heidschnucke, graze the heathland.⁸



Plains in Northern Germany
Flickr / Robert Emmerich

Central Uplands

Germany's Central Uplands begin south of Hanover and extend southward toward the hilly terrain of the *Alpenvorland*. Elevations rarely exceed 1,100 m (3,609 ft). One of the highest peaks is the Brocken (1,142 m / 3,747 ft) in the Harz Mountains, where the annual average temperature is 3°C (37°F), and most of the year it is covered in

fog.⁹ The Brocken appears in the literary works of Goethe and Heinrich Heine.¹⁰ To the west, the Rhenish Uplands are composed of slate and shale with dense forests at the higher elevations. This rolling plateau averages around 400 m (1,312 ft) in elevation. The Uplands of Hesse are filled with low-lying valleys that provide an important transportation corridor, linking northern and southern Germany, between Frankfurt am Main and Hamburg. To the south, toward the border with the Czech Republic, the elevation of the Central Uplands climbs to 1,450 m (4,757 ft).^{11, 12}

The Alpen Foreland and the Alps

The triangular-shaped region of Germany's Alpen Foreland covers the southernmost section of the nation. From west to east, the region measures approximately 400 km (249 mi) in width while its maximum north-south width is about 150 km (93 mi). The elevation rises gradually from about 400 m (1,312 ft) along the Danube River to the foothills of the Alps at 750 m (2,461 ft). The Alps Mountain Range stretches along Germany's borders with Switzerland and Austria. The western Alps are referred to as the Algäuer Alps; the Bavarian Alps are in the center, and the Salzburg Alps are to the east. Many of the peaks in the Alps rise to least 2,000 m (6,562 ft). The highest peak in the country, the Zugspitze (2,963 m (9,718 ft), is located in the Bavarian Alps.^{13, 14}



*Algäu Alps
Flickr / Uwe Schwarzbach*

Climate

Even though most of the country lies at the same latitude as the United States-Canada border at the 49th parallel, Germany has a moderate climate. Along the northern coastal regions, summers are warm. Winters are mild but frequently cloudy. Inland, more seasonal variations occur. Summers are usually hotter, and winters are frequently colder. In the extreme south, in the mountainous regions of the Alps, higher altitudes bring colder temperatures and more precipitation. Temperatures can be extreme in the west, where weather conditions can change quickly due to winds from the Atlantic Ocean.^{15, 16}

The coldest month of the year is January; the average temperature is around 2°C (36°F) in the north and -2°C (38°F) in the south. Winters in southern Germany can be very cold, especially at the higher elevations. Temperatures as low as -10°C (5°F) are sometimes recorded. July is the warmest month. Temperatures range from 16-18°C (61-64°F) along the northern coast to approximately 19°C (67°F) in the south. The temperature can climb as high as 35°C (95°F) during the summer months.^{17, 18}



*Winter in Hücker Moor Lake
Flickr / Christian Kortum*

Precipitation varies by region. The least precipitation falls in the Northern German Plain, where it averages about 500-750 mm (20-30 in) per year. Precipitation increases as one travels south. An average of 750-1,500 mm (30-60 in) falls annually in the Central Uplands and 2,000 mm (80 in or more) or more in the alpine areas.^{19, 20}

Bodies of Water

Rivers



*Danube river, aerial view of Passau
Wikimedia / Hgmichna*

All of the major rivers in Germany flow northwards, except for the Danube, which flows from west to east.²¹ The nation's longest river is the Rhine. The Rhine River originates in the Swiss Alps and courses 865 km (538 mi) through Germany.^{22, 23} The river is one of Europe's most important waterways and has historically been used to ferry passengers and goods. The Rhine is lined with some of Europe's most famous old cities and modern industrial cities. The middle portion of the river was once heavily fortified and remnants of old castles can be seen today.²⁴

The Elbe River runs 1,165 km (724 mi) from the Czech Republic, and empties into the North Sea on Germany's northern coast. Approximately two-thirds of the river lies

within Germany. The Elbe provides river transportation as far inland as Prague. Canals link the river to Berlin and other industrial cities along its path.^{25, 26}

The Danube River originates in Germany's Black Forest region, where it begins its 2,850 km (1,770 mi) trek through nine nations.²⁷ The German section of the river is 687 km (426 mi) long. The city of Regensburg is a major German port on the Danube.^{28, 29}

Lakes and Seas

Germany does not have many lakes. Most of the shallow lakes are located in the lowlands of the northeastern region. The largest natural lake is Lake Müritz.³⁰ Lower Saxony is home to Dümmer and Steinhude lakes. Most of the remaining lakes are in the southern state of Bavaria, including Lake Constance, known locally as Bodensee, Lake Konstanz, and the German Riviera. Lake Constance is Europe's third-largest lake and is famous for its mild climate.³¹ It is about 65 km (40 mi) long and 13 km (8 mi) at its widest point. The lake's average depth is 90 m (295 ft), but its maximum depth is 252 m (827 ft). Over half of the lake lies within Germany's borders, and the rest of it lies in Austria and Switzerland.^{32, 33}



*Lake Müritz
Flickr / torino071*

The Baltic Sea (Ostsee) forms Germany's northeastern border. The sea is nearly landlocked, and is the largest brackish water expanse in the world - the water has more salinity than fresh water, but not as much as seawater. The sea has a maximum depth of 459 m (1,506 ft). Shallow fjords and bays shape the German coastline.³⁴

The Baltic Sea is linked to the North Sea by the Kiel Canal (Nord-Ostsee-Kanal), the world's busiest artificial waterway.³⁵ The canal is 98 km (61 mi) long, and provides the shortest and safest route between the two seas.³⁶

The North Sea is an offshoot of the Atlantic Ocean; its shipping lanes are traveled by large container ships. Bremerhaven and Wilhelmshaven are important North Sea port cities.^{37, 38}

Major Cities

City	Population
Berlin	3,439,100
Hamburg	1,769,117
Munich	1,330,440
Köln	998,105
Frankfurt am Main	671,927

Berlin

Berlin is Germany's capital and largest city. The city was founded in the 13th century, but recent archaeological discoveries suggest that the region may have been inhabited earlier.^{39, 40} In 1709, it became the capital of Prussia. Berlin was named the capital of the German Empire (Deutsches Reich) at the founding of the Second Reich in 1871.^{41, 42} When the Weimar Republic replaced the German Empire at the end of World War I, Berlin remained the national capital.^{43, 44}



Berlin in 1871
Wikimedia / Library of Congress

World War II devastated the city. Only half of the original population remained. At the end of the war, the Allies divided Germany into four zones. The city itself was divided into West Berlin, controlled by the Allies and East Berlin, controlled by the Soviets. East Berlin became the capital of the newly formed German Democratic Republic (East Germany). Bonn became the de facto capital of the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany).^{45, 46} In July 1991, following the reunification of Germany, Berlin once again became the capital of the reunified nation, now known as the Federal Republic of Germany.⁴⁷

Today's Berlin is a modern, thriving, active city of more than three million people. It has developed into a fashion and cultural center for Germany, Europe, and the world. The city prides itself on individualism and creativity. In 2012, Berlin celebrated its 775th anniversary.^{48, 49}

Hamburg



City of Hamburg
Flickr / Marius Brede

Hamburg, Germany's second-largest city is located on the Elbe River in north Germany. It is the location of Germany's largest seaport and a major commercial center. It is also the nation's major industrial city.⁵⁰ Few foreigners live in the city, which retains much of its unique culture evolving out of its years as an independent medieval state. The city is predominantly Protestant (75%). The remainder is Catholic with a small Muslim population. Only about 1,000 Jews reside in the city, a legacy of the Holocaust and World War II.⁵¹

Hamburg began as a modest moated castle city built around 825 CE. Vikings sacked Hamburg in 845, and over the next three centuries, the city was destroyed and rebuilt eight times. By the 11th century, the city had become a major commercial center. Hamburg joined the Hanseatic League, a collection of nearly 200 German merchant cities.⁵² In 1459, the city became part of the Danish suzerainty, but it barely paid its Danish rulers any notice.^{53, 54} With the decline of the Hanseatic League, which protected the economic interests of north German merchant cities, Hamburg left the league in 1550 and took off on its own.⁵⁵ The commercial importance of the city continued to grow with the creation of a stock exchange in 1558 and the founding of the Bank of Hamburg in 1619. In 1770, under the Treaty of Gottorp, Hamburg once again became part of Germany after the Danes released the city from subjection to their king. In 1810, Hamburg was annexed by Napoleon's French Empire. Napoleon's defeat in 1815 returned Hamburg to Germany. Post-WWII reconstruction of the city and Germany's reunification increased trade and modernization. Today, Hamburg is a thriving business center with an active cultural scene.^{56, 57, 58} Hamburg is particularly known for its classical music.⁵⁹

München (Munich)

Munich is the capital and largest city of the southern state of Bavaria.⁶⁰ The city, whose name means, "Home of the Monks," was founded around 1157. The city, a bastion of Catholicism, became the center of the anti-Protestant Reformation movement in the

16th century. Protestants were not allowed to become citizens of the city until the 19th century.^{61, 62}



Schloss Nymphenburg palace in Munich, Bavaria
Flickr / Abraham Puthoor

Munich prospered until the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). In 1632, Protestants surrounded the city and forced it to surrender. The city was then occupied by the Swedes. In 1634, a third of the city's population died of the bubonic plague (Black Death).^{63, 64, 65} The modern city emerged around 1825 under King Louis I of Bavaria.^{66, 67} In 1871, Bavaria became part of the newly formed German Empire. Following Germany's defeat in World War I, right-wing radicalism was popular among the poor, unemployed, and disillusioned

residents of Munich. Extremists marched to the king's residence, forcing his abdication in 1918. It was from Munich that Adolph Hitler and his Nazi party launched the failed "Beer Hall Putsch" on 8 November 1923, which brought Hitler to national attention.^{68, 69}

Today's Munich is often regarded as one of Germany's most livable cities.⁷⁰ The city is a banking and financial center. It is famous for its beer and its breweries and a major tourist destination, especially in the fall when it hosts Oktoberfest.^{71, 72} The city is a center for the arts, especially opera. It is home to several important libraries, museums, and art galleries. In 1972, the city hosted the Olympic games, during which Palestinian terrorists murdered 11 Israeli coaches and athletes.^{73, 74, 75}

Köln (Cologne)

Cologne is the fourth largest city in Germany. The city has an inland port, and it is the economic capital of Germany's Rhineland. About 20% of its residents are guest workers from Turkey, Italy, and the Balkans. The population is largely Roman Catholic, but there are Protestants and a sizable Muslim community, many of whom come from Turkey.⁷⁶

Cologne is one of the oldest cities in Germany. The Roman General Agrippa first colonized it in the 1st century BCE. Named "Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensium," it became the seat of the governor of the Lower German Empire. Around 258 CE, the

city was the capital of an empire comprised of Gaul, Britain, and Spain. The Franks conquered the city in 456.^{77, 78}

In the 8th century, Charlemagne made the city an archbishopric, and by the 10th century its ecclesiastical status overshadowed commerce. The city remained under the control of the archbishop until 1288 when it became a free imperial city.⁷⁹ Cologne joined the Hanseatic League and continued to prosper. In 1388, Cologne became the first city university in Europe.⁸⁰ The French took Cologne in 1794 and lifted the prohibition of Protestant services and the presence of Jews in the city after dark.⁸¹



*Cathedral of Cologne
Wikimedia / ger1axg*

Cologne became part of the Prussian empire in 1815. World War II left the city in ruins and the population dropped from 769,000 to only 40,000. Cologne was rebuilt and now it is an economic and cultural center, with a high-tech economy, including telecommunications.⁸²



*Roman Germanic Museum, Cologne
Wikimedia / Raimond Spekking*

Cologne is home to some of Germany's many museums, which gives the city huge appeal for cultural tourists.^{83, 84} It is a major ecclesiastical and intellectual center. The University of Cologne, one of Germany's leading research universities, has over 44,000 students.⁸⁵ The city has many bars and clubs, a contemporary art scene, and a variety of shops and Christmas markets. One of the best-known sites is the twin-spired cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.⁸⁶ The city hosts dozens of trade fairs and claims to have the most

breweries in the country. The annual Cologne Carnival, which takes place in February or March, is a raucous event attended by hundreds of thousands of people.^{87, 88}

Frankfurt am Main

Frankfurt lies along the Main River in western Germany. Because of its location on a major river, the city has long been an important transportation hub and inland shipping port. Today, more than 180 different nationalities live in the city. About one-third of the people who live in the city do not hold a German passport.^{89, 90}



City Hall of Frankfurt
Wikimedia / Thomas Wolf

Frankfurt was founded as Franconovurt around the end of the 8th century, but the region has been continuously inhabited since 3000 BCE.⁹¹ The city's castle was a royal residence of the East Frankish Carolingians from the 9th century through the Middle Ages. Frederick I was elected king there in 1152. In 1356, Roman Emperor Charles IV made the city the permanent site for the election of future German kings.⁹² Frankfurt became a free imperial city in 1372. The Frankfurt Börse, the stock exchange, opened late in the 16th century. The Swedes occupied the city in 1614 following the defeat of the Holy Roman Empire in the Thirty Years' War.^{93, 94} Napoleon made it the seat of government for the Confederation of the Rhine in 1806. In 1810, Frankfurt was named the capital of the Grand Duchy of Frankfurt. After Napoleon's defeat in 1815, the city again became a free city. Between 1816 and 1866, the city served as the German capital before Prussia annexed it in 1866.⁹⁵



Iron bridge in Frankfurt
Flickr / Polybert49

After Bonn's selection as the capital of West Germany following World War II, Frankfurt firmly established its role as a major commercial and trading center. The contemporary city is home to the European Union's Central Bank. It is home to major automobile, mechanical, chemical, and pharmaceutical manufacturers.⁹⁶ The city is internationally renowned for its famous frankfurter sausages. It is also the location of Europe's largest and one of its busiest

airports. The city of Goethe is home to one of Germany's largest universities, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt, which was established in 1914.^{97, 98, 99} The cultural scene of Frankfurt includes a variety of museums and exhibition halls, an opera house, and several theaters that offer high-quality state productions.¹⁰⁰

Environmental Concerns

Germany faces a number of environmental challenges; chief among them is pollution.¹⁰¹ The main contributors to air pollution are emissions from coal-burning industries, industrial overdevelopment, and vehicle exhausts (NOx). In 2013, the European Union told Germany that it must reduce air pollution.¹⁰² Some of the recommendations called for banning cars from city centers, use of alternative fuels, transition to electric vehicles, enforcement of stricter testing and controls, and more space for bicycles and public transportation.¹⁰³ In 2017, Germany was facing court action if it did not take radical steps to reduce nitrogen dioxide pollution, which exceeded the limits in 28 areas of Germany, including Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, and Cologne.¹⁰⁴



*A coal power plant in Datteln
Flickr / eutrophication&hypoxia*

Water pollution is another challenge. Some of the major rivers, including the Elbe, Weser, Aller, and Ems, have significant pollution levels.¹⁰⁵ The problem stems from open mining, which contaminates nearby rivers.¹⁰⁶ Other pollutants derive from the runoff from fertilizers and pesticides used in agriculture.^{107, 108} In 2016, the European Commission took Germany to the EU Court of Justice because Germany failed to reduce water pollution caused by nitrates, widely used in fertilizers.^{109, 110}

Acid rain is another significant problem. Many of the nation's forests have been damaged because of exposure to acid rain. More than 70,000 sq km (27,027 sq mi) of forest have died from the effects of acid rain. One controversial solution is to spread limestone over affected forest areas in order to neutralize the acidic soil.^{111, 112}

Natural Hazards

The most common natural disasters in Germany are related to storms and flooding.¹¹³ Rains and heavy snowmelt can cause local rivers to overflow.¹¹⁴ Following a rapid winter thaw in 2011, many of the nation's rivers, including the Rhine, Mosel, and Oder, overflowed their banks and inundated many parts of the country.¹¹⁵ In 2013, heavy rains throughout the nation caused many of the rivers to rise and overflow their banks causing serious flooding. The Rhine was closed to barge traffic due to high water levels and many river cruises had to be cancelled. The Danube reached its highest level in 500 years. The Elbe River crested and overflowed its banks.^{116, 117} In 2014 and 2016, storm systems dumped record-breaking rainfall again, causing deadly floods in many regions.^{118, 119, 120}



*Flooding after heavy fall rains
Flickr / CAN Europe*



*Protest against global warming in Munich
Flickr / 350 .org*

Climate change is a growing concern since it can raise the probability of extreme weather events including floods, drought, heat, and cold.¹²¹ Extreme hot and cold temperatures can cause serious health risks and death. In 2003, extreme heat caused numerous deaths in the nation, particularly among the elderly. Rising temperatures in the cities and falling water levels in the summer can affect groundwater levels.¹²² Extreme cold has also been responsible for deaths, particularly in the southern regions around Munich. On 6 January 2014, Germany recorded its coldest temperature; in the eastern state of Saxony, the temperature dropped to -28°C (-18°F).^{123, 124}

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Germany in Perspective

Chapter 1 | Geography

Assessment

1. Germany is the most populous nation in the European Union.
2. The northern German plain lies along the borders with Switzerland and Austria.
3. Hamburg is home to Germany's largest seaport.
4. The Kiel Canal is a narrow passageway that connects the Danube River with the Rhine River in southern Germany.
5. Flooding is common along Germany's rivers.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. True; 3. False; 4. False; 5. True



*Column of Marcus Aurelius, 193 CE
Wikimedia / public domain*

Chapter 2 | Germany in Perspective

History

Introduction

The history of the Germanic peoples goes back to the first century BCE. The modern German history begins in 1871, the year Otto von Bismarck formed the German Empire. The German Empire, which is often referred to as the Second Reich, united dozens of German-speaking kingdoms, free cities, bishoprics, and duchies. Imperial Germany quickly became one of the most powerful European nations.¹ In addition to its economic prowess, the German Empire acquired colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.²

The Weimar Republic (1918-1933) replaced the German Empire after Germany's defeat in World War I. Following an economic collapse, the rise of Nazi Germany brought about the Third Reich (1933-1945), World War II, and the Holocaust. After Germany's defeat in World War II, the country was divided into four occupation zones, the American, British, French, and Soviet zones of occupation. Eventually, the zones controlled by the United States, Great Britain, and France became West Germany (FRG). The Soviet Occupation Zone became the German Democratic Republic (GDR), commonly known as East Germany. Berlin, the former German capital, which was located in the Soviet-controlled zone, was divided into East and West Berlin. Bonn became the provisional capital of West Germany.³ In 1955, West Germany joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and in 1957, it was one of the six founding members of the European Economic Community, the forerunner to the European Union.⁴



*Soviet occupation zone
Wikimedia / WikiNight2*



*People atop the Berlin Wall
on 9 November 1989
Wikimedia / Sue Ream*

On 9 November 1989, the demolition of Berlin Wall began. The wall had divided the city since 1961 to East and West Berlin, with Checkpoint Charlie as the only gateway where East Germany allowed Allied diplomats, military personnel, and tourists to pass into Berlin's Soviet part.⁵ Less than a year later, on 3 October 1990, the signing of the German Unification treaty reunited former East and West Germany into the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG).^{6, 7}

In 2016, for the first time since reunification, Germany experienced the lowest point in its relationship with other EU members. German dominance during the European debt crisis and Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door policy toward refugees fleeing Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan created resentment among Germany's closest allies and left it isolated in Europe.^{8, 9}

Today, Germany is reluctantly becoming a regional power that represents the interests of the entire EU.¹⁰ In the modern EU, issues such as the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine,

the refugee crisis, and Brexit are forcing Germany to take the lead on continent-wide security and economic challenges.^{11, 12, 13}

Ancient History



The Roman Empire in 116 AD and Germania Magna
Wikimedia / D. Bachmann

Germanic tribes arrived in the area of modern-day Germany in approximately 100 BCE. Around 50 BCE, Roman forces attacked Germanic tribes that were east of the Rhine River. The Romans maintained the borders of their empire east of the Rhine and south of the Danube after repeated defeats.^{14, 15, 16}

As periodic battles between the Germanic tribes and Rome continued, the tribes became more cohesive. By the fourth century CE, two Germanic confederations emerged: the Alemanni on the Rhine and

the Goths along the Danube.^{17, 18, 19} A series of Germanic states formed during the following decades, eventually ending Roman control of Western Europe in 476 CE.²⁰

Medieval Germany

The Carolingian Dynasty and the Beginning of the First Reich

In 800, Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as the Emperor of Rome, the first in a line of emperors who would rule German territory until 1806, when Napoleon invaded the empire and abolished it. Charlemagne gained control of Bavaria, Lombardy, and Saxony during his reign. By the early 900s, the empire covered most of Western Europe.²¹



Charlemagne was crowned emperor by Pope Leo III
Wikimedia / Public Domain

Charlemagne's son, Louis the Pious, divided the empire among his three sons.

After his death in 840, war between the sons erupted. The Oath of Strasbourg ended the hostilities and marked the beginning of Germany and France. The Treaty of Verdun in 843 brought peace to the region and established the geographical and political demarcation of what would become Germany, France, and Italy.^{22, 23, 24}

The Saxons and Salians (919-1125)

In 919, Henry I became king, marking the beginning of the Saxon dynasty, which ruled until 1024.^{25, 26} In 962, after gaining control of the Middle Kingdom, the son of Henry I was crowned Holy Roman Emperor, marking the beginning of the Reich. Although the move ultimately benefitted the Germans, hostility from Rome coupled with the fact that German kings were elected by German dukes, made for a disorderly administration of the realm.^{27, 28}

The last Saxon king was succeeded in 1024 by a Salian from a Frankish tribe. The Salians established an alliance with the Catholic Church, but by 1075, this alliance weakened. War raged throughout the German kingdom between 1077 and 1122, further weakening the German king.^{29, 30, 31}



Henry V, Holy Roman Emperor (1086-1125)
Wikimedia / Public Domain

The last Salian king, Henry V, died in 1125. The German dukes feared that the election of Henry V's nephew might restore power to the monarchy, and named a Saxon as their new king.^{32, 33}

The Hohenstaufen and Habsburg Dynasties

The selection of a Saxon monarch infuriated the powerful Hohenstaufen family from Swabia. Upon the death of the Saxon monarch in 1137, the dukes elected a Hohenstaufen as their king, but the second Hohenstaufen king failed to restore the power of the German monarchy.^{34, 35, 36}

Between 1256 and 1273, anarchy prevailed in the kingdom. The German princes challenged one another and stripped away much of what remained of the monarchy. German merchants began to build strong trade relations along the Baltic Sea.^{37, 38}



Rudolf I of Habsburg
Wikimedia / Public Domain

In 1273, Hohenstaufen rule ended with the election of Rudolf of Habsburg as king. Until the middle of the 15th century, the throne alternated between three families—the Luxembourgs, the Wittelsbachs, and the Habsburgs. During the 14th and 15th centuries, Germany began to prosper. Its location helped the country grow into a major commercial and industrial center.^{39, 40}

Reformation and Conflict

The Protestant Reformation

In October 1517, a monk named Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the gate of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg and forever changed Germany. His ideas revolutionized the relationships between man and God and questioned the church's dogmas. The Catholic Church fought against Martin Luther's ideas, but they quickly spread throughout Germany and the rest of Europe, aided by the movable type printing press, which was perfected in the mid-15th century by another German, Johannes Gutenberg.^{41, 42} The era was marked by violence and wars, including the Knights' War of 1522 and the Peasants' War of 1524, in which 100,000 peasants from southwestern and central Germany perished.^{43, 44}



Martin Luther posting his 95 theses in 1517
Wikimedia / Public Domain

The Thirty Years' War

By the middle of the 16th century, large parts of Germany and most of the imperial cities had become Protestant.^{45, 46} The region remained relatively stable between 1555 and 1618, after the Peace of Augsburg was signed. In 1618, a local conflict between

the Protestant nobles and the Catholic monarchy erupted into the Thirty Years' War, which reshaped the political and religious map of central Europe.⁴⁷

After Catholic forces defeated the Protestants, the monarchy demanded the return of property that belonged to the Catholic Church. This move reignited religious tensions and prompted the Swedish Protestant army to invade Germany. After the Swedes were defeated, France invaded. When the Thirty Years' War ended in 1648, nearly 20% of Germany's population had been killed.^{48, 49}

The Peace of Westphalia (1648)

The Peace of Westphalia ended the religious conflicts between the European powers. Germany lost territories to Sweden, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. The accords effectively prevented the emergence of any centralized power.^{50, 51}

The End of the Holy Roman Empire and the Rise of Prussia (1789-1871)

In 1789, the French revolution began with wide support among German intellectuals, but German support did not stop the French from invading German territories west of the Rhine in 1792. The French occupation continued for two decades.^{52, 53}

In 1806, Napoleon united the German region west of the Rhine by forming the Confederation of the Rhine and abolishing the Holy Roman Empire. In 1813, an alliance of Prussian, Austrian, and Russian forces defeated Napoleon at Leipzig and drove the French out of Germany. In 1814, diplomats gathered in Vienna to redraw the borders of Europe and create a permanent form of government for Germany. The new boundaries gave Austria, Bavaria, and Prussia a key role in the German Confederation. The Habsburg emperor presided over the legislative assembly, the Reichstag.^{54, 55, 56}



Napoleon Bonaparte
Wikimedia / public domain

Prussia, an increasingly powerful and growing kingdom, declared the Confederation defunct in 1866 and invaded the states of Saxony, Hanover, and Hesse-Kassel. That same year, Austria agreed to be excluded from the reorganization of Germany.^{57, 58, 59}

On 18 January 1871, the German Empire was formally established with Prussia's King Wilhelm I as the new Kaiser. The Hohenzollern family was in control of German territory.^{60, 61, 62}

The Second Reich (1871-1914)

The Second Reich (German Empire), whose creation was orchestrated by Prussian statesman Otto von Bismarck, consisted of 4 kingdoms, 5 grand duchies, 13 duchies and principalities, and 3 free cities. Bismarck became the first imperial chancellor of the new nation.^{62, 63} The empire possessed a military second only to Russia's in size and efficiency. The economy, fueled by rapid industrialization, was the world's strongest. The population increased, and nationalism grew as the people began to form a single German identity. Liberal parties rose to power and began a series of reforms designed to reduce the power of the Catholic Church.^{65, 66, 67}



Otto von Bismarck
Wikimedia / public domain

Bismarck stated that the German Empire harbored no desire for territorial expansion, but his move to colonize parts of Africa and Asia showed that Germany had long-term geopolitical goals.^{68, 69, 70} Shortly after the death of Wilhelm I in 1888, Bismarck fell out of favor with the Prussian monarchy and, two years later, was forced to resign from his position as Chancellor of Germany by the new Kaiser, Frederick III.^{71, 72}

After Bismarck's departure, Germany's foreign policy became increasingly aggressive. Worried about Germany's increasing naval power, Britain signed an alliance with Japan in 1902, another with France in 1904, and a third with Russia in 1907. Germany's only reliable ally was Austria-Hungary.^{73, 74, 75}

Everything came to a head when the presumptive heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne,

Archduke Franz Ferdinand, was assassinated in Sarajevo, Serbia on 28 June 1914. The German Kaiser promised to support Austria-Hungary against Serbia, and once Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Germany did as well.^{76, 77, 78}

World War I (1914-1918)

After Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on 28 July 1914, Russia quickly mobilized its army to assist Serbia. In response, Germany declared war on Russia and France. Britain remained uninvolved until German armies crossed the border into Belgium, violating a neutrality pact that forced Great Britain to declare war on Germany. Within five weeks, all the major European powers were at war.^{79, 80, 81}

The German public supported the war and territorial expansion, but when the conflict became bogged down by trench warfare the support waned. In 1917, the Reichstag passed a resolution calling for peace. Soon afterward, the German chancellor resigned, and military leaders rejected the call for peace.^{82, 83}

After the Battle of Amiens, which concluded on 12 August 1918, the German commander advised the government to begin peace negotiations. The new German chancellor, Prince Max von Baden, agreed, but the German commander, Erich Ludendorff, rejected the plan. In response, von Baden persuaded the Kaiser to remove Ludendorff. The German situation further deteriorated. A mutiny broke out on the navy battleship Kiel in October and spread throughout Germany.⁸⁴ The government resigned, and on 9 November 1918, Kaiser William II fled to the Netherlands. Prince Max von Baden turned over his powers to the government, which formed the German Republic with a provisional civilian government. Two days later, the Germans signed the armistice ending the war.^{85, 86, 87}



*Portrait of Prince Max von Baden
Wikimedia / public domain*

The Weimar Republic (1918-1933)



Official opening of the League of Nations, 15 November 1920
Wikimedia / Public Domain

After the war, Germany was plagued by food and fuel shortages and widespread discontent. In 1919, Germans voted for democracy. An assembly convened in the small town of Weimar in February to draft a new constitution. The result was the creation of the Weimar Republic and a document that looked much like the constitutions of other European democratic republics. Meanwhile, the Allies were meeting in Versailles, France, to finalize the terms of Germany's surrender.^{88, 89, 90}

The Treaty of Versailles was exceptionally punitive toward Germany. Particularly offensive to the Germans were the provisions calling for some Germans to be tried as war criminals and the large reparations Germany had to pay to victims of the war.^{91, 92} In 2010, 92 years after the end of World War I, Germany made its final reparation payment, paying off the last installment of interest.⁹³

The reparation payments required by the Versailles Treaty hurt the German economy.⁹⁴ In 1923, Adolph Hitler and his National Socialist German Workers' Party, or Nazis, led a failed coup in Munich. Hitler was arrested and sentenced to prison, where he wrote the autobiography and manifesto, *Mein Kampf*, outlining his plans for Germany.^{95, 96, 97} The Nazis were a virulently anti-Semitic right wing political group. They wanted to nullify the Treaty of Versailles and expand German territory. Their "socialist" designation was a calculated attempt to gain support from working class Germans.⁹⁸

The economy began to rebound in 1924, and for the next six years, Germany appeared on the road to recovery. Germany joined the League of Nations in 1926. The stock market crash of 1929 hurt Germany's economy for the next four years. The Nazis and the Communists won many seats in the Reichstag elections. In 1933, Germany's new chancellor, Franz von Papen, convinced President Paul von Hindenburg to appoint Hitler as chancellor. Shortly after his appointment, Hitler consolidated his power, setting the stage for World War II.^{99, 100, 101}

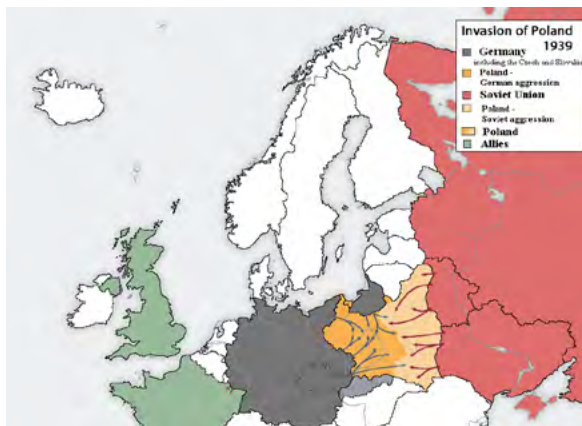
The Third Reich and World War II (1933-1945)

In 1933, Hitler called for new elections. In spite of their terror-filled campaign tactics, the Nazis failed to gain a majority, forcing them to join with the German National People's Party (DNVP).¹⁰² The Reichstag passed the Enabling Act, allowing Hitler to ignore the constitution. Hitler then formed the Third Reich and began the Nazi revolution. The Nazis purged communists, socialists, democrats, and Jews from civil service and universities. Hitler disbanded trade unions and established the Gestapo. When President Hindenburg died in 1934, Hitler, in defiance of the constitution, combined the offices of chancellor and president to further increase his power.^{103, 104, 105}



*Paul von Hindenburg and Adolf Hitler on the Day of Potsdam, 21 March 1933
Wikimedia / Theo Eisenhart*

Hitler's main goal was the creation of a pure German race. He raged against Jews, whom he blamed for "polluting" the pure race, and against the conditions imposed on Germany after WWI.^{106, 107} He wanted to reassert Germany's position in the world and to undo the humiliation of Versailles. He believed Germany needed more room to grow and saw the east as the likely direction for expansion. From there, Hitler hoped to dominate the world.¹⁰⁸



*Map of Europe at the beginning of World War II, September 1939
Wikimedia / Listowy*

In March 1938, Germany annexed Austria. Several months later, in order to appease Hitler, Britain, France, and Italy signed the Munich Pact, which allowed Germany to annex portions of Czechoslovakia. Undeterred, Germany seized the rest of Czechoslovakia and the Lithuanian city of Memel in March 1939. Britain did not respond.¹⁰⁹ Later that year, after signing pacts with Italy and Russia, Germany invaded Poland. On 1 September 1939, France and Britain declared war on Germany. The world was again at war.^{110, 111, 112}

At the beginning of the war, Germany experienced uninterrupted military success. By 1941, it controlled much of Europe. By late in 1942, it looked as if Germany would win the war. In early 1943, the tide began to turn. The United States entered the conflict after Japan, Germany's ally, bombed the naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1941. The Germans sustained major losses to the Allied forces, and the war began to affect the population at home. In 1945, Hitler retired to his bunker outside of Berlin, where he committed suicide days before the Soviet army reached his capital.^{113, 114, 115}

The Holocaust (1938-1945)

As soon as the Nazis took power, they began a policy of ridding Germany, and later all of Europe, of Jews. In 1933, the regime decreed that Jews could not hold civil service positions in Germany. In 1935, the Reichstag passed The Nuremberg Laws, The Reich Citizenship Law that took away the right to citizenship from Jews, and the Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor, which banned marriage and sexual relations between Jews and Germans.¹¹⁴ During the night between 9 and 10 November 1938, the Nazis organized attacks on Jews and Jewish businesses all over Germany, Austria, and parts of Czechoslovakia in what is called Kristallnacht (Crystal Night or Night of the Broken Glass). In some places, the attacks lasted several days.¹¹⁷



Woman working at the Auschwitz concentration camp
Wikimedia / Unknown

In the beginning of the war, the Nazis planned to expel Jews from the Reich, but the presence of millions of Jews in Poland, the Soviet Union, and other parts of German-controlled Europe led the Nazis to develop another plan. At the Wannsee Conference in 1942, the Nazi leadership agreed on the “Final Solution,” which planned the systematic extermination of the Jews of Europe by gassing, starvation, and forced labor in concentration camps.^{118, 119}

In 1941, the Nazis experimented with the first mobile killing units, the “gas vans” in Chelmo, Poland. By using carbon monoxide emitted from engine exhausts into hermetically sealed trucks, they were able to kill 1,000 people a day, mostly Jews,

Roma, and the mentally ill—whom the Nazis considered “unworthy of life.” By 1942, the Nazis had developed highly efficient means of extermination in the Auschwitz death camp, after replacing carbon monoxide with the poisonous insecticide Zyklon B. At the height of the gas chambers operations, they were killing 6,000 Jews each day.¹²⁰



*Keitel signs surrender terms, 8 May 1945 in Berlin
Wikimedia / Public Domain*

By the end of the Holocaust, six million European Jews had been murdered by the Nazis. Four and a half million Jews came from Poland and the Soviet Union. The Nazis established close to 1,000 concentration camps, another 1,000 POW camps, thousands of slave labor camps and Jewish ghettos, and other extermination camps for Communists, German Socialists, Social Democrats, Roma (Gypsies), Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and persons accused of asocial or socially deviant behavior.^{121, 122}

The Cold War Era

The Partitioning of Germany (1945-1990)



*Map of the occupation zones of Germany in 1945
Wikimedia / US Army*

Germany surrendered in May 1945. The country lay in ruins, and its infrastructure was destroyed. The German state no longer existed. The major Allied Powers: the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union divided Germany into security zones. The western two-thirds of the nation fell under the control of the United States, Great Britain, and France. The eastern third of the nation, including the capital of Berlin, went to the Soviets. Berlin was also divided among the four Allied Powers.^{123, 124, 125}

Disagreements among the Allies quickly emerged. Within their occupation zones,

different social, political, and economic systems developed. The Allies allowed the formation of regional governmental units. By 1947, it became clear that the Soviets had no intention of allowing free and fair elections, and the three western German zones merged their administrative units to facilitate reconstruction efforts. The western occupied zones received economic aid and underwent currency reform.¹²⁶

The Berlin Blockade (1948-1949)

In June 1948, U.S. and British policymakers introduced the new Deutsch Mark to West Berlin in order to manage economic recovery efforts and control the black market. In response, the Soviets introduced the Ostmark in East Berlin and blocked all land access to West Berlin. The United States and Britain responded by conducting an airlift of food, fuel, and water to the residents of the besieged city through an air corridor that started in West Germany. The Allies also organized a counter-blockade of East Germany. The crisis ended when the Soviets lifted the blockade a year later. The crisis solidified the division between Western and Eastern Europe.¹²⁷



*A Douglas C-54 Skymaster land at Tempelhof
Wikimedia / Public Domain*

East and West German States

In May 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) was established, and Bonn was chosen as West Germany's capital.^{128, 129} In response, the Soviets created the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) in October.^{130, 131}

East Germany failed to achieve legitimacy among its citizens. Between 1949 and 1961, about 2.5 million East Germans crossed into West Berlin. On the morning of 13 August 1961, East Berliners woke up to see 30 miles of barbed wire dividing East and West Berlin. A few days later, authorities began replacing the barbed wire with concrete walls. The 15-foot walls were topped with barbed wire. Watchtowers manned by soldiers with machine guns, electric fences, and mines were added to fortify the wall. The Berlin Wall became a symbol of communist oppression.^{132, 133, 134}

Reunited Germany

In November 1989, as the Cold War was thawing, crowds in East Berlin gathered at the Berlin Wall demanding to be allowed entry into West Berlin. On 9 November East Berlin's communist leadership relented, and thousands of East Germans jubilantly entered West Berlin. The following year, East Germany's communist party suffered a resounding defeat in the elections. The new government launched unification negotiations with West Germany and found an enthusiastic supporter of reunification in Helmut Kohl, the West's chancellor. In July, the two countries adopted a single currency. The Soviets ceased their opposition to reunification, and on 3 October 1990, East and West Germany were reunited with Berlin as capital. After national elections the following month, Kohl became reunited Germany's first chancellor.^{135, 136, 137}



German day of unity, 1990
Wikimedia / German Federal Archives



Gerhard Schröder
Wikimedia / Gerhard44

Reunification created serious challenges for the country. The economy of former East Germany was in shambles. Unemployment was high. The infrastructure needed repair and modernization. Social differences between unified Germany's eastern and western regions created additional problems. People from the east viewed western Germans as arrogant and insensitive. Those in the west found their eastern compatriots backward and unmotivated. As the cost of rebuilding former East Germany soared, the economy

began to stagnate. Unemployment grew, and political divisions became more pronounced. In 1998, Germany's longest-serving chancellor, Helmut Kohl, lost to Gerhard Schröder.¹³⁸

Over the next four years, Schröder's government worked unsuccessfully to rebuild the economy. Nevertheless, Schröder eked out a narrow victory in 2002. Again,



Chancellor Angela Merkel
Wikimedia / Armin Linnartz

he focused on economic reforms, but the economy continued to worsen. In 2005, challenger Angela Merkel, who grew up in East Germany and was the candidate of the Christian Democratic Union Party (CDU), defeated Schröder. Under the leadership of Germany's first female chancellor, prosperity returned. Merkel was re-elected chancellor in 2009 and again in 2013.^{135, 136, 137} In September 2017, Merkel won a fourth term as chancellor of Germany. The far right Alternative for Germany (AfD) won a little over 12% of the votes and entered the lower house of parliament, the first far-right party to do so since before WWII.^{142, 143}

Current Events

Nearly three decades after reunification, some divisions and challenges remain. Although the east still lags behind the west with respect to economic development, the country seems to be unifying socially. Attitudes and old stereotypes are changing, leading to the hope that real unification of the German people can succeed.^{144, 145}

The economy is strong. Germany is Europe's largest creditor, the world's fourth-largest economy, and it has the fastest growing economy among the G7 nations.¹⁴² Economic gains have been greater in the western regions where citizens enjoy a higher standard of living than those in eastern Germany. Unemployment is higher in the east than the west.^{147, 148, 149}



Skyline of Frankfurt city
Flickr / joshuawoodhead

In 2015, more than one million immigrants, many of whom were Syrian refugees, entered Germany with the support of Angela Merkel's "open door policy." These developments inflamed right-wing and neo-Nazi groups who viewed immigrants

as a threat to the German way of life and a strain on financial resources.¹⁵⁰ Anti-immigrant demonstrations raised the specter of Nazi extremism and xenophobia and stirred fears and anxiety among much of the population.¹⁵¹ Attacks against immigrants and refugees increased.^{152, 153} At the same time, sex crimes and attacks on Germans by migrants have inflamed the situation.^{154, 155, 156}



*Train of Hope - preparing supplies for refugees, Frankfurt
Flickr / Stephan Dinges*

In spite of these developments, most Germans continue to support centrist politicians and policies. After the 2017 elections, many Germans took to the streets to protest the success of the far right AfD (Alternative for Germany), which won 12% of the votes, enough to enter the Bundestag.^{157, 158}



*U.S. and German medical training
Flickr / U.S. Army Europe*

Since the end of World War II, Germany has resisted military involvement in international conflicts.¹⁵⁹ After the Cold War, Germany provided some support to UN, NATO, and EU missions, including the deployment of troops to Kosovo and Afghanistan.¹⁶⁰ The United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, and Germany's leadership during recent economic crises and geopolitical challenges have strengthened Germany's position in Europe and increased its prominence on the world stage.¹⁶¹ In recent years,

Germany has taken on a greater leadership role, by addressing foreign policy matters such as Russian aggression in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, and the Islamic State's (ISIS) activities in Syria and elsewhere.^{162, 163}

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Germany in Perspective

Chapter 2 | History

Assessment

1. Berlin was the capital of East and West Germany during the years that East Germany was part of the Eastern Bloc.
2. The Protestant Reformation began when the Holy Roman Emperor executed Martin Luther.
3. World War I broke out when Austria-Hungary, Germany's ally, declared war on Serbia, after a Serbian nationalist assassinated the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
4. The Treaty of Versailles was a peace agreement signed in 1814 by Germany and France, after Napoleon was defeated and driven out of Germany.
5. Angela Merkel was elected four times as Chancellor of Germany.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True



Frankfurt, the financial capital of Germany
Wikimedia / Christian Wolf

Chapter 3 | Germany in Perspective

Economy

Introduction

Germany's economy is structured according to the social market economic model (*soziale Marktwirtschaft*) which is the middle ground between free market economy and socialism. The key role of the German government is to establish and maintain regulatory environments that foster competition and the willingness of individuals to assume responsibility, while providing a social safety net. This model requires a strong welfare system.^{1, 2} The model has been a success for Germany. The German economy is Europe's largest; it is the fifth largest in the world in terms of purchasing power parity,

and fourth in nominal terms. In 2016, Germany overtook the United Kingdom as the fastest growing economy among the G7.^{3, 4}

Germany's economy relies on trade. In 2017, Germany ranked as the world's second-largest exporter.^{5, 6, 7} The largest contributor to the German GDP (69%) is the service sector, which employs 75% of German citizens. The country ranks among the world's best in technical services, including information technology and financial services.^{8, 9}

Agriculture

Germany is the largest food market in Europe. However, agriculture plays a small role in the economy, accounting for 0.6% of GDP and employing only 1.4% of Germany's labor force.¹⁰ The agricultural sector is small, but it is highly mechanized, and productivity is high. Nearly half of Germany's land is used for agriculture. Large farms have replaced traditional family farms.¹¹



*Milking carousel in a farm in Großberkmannsdorf
Wikimedia / Gunnar Richter*

The country is able to meet approximately 90% of its domestic food needs and is the third largest food exporter in the world.¹² Germany's produces a variety of agricultural products including potatoes, grains, sugar beets, fruits, vegetables, and livestock.^{13, 14}



*Aerial view of vineyards at Markgräflerland
Wikimedia / Taxiarchos228*

German farmers receive government subsidies to compensate for the high standards required of all farmers in the European Union (EU). Government subsidies also help stabilize farm income that would otherwise be subject to fluctuating market conditions.¹⁵ As a part of its agricultural policy, the government supports long-term rural development to attract farmers, maintain high levels of competitiveness, and promote rural economic growth.¹⁶

With Europe's largest timber reserves - forests cover one-third of Germany's land area - Germany has a robust forestry industry.¹⁷ This sector includes wood processing, paper production, printing, and publishing. The forestry/timber sector employs approximately 1.3 million workers.^{18, 19}

Fishing and fisheries have a long tradition along the coasts.²⁰ The fishing industry is small, accounting for 3% of all agricultural production and less than 1% of Germany's GDP. Brown shrimp are sought after in the North Sea, but Baltic Sea fishing industry concentrates on herring and flounder. Aquaculture remains small, producing mainly freshwater fish such as trout and carp.^{21, 22}

Industry

Germany is the most industrialized nation in Europe and the third-largest manufacturer in the world.^{23, 24} Key industrial products include steel, coal, cement, chemicals, machinery, vehicles, electronics, and automobiles. Shipbuilding and textile manufacturing are also important.^{25, 26} Germany's industries weathered the economic downturn in Europe better than most countries in the Eurozone.^{27, 28, 29}



*Volkswagen AG headquarters in Wolfsburg
Wikimedia / Dietmar Rabich*



*Solar Settlement with the Sun Ship: Freiburg
Wikimedia / Andrewglaser*

The industrial sector employs approximately one-quarter of the German labor force and accounts for roughly 30% of the country's GDP.³⁰ In addition to large manufacturing firms, much of this sector is comprised of small to medium-sized enterprises (SME). These SMEs are the nation's largest employer; SMEs currently employ nearly 16 million people. SMEs account for 55% of Germany's economic output.³¹

The continued success of Germany as one of the world’s leading manufacturers depends, in part, on the development of technologies and a highly skilled workforce. Germany’s industries are finding it increasingly difficult to find qualified workers. Fewer German students are graduating with degrees in science, engineering, and mathematics to meet employer demand. If the nation does not address this problem and is unable to sustain its competitive technological advantage, the industrial sector, along with the overall economy, is likely to suffer.^{32, 33}

Energy



Brown coal facility in Lucherberg
Flickr / Bert Kaufmann

Germany is Europe’s largest energy consumer and one of the top-10 energy users in the world. To meet its energy demand, Germany imports petroleum and natural gas. Petroleum imports arrive through five pipelines and four seaports.^{34, 35} Germany is one of the world’s top oil refiners.^{36, 37, 38}

In 2016, coal was the most abundant energy source (brown and hard coal), comprising of 40% of the nation’s gross electricity production.³⁹ The government is set to end subsidies for hard coal extraction in 2018. Lignite coal production is expected to be phased out by 2050.⁴⁰ Germany was once one of the world’s largest producers of nuclear energy. Following the nuclear disaster at Fukushima in 2011, Germany closed 8 of its 17 nuclear reactors; all nuclear facilities are expected to close by 2022.^{41, 42}

Germany is increasing its utilization of renewable energy.^{43, 44} In 2016, 32% of the nation’s energy needs were met by renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.⁴⁵ In the first half of 2017, Germany generated 35% of its power from renewable sources. Germany now leads the world in solar energy production.^{46, 47}



Wind turbines in Brandenburg
Flickr / Daniel Foster

The renewable energy initiative is costly, and it is negatively impacting the economy.⁴⁸ The transition from nuclear power has led to an increase in the use of fossil fuel.⁴⁹ Coal imports are on the rise.⁵⁰ Costs for government subsidies to green energy companies are passed onto consumers, whose electrical bills are already among the highest in the world. The high cost of power for industrial consumers could threaten overall efficiency and the industry's competitive edge.^{51, 52, 53}

Natural Resources

Germany has a few natural resources and must rely on imports.⁵⁴ Natural resources include coal, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel, potash, and salt.^{55, 56} Most of Germany's hard coal mining operations are located in the Ibbenbüren, Ruhr, and Saar coalfields.⁵⁷ Lignite coal operations are located in four regions: the Rhineland around Cologne, Aachen, and Mönchengladbach; the Lusatian region in southeastern Brandenburg and northeastern Saxony; the Central region in southeast Saxony-Anhalt; and the Helmstedt region of Lower Saxony.⁵⁸ The copper mines are located in the Marsberg, Sauerland, and North Rhine-Westphalia regions.⁵⁹ The most abundant resources are arable land and timber.^{60, 61}



*Potash salt mining in Merkers-Kieselbach, Thuringia
Flickr / pilot_micha*

Trade



*IBM stand during CeBIT 2010 at the Hanover fairground
Wikimedia / Patrick*

Trade is a key aspect of the German economy. Germany accounts for about 9% of all international trade, and the country is the world's largest exporter and importer.^{62, 63, 64} Germany accounts for more than half of the European Union's international trade. Approximately 25% of the nation's income comes from international trade, and about 20% of all jobs depend on international trade. Germany joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995.⁶⁵

Germany's global exports in 2016 included motor vehicles (18% of total exports), machinery and computers (16%), electrical equipment (10%), pharmaceuticals (5.7%), medical equipment (4.8%), plastics (4.6%), aircraft and spacecraft (3.5%), along with iron and minerals.⁶⁶ Germany's main export partners in 2015 were the United States, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and China. Germany imported most of its goods from the Netherlands, France, China, Italy, Poland, and the United States. Main imports included machinery, data processing equipment, vehicles, chemicals, oil and gas, metals, electric equipment and pharmaceuticals.^{67, 68, 69}



Port of Hamburg
Flickr / weebo15

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is a significant part of the economy. In 2016, Germany ranked as the tenth destination for FDI stock.⁷⁰ According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Germany ranks fifth in the world as a recipient of FDI.⁷¹

Tourism



Dresden touristic tours
Flickr / mr.donb

Germany is the seventh-most popular world destination for tourists, the second-most popular destination for European travelers, and the most popular destination for young Europeans. In 2016, more than 80 million international visitors spent a night in Germany. Visitors from European countries accounted for almost three-quarters of international overnight stays. In addition to leisure travel (60% of the market), Germany has become Europe's most popular business travel destination (25% of the market). Non-European visitors come

from the United States, China, and the Gulf States.^{72, 73}

In 2017, tourism accounted for approximately 4% of Germany's GDP.⁷⁴ The travel and tourism industry employs 14% of the workforce. Germany's tourism is based on cultural assets such as museums, arts, and festivals. The cruise and adventure tourism sectors are growing.^{75, 76}



*Schwerin Palace on its island at Lake Schwerin
Wikimedia / Harald Hoyer*

Banking and Finance

Deutsche Bundesbank is the central bank of Germany. The bank has been part of the Eurosystem since 1999. As a member of the Eurosystem, Deutsche Bundesbank shares responsibility with other national central banks for the region's single currency—the euro. The bank's main mission is to safeguard the stability of the euro as well as the financial system.⁷⁷



*Frankfurt Stock Exchange floor
Wikimedia / Dontworry*

In addition to Deutsche Bundesbank, Germany relies on three financial pillars: private commercial banks, public banks, and cooperative banks. Approximately 300 private commercial banks operate in Germany. Public banks include local and regional banks; public banks hold about 36% of the total market share. The most numerous banks (approximately 1,100) are the cooperative or savings banks. These institutions are owned by their customers and are designed to serve the specific needs of their clients, who are usually

small farmers or small business owners. Several specialized institutions also operate within Germany's banking system. These include approximately 18 mortgage banks, 15 business developments banks, 22 building and loan associations, 32 securities trading banks, and 1,559 financial services institutions.^{78, 79, 80}

Problems in the Eurozone and low interest rates are risks for the German banking industry.⁸¹ Changing regulations and persistent earning pressure are ongoing challenges for German banks.⁸² Slowing growth in the European Union means German banks are likely to suffer as they try to stimulate growth. However, low unemployment and a resilient economy stabilize banks' operating environments.⁸³



*Skyscrapers at Potsdamer Platz in Berlin
Flickr / Spreng Ben*

The European Central Bank (ECB) implemented restrictions on banking operations; these restrictions are designed to improve both stability and regulation. In 2017, almost 5% of small and medium-sized German banks failed the stress test conducted by Germany's two top financial watchdogs, the Bundesbank and BaFin.⁸⁴

Standard of Living



*Street scene in Quedlinburg, Saxony-Anhalt
Flickr / Никола Атанасов*

Germans have one of the highest standards of living in the world. The United Nation's Human Development Index rates Germany as one of the world's most developed nations, ranking sixth out of 187 countries that were studied.⁸⁵ Life expectancy is nearly 81 years, thanks in part to a healthy and active lifestyle and universal medical coverage.^{86, 87} The average German completes about 13 years of schooling, which partially accounts for the generally higher wages in the nation.^{88, 89}

In spite of the relatively high wages, approximately 15% of Germans live in poverty, and almost 20% of Germans under the age of 18 live in poverty. The highest rates of poverty are in the states of Bremen, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, and Berlin. The lowest rates of poverty are in the southern states of Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria. Poverty is most likely to affect those between the ages of 13 and 24 and 55 and 64.^{90,}

^{91, 92}

Employment

German unemployment keeps dropping.⁹³ Nationally, the German unemployment rate hovers around 4%. About 65% of Germans between the ages of 15 to 74 hold a paid job, a higher percentage than the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average of 61%.⁹⁵ The rate for men (78%) is higher than for women (69%). Unemployment is uneven throughout the country.⁹⁶ Unemployment is lowest in the southern states of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg.⁹⁷ Youth unemployment, ages 15 to 25, is 7%, higher than the national average but the lowest in the European Union.⁹⁸



*Businessman walking home in Berlin
Flickr / Armando G Alonso*

Outlook



*Skyline of Berlin
Flickr / Nico Trinkhaus*

Economic growth is expected to remain stable, and the unemployment rate is expected to fall to 3.7% by the end of 2018 or early 2019, well below the OECD average. The introduction of a federal minimum wage in 2015 did not slow the decline in unemployment and wages will likely continue to grow.^{99, 100} The average household net-adjusted disposable income per capita is USD 31,925 a year, more than the OECD average of USD 29,016 a year. However, there is a large gap between the richest and poorest, as the top 20% of the population earn more than four times as much as the bottom 20%.¹⁰¹

Inflation climbed to 1.8% in August 2017 according to government expectations. For 2018, inflation is expected to be 1.7%.¹⁰² The current account surplus will narrow somewhat, mostly due to higher oil prices.¹⁰³



*Daimler Chrysler building in Berlin
Flickr / Mariano Mantel*

Low unemployment and government spending will foster private consumption. Low interest rates, immigration, and robust labor demands will sustain residential investment and push up wages, but business investment is set to strengthen only gradually.¹⁰⁴ A recent scandal in the auto manufacturing industry - the rigging of emissions software and allegations of cartel building - have caused a drop in investor confidence. It is still too early to determine the long-term effects of this scandal.¹⁰⁵

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Germany in Perspective

Chapter 3 | Economy

Assessment

1. The German economy operates in a free-market system in which prices for goods and services fluctuate without government intervention.
2. The rise of ISIS in Europe and the crisis in Ukraine have hurt the German tourism industry.
3. Germany is one of the largest energy consumers in the world.
4. Germany's unemployment rate has climbed since the beginning of the European debt crisis in 2011.
5. Germany leads the world in solar energy production.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True



*Cathedral of Cologne
Flickr / Harald Hoyer*

Chapter 4 | Germany in Perspective

Society

Introduction

In spite of being a part of the Holy Roman Empire for centuries and the birthplace of the Protestant Reformation, only 29% of Germans identify as Roman Catholic and 27% as Protestant.¹ Even among Germany's Christians, few are observant. Furthermore, since 2015, changes in taxation on churchgoers have pushed thousands of Germans to renounce their faith and cancel their church memberships.^{2, 3}

In cities such as Stuttgart, nearly one in three residents was born in a foreign country. There are more mosques in Hamburg than in any other European city, and the

Muslim population is growing because of Angela Merkel’s “open-door” immigration policy.⁴ The influx of foreigners and refugees revealed cracks in the national social fabric. Anti-immigrant, particularly anti-Muslim, sentiments sharpened the divide between those who view themselves as “truly German” and immigrants. Right-wing parties are on the rise and violence occasionally erupts, forcing Germany to continue to reflect on its Nazi past.^{5, 6, 7} The nation is also still addressing the problems created by the unification of East and West Germany.^{8, 9}



*Cologne Central Mosque
Wikimedia / Raimond Spekking*



*Family trip to Schwangau in Bavaria
Flickr / Evamaria*

In recent years, Germany’s population has been shrinking because the country’s birth rate has been declining, while the death rate has been rising.¹⁰ For many people in this high-performance society, the focus on career success has led to a de-emphasis of family life. Many Germans have no interest in getting married or having children.¹¹ As the population ages, nearly one in five Germans is now 65 or older.¹² Due to record immigration numbers in recent years, including more than one million asylum seekers, and a slight increase in birthrates, Germany’s population hit a record high in

2016.^{13, 14, 15} However, the increased birthrate is temporary, and the increase in the size of the population will not last, according to projections. German government statisticians believe that Germany’s population will decrease by 10 million people by the year 2060.^{16, 17}

For all its challenges, Germany continues to evolve and adapt to the new global and domestic realities.^{18, 19}

Ethnic Groups and Language

Demographics

Of Germany's 81 million residents, 92% are German and 2.4% are Turkish. The rest of the population consists of Greek, Italian, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Croatian, Romanian, and Syrian immigrants.^{20, 21}

Germany is the second most favored destination in the world for immigrants after the United States.²² Since 2015, more than a million migrants arrived in Germany, many of whom remain undocumented. The 2016 Integration Law is intended to regulate the rights and responsibilities of legitimate asylum seekers.^{23, 24} The influx of war refugees from Syria and economic migrants from Asia and Africa has brought the number of people with a "migrant background" to 18.6 million.²⁵



Turkish immigrants playing music in Stuttgart
Flickr / Dan Zelazo



National costume of the Sorbs in eastern Germany
Wikimedia / Dundak

German nationality depends on a person's *Blutrecht*, or *blood right*.²⁶ This means that a child must have at least one German parent who is a German national. A change in German law, which took effect in 2000, allowed some immigrants to claim dual citizenship and obtain a German passport.²⁷ In 2014, a new citizenship law came into effect that allowed children of immigrant parents, who have lived in Germany for at least eight years and attended German school for six years, to claim dual citizenship. Those who do not meet these requirements have to choose one nationality.²⁸

There are four officially recognized national minorities in Germany, who enjoy special protections and government funding: Danes, Frisians, Sorbs, and Roma. These

minorities have their own language, culture, and history. Since these groups have always resided in Germany, they are not considered immigrants. German Jews are a religious minority rather than a national minority.²⁹ Ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Bloc can resettle in Germany if they declare allegiance to German culture and learn German.³⁰

Language

German, the official language, is spoken by 95% of the population as a first language.³¹ High German (*Hochdeutsch*) is the standard form of the language and the common written form. It is the language used for administration and in institutions of higher education. It is also the language of literature and mass media.³²

There are as many as 250 regional variations of German. The three major dialectal divisions are: Low German (*Plattdeutsch*), which is spoken in the lowlands of the north; Middle German (*Mitteldeutsch*), with its many variations is spoken in the central region; and the Bavarian-Austrian dialect (*Bayrisch Osterreichisch*), which is spoken mostly in southern Germany.³³ The Alemannic dialect, common in southwestern Germany, has significant variations from the Hochdeutsch, and it has three subdivisions.³⁴



Sign in standard German (top) and low German (below)
Wikimedia / Public Domain



Bilingual signs German-Frisian at the police station in Husum
Wikimedia / Arne List

Other languages recognized under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and spoken in Germany, include Sorbian, North Frisian, and Sater Frisian. Danish is spoken near the Germany-Denmark border, and Romani is spoken by the Roma people. Immigrant languages such as Turkish and Kurdish are spoken by a fraction of the population.^{35,}

36, 37

Religion

Germany is a secular state, and religious observance is considered a private affair. Religious groups may form a special partnership with the state by attaining PLC (public law corporation) status. PLCs may appoint prison, hospital, and military chaplains; charge taxes through the state, and receive certain tax exemptions. More than 180 religious groups have obtained PLC status. No Muslim groups have attained PLC status.³⁸

Although there are no official statistics on the religious makeup of Germany, estimates suggest that 27% of the population is Protestant, 29% Catholic, and 5.5% Muslim. Approximately 65% of the Muslim population is Sunni. Furthermore, 70% of the refugees and asylum seekers who arrived in Germany since 2015 are Muslims. Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Yazidi, Sikhs, Baha'i, Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, and Scientologists make up about 1% of the population; approximately 33% of the population claims no religious affiliation or adherence to another faith.^{39, 40, 41}



*The Minter a church in Bonn
Flickr / grotvriendelijkeruus*



*An Afghani woman demonstrating against deportation
Flickr / Rasande Tyskar*

in public pools. Some states forbid civil servants and teachers from wearing any religious symbols.^{43, 44}

German law forbids religious discrimination, and the government generally protects religious freedom. Nevertheless, discrimination at the local level exists. Some state governments deny religious freedom to Jehovah's Witnesses, Hindus, Scientologists, and some groups that are regarded as Muslim extremists.⁴² Some state and federal laws forbid certain Islamic or other religious practices. Some states ban or restrict wearing Islamic attire such as the full-face veil or the "burqini"

German schools typically offer religious instruction, but students may opt for civics classes instead. Religious groups may establish private religious schools as long as they comply with basic curricular requirements.⁴⁵

There are occasional instances of religion-based violence. The recent rise of nationalism and neo-Nazi organizations may be responsible for the increase of anti-Semitism.⁴⁶ Muslim groups have reported violence perpetrated by neo-Nazi groups, including attacks on mosques.⁴⁷ Since the beginning of the refugee crisis in 2015, Germany has experienced a significant rise in Islamophobia. Some Germans think that Muslims should be banned from entering the country and claim they feel like foreigners in their own country.^{48, 49}

Cuisine



The 6th-floor food hall at Kaufhaus des Westens, Berlin
Wikimedia / Blorg

Traditional German meals often revolve around three staples: bread, meat, and potatoes, but contemporary cuisine is lighter and more international.^{50, 51, 52}

Germans produce more than 300 varieties of bread and 1,200 types of rolls and mini-breads (*Brötchen* and *Kleingebäck*).⁵³ *Weizenbrot* is wheat bread, and *Roggenbrote* is rye bread. Whole grain bread is *Vollkornbrote*.⁵⁴ German bakeries are so important that they don't have to follow the strictly regulated German laws

regarding regular businesses hours.⁵⁵ Germany dominates the global bread and bakery trade. Its bakery products are highly competitive in the international market.^{56, 57}

Germany has more than 1,500 varieties of sausage. *Bratwurst*, which comes in more than 50 varieties, is a pale-colored sausage made from finely minced pork and/or beef. *Currywurst* is a sliced *Bratwurst*, flavored with curry powder and ketchup. *Weisswurst* is made of veal and/or pork. *Blutwurst* (blood sausage) is made from a mix of congealed pig or cow blood, meat, and bread or oatmeal fillers.^{58, 59}

Meals frequently include a meat dish. Popular choices are *Schwenker* (grilled pork steak), *Hassentpfeffer* (rabbit stew), *Saurmagen* (spiced pork or beef cooked in

pig's stomach with onions and carrots), *Schnitzel* (breaded and fried meat cutlets), *Schweinbraten* (roast pork), and *Sauerbraten* (roast beef marinated in vinegar).^{60, 61} Common vegetable dishes include cabbage served a number of ways such as *Sauerkraut* (fermented and pickled cabbage), *Rotkohl* (red cabbage), and braised red cabbage with apples. *Kartoffeln* (potatoes), are served as a salad, fried, or stuffed.^{62, 63, 64}



Bratwurst, one of the most popular foods in Germany
Flickr / toyohara



Pflaumenkuchen - plum cake
Flickr / Hedonistin

Traditional desserts include cakes and pastries known as *Strudel*. Popular choices are *Käsekuchen* (cheese torte), *Pflaumenkuchen* (plum cake), and *Apfel Strudel* (apples and raisins cooked in a light pastry).⁶⁵ One of the best-known desserts is the *Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte* (Black Forest fudge), a chocolate cake layered with whipped cream and cherries topped with sour cherries and chocolate shavings.⁶⁶

Beer (*Bier*) is a popular beverage choice and comes in either dark (*Dunkles*) or light (*Helles*) varieties. Pilsner is the most popular variety.^{67, 68} Wine (*Wein*) is a popular beverage of choice for many Germans.⁶⁹

Traditional Dress



People's Daily Attire
Flickr / .lerri

Suits, sports coats, and long pants are typical business attire for men. Women often wear skirts, dresses, or pants suits. Jeans and t-shirts are typical casual attire, especially among the young.^{70, 71}

Several German brands are well known in the United States. Adidas, Germany's biggest brand, started as footwear company in the 1940s. Puma is another famous German sportswear brand.⁷² Descendants of 18th century shoemakers from a small German village designed the comfortable shoes, clogs, and sandals known throughout the world as Birkenstocks.⁷³

Traditional German clothing (*Tracht*) is still seen throughout the country, but it is generally reserved for festivals, weddings, and official occasions. *Tracht* once defined a person's marital status, ethnic heritage, occupation, and region of residence.^{74, 75, 76}

The *Dirndl* is a dress Bavarian gathered at the waist with a tight-fitting bodice. The garment is worn over a cotton blouse and an apron. The *Dirndl* is commonly seen in Bavaria, especially during Oktoberfest. When the *Dirndl* was popularized by the Austrian emperor near the end of the 19th century, the rough cotton material that typified such garments gave way to finer materials such as silk, satin, and brocade. Women generally wear the *Dirndl* with clunky-heeled felt shoes adorned with decorative buckles.^{77, 78, 79}



Men's Bavarian traditional leather pants
Flickr / Andreas Metz

Men's traditional Bavarian leather pants are called *Lederhosen*. The pants commonly embroidered with various designs such as the Bavarian edelweiss flower and accessorized with suspenders. The look was generally completed with a checkered

shirt, long socks, and a jacket and hat whose style varied by region. Men usually wore a *Haferi* shoe (half-shoe) with a thick leather or rubber sole. These garments were common attire for Germany's working men.^{80, 81, 82}

Gender Issues



*German women at the Women Conference in Munich
Flickr / Hubert Burda Media*

The German constitution guarantees equal rights to men and women.⁸³ Nevertheless, German society remains patriarchal. Women often experience sexism and discrimination. Culturally, the nation still embraces the notion that a woman's place is in the home. Women often face a backlash when they go to work, especially if they have children. This means that women tend to participate in the labor force at lower levels than men. Women's pay is 21% lower than that of their male counterparts.^{84, 85} Women are frequently

underrepresented in positions of power.^{86, 87, 88} Since the introduction of quotas for women in the mid-1990s, there has been little change in the number of women in local government leadership and party representation.⁸⁹ In 2015, the parliament passed a law entitled "Equal Participation of Women and Men in the Labor Market" to enforce changes in the corporate culture and improve the numbers of women in supervisory positions.⁹⁰

Germany's family policy has created a number of problems for women and families. The "additional earner" marriage policy means that German fathers work more following the birth of their children. The husband generally receives tax credits and lower tax rates while the wife loses about three-quarters of her income as the "supplementary" earner. This frequently means that women become part-time workers since there is no incentive for her to continue her professional career.⁹¹



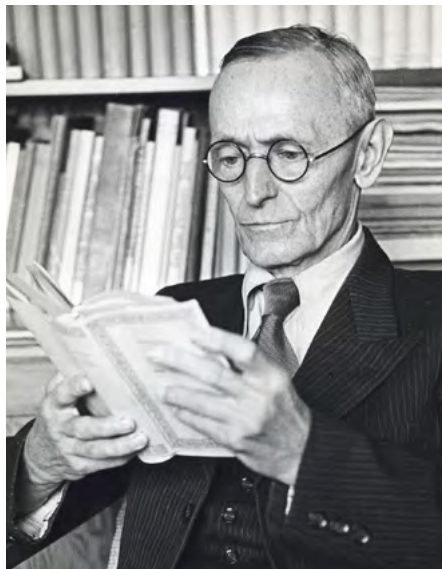
*Stay at home dad
Flickr / Eric Wienke*

This situation has contributed to smaller families and more childless couples.⁹² The lower birth rates means that the national population is declining, while the elderly population increases.^{93, 94}

Arts

Literature

Two centuries ago, Germany had a reputation of the country of poets and thinkers. Writers such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832), Friedrich von Schiller (1759-1805), Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926), and Heinrich Heine (1797-1856) are among Germany's most famous literary giants. Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), Karl Marx (1818-1883), and Albert Einstein (1879-1955) are among the most famous thinkers who wrote in German.⁹⁵



Herman Hesse
Wikimedia / Unknown

Herman Hesse is one of the most widely read German authors; Hesse won the 1946 Nobel Prize winner in literature. Hesse's most popular novels are *Siddhartha* (1922) and *Steppenwolf* (1927).⁹⁶ Other famous authors who made their mark on the literary world are Heinrich Böll; who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1972; Thomas Mann who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1929; the playwright Bertolt Brecht; and Christa Wolf, who came from East Germany.⁹⁷ Günter Grass, author of *The Tin Drum* and winner of the 1999 Nobel Prize in literature, wrote about the Nazi-era and became the literary voice of post-war Germany.⁹⁸



A portrait of Rilke
Wikimedia / Public Domain

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, known as the Brothers Grimm, inaugurated the modern study of folklore with the publication of *Grimm's Fairy Tales* in 1812-22. Their stories, such as "Rumpelstiltskin," "The Golden Goose," "Cinderella," "Rapunzel," and "Little Red Riding Hood," are known to children around the world.^{99, 100}

Visual Arts



Film director Fritz Lang
Wikimedia / Bundesarchiv, Bild

German films influence the way Germans see themselves and understand their history.¹⁰¹

During the 1920s, Germany produced more films than any other European nation. The quality of films produced by such directors as Robert Wiene, Fritz Lang, and others had a lasting influence on the film industry, including and the film noir genre. Under the Nazis, propaganda minister Josef Goebbels made film a central feature of the Nazi cultural movement. Most of the

more than 1,100 films produced in the Nazi era were apolitical pieces.^{102, 103}

Contemporary German films have enjoyed international success. Many German films have been nominated for Academy Awards in the category of best foreign language film and documentaries. Two German films, *Nowhere in Africa* (2002) and *The Lives of Others* (2006), won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film.^{104, 105} Between 1968 and 1982, Werner Herzog, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, and Wim Wenders heavily influenced the New German Cinema.¹⁰⁶

German painting goes back a thousand years, beginning with works painted by clergy on the walls of churches. Germany's most famous Renaissance artist is Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528). Born in Nuremberg, Dürer worked in a variety of media including engravings, paintings, and drawings.¹⁰⁷ The Augsburg-born Hans Holbein the Younger (1497/98-1543) painted meticulous and realistic scenes of the court of King Henry VIII of England.¹⁰⁸ In the early 19th century, Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840) exemplified the German Romantic movement with vast landscapes that conveyed the power of



Self-portrait of Albrecht Durer
Wikimedia / Fohh2017

nature and the idea of the Sublime.¹⁰⁹ Painters of the 20th century created the style that was later defined as Expressionism.¹¹⁰ The movement was led by four students of architecture who formed the Brücke Artists' Association in 1905: Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Fritz Bleyl, Erich Heckel, and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff.¹¹¹ Their bold style using jagged lines and crude brushwork dominated German art until the end of World War I.^{112, 113} New German artists rejected the Expressionist genre and returned to figurative painting. Notable artists of this genre include Anselm Kiefer and Jörg Immendorf.^{114,}
115

Music and Dance



Green Juice Festival, August 2017 in Stadtteil Vilich, Bonn
Flickr / Marc Oliver John

Germany has a long and colorful music tradition. Around 10% of the population is involved in a musical activity. There are more than 21,000 choirs and thousands of orchestras and other musical groups in the country. Each year, Germany hosts more than 30 major music festivals. Germany is also home to more than 80 opera houses, many of which are funded by the government.¹¹⁶

During the Reformation era of the 16th century, music was regarded as one of God's greatest gifts and became a cornerstone of religious worship and cultural life.^{117, 118} The German composers Johann Sebastian Bach (1686-1750), George Frideric Handel (1685-1759), and Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) are prominent classical music composers.¹¹⁹ The final movement of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, which was composed to the words of Friedrich von Schiller's poem "Ode to Joy," is the anthem of the European Union. The anthem is played in official ceremonies and does not include the chorus.¹²⁰



Ludwig van Beethoven
Wikimedia / Public Domain



Musicians
Flickr / Dean Ayres

The traditional genres of *Volksmusik* originated in Germany's southern mountain regions. Folk music is often played with harmonicas, guitars, and horns. *Volksmusik* music is generally played with accordions and brass bands; the tuba provides the signature sound.^{121, 122}

Modern German musicians have influenced many pop and rock musicians around the world. *Krautrock* was an important innovative music form of the 1970s. The musical group *kraftwerk* strongly

influenced both modern electronic music and as hip-hop. Popular German groups of the modern era include heavy metal bands.^{123, 124}

Traditional German folk dances follow strict gender guidelines. Males often stomp, clap, and yell while females twirl about in skirts. Traditional dance varieties include the Bohemian peasant dance known as the polka, the *Schuhplattler*, and the *Zwiefacher*. Ballroom dances such as the waltz emerged from traditional German dances such as the *Dreher*, *Ländler*, and *Deutscher*. In contrast to the more sedate Viennese style, the German waltz is much faster and couples dance closer together, sometimes even embracing. Modern dance is popular in Germany. German choreographers continue to influence the modern dance scene.^{125, 126, 127}

Sports and Recreation

Sports

Germany's enthusiasm for sports is well known. Germans generally enjoy an active lifestyle; walking, cycling, and hiking are popular pastimes among ordinary Germans.¹²⁸

Friedrich Ludwig Jahn (1778-1852) is considered the father of gymnastics.¹²⁹ The techniques he used in his gymnastics club are still used by Olympians today.¹³⁰ The ideals of athletic prowess popularized by Johann Christoph Friedrich Guts Muths (1759-1839) became a central feature of life in Nazi Germany.¹³¹ In 1896, German athletes participated in the first modern Olympic Games. Only The United States and the former USSR have won more Olympic medals than Germany.^{132, 133, 134} Germany has



Olympic Stadium- 1972 Summer Olympics, Munich
Wikimedia / Romák Éva

hosted two Olympics, one in 1936 in Berlin and another in 1972 in Munich.^{135, 136}

Soccer, called football in Germany, is a passion for many Germans.¹³⁷ Its professional league, the Bundesliga, is among the most respected in the world.¹³⁸ Franz Beckenbauer, arguably the most famous German soccer player, led his team to three consecutive European Cup titles during the 1970s and a World Cup championship in 1974.^{139, 140} Germany has won four World Cups since 1950, including in 2014.^{141, 142}

Ice hockey is popular throughout the nation. The country's professional league has 14 teams.¹⁴³ Tennis was once popular among the German public. Germany has fielded many strong international competitors since the 1990s, and the sport has lost popularity.^{144, 145}

Handball has been a popular sport in Germany for over a century. Germany's national handball teams won the men's world championship in 1978 and 2007 and the women's world championship in 1993. Currently, 750,000 Germans belong to some 4,400 handball clubs.¹⁴⁶



Germany, winner of the 2014 FIFA World Cup
Wikimedia / Danilo Borges

Traditional Games

The three-player card game known as *Skat* was first played in the early 1800s when Napoleon's soldiers would compete with Saxon students in the town of Altenburg. Another popular card game, known as *Doppelkopf* (two heads), is similar to *Skat*. *Skat* is more popular in the south, while *doppelkopf* is popular in the north.^{147, 148}



Topfschlagen game
Flickr / Pietro Longhi

Topfschlagen (hit the pot) is a traditional children's game in which a blindfolded player crawls on the floor; the player attempts to find and hit a pot with a wooden spoon. The pot contains chocolate or small prizes. Bystanders help guide the player by calling out the equivalent of "hot" or "cold" to indicate the location of the pot.¹⁴⁹

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Germany in Perspective

Chapter 4 | Society

Assessment

1. The German language has many regional variations and dialectical divisions, but only one variation is used in formal contexts.
2. Bread is an extremely important food staple in Germany.
3. Danes who live in Germany are the country's most favored immigrant group.
4. Despite the popularity of handball in Germany, German national handball teams have so far failed to win international championships.
5. German filmmakers have met with critical success in Hollywood.

Assessment Answers: 1. True; 2. True; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True



*Summit G7 in Taormina, Angela Merkel with other European leaders
Flickr / Palazzo Chigi*

Chapter 5 | Germany in Perspective

Security

Introduction

Germany has the largest economy in Europe, the world's fourth-largest economy by nominal GDP, and fifth largest by PPP (purchasing power parity). It is the most populous nation in the European Union (EU), and a founding member of the union. Germany borders nine countries, and its central location makes the country a trade and transportation hub for the EU. Germany plays a leading role in Europe's foreign, economic, political, defense, and security affairs.^{1, 2}

Germany is committed to defending the euro currency and ensuring the stability of the EU. Chancellor Angela Merkel's austerity stance during the Greek financial crisis angered some nations, but Germany's economic leverage in the EU means it has significant influence over the measures taken to help Europe recover from the European debt crisis.^{3, 4} The euro crisis, also called the European debt crisis or the Eurozone debt crisis started in 2009 when Greece was going to default on its debt, then affected Ireland, Italy, Spain and Portugal as the euro came under pressure from large national debts that required an enormous rescue package from the European Union, led by Germany and France.⁵



*Negotiations about Iranian Nuclear Program, April 2015
Wikimedia / United States Department of State*

Since the British voted in June 2016 to leave the EU, Germany had to redefine its position in Europe by assuming the leadership role over Europe for the first time in the post-World War II era.^{6, 7, 8} Under Chancellor Merkel, Germany plays a leading role in the response to climate change, energy security, nuclear nonproliferation, the refugee crisis, and terrorism. The country values international peace and multilateralism. Germany contributes the most to the EU's budget, and is the third largest contributor to the UN. Germany supports the Middle East peace process, and helped the five permanent members of the UN Security Council reach a nuclear deal with Iran in 2015.^{9, 10, 11}



*Germany hosted the G20 summit in Hamburg, 7-8 July 2017
Wikimedia / Presidential Press and Information Office*

Germany takes part in the fight against the Islamic State terrorist organization in Iraq and Syria, and played a central role in the response to the Russian annexation of Crimea and the crisis in Ukraine.^{12, 13} German troops participate in UN peace missions throughout the world and the NATO mission in Afghanistan. While NATO is a cornerstone of Germany's defense and security policies, relations with Turkey, a NATO member, reached a low point in 2017.^{14, 15}

The security gap produced by Britain's exit from the EU will have to be filled by more cooperation among European nations. Some speculate that a dominant Germany will cause anxiety and resentment among EU members.^{16, 17}

Relations with the United States



*U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis with German Federal Minister of Defence Ursula von der Leyen in the Pentagon
Wikimedia / Public Domain*

Germany has a strong relationship with the United States. The partnership between the two countries is of paramount importance to Germany's foreign policy, security, and economy. Issues that shape relations between the two countries include regional and global security, economic opportunities, and cultural ties.¹⁸

Economic relations between the two countries are stable and driven by mutual investments. Both countries share a commitment to an open, global economy. The United States is the biggest buyer of

German exports, and Germany is the most important trading partner of the United States in Europe.¹⁹ US companies that operate in Germany are not taxed twice.²⁰

Cooperation between Germany and the United States on security issues and NATO are evolving. Germany hosts a large contingent of American forces on its soil. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC), the largest military hospital outside the continental United States, which serves as the first stop for US troops wounded in action, is located in Germany.²¹ The only two military regional commands stationed outside the United States are located in Stuttgart (USEUCOM and USAFRICOM). German troops receive training in the United States and participate in joint exercises.²²



*1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Convoy and German military
Flickr / Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Euro*

In May 2017, Chancellor Merkel told a campaign crowd that Europe could no longer rely on others. Her statement came on the heels of a NATO meeting in which the US president seemed to express a waning commitment to the support of NATO allies.²³ Whether the statements were rhetoric or will translate into a weaker security alliance between the two countries remains to be seen.^{24, 25}

Relations with Neighbors

The largest population and economy in Europe has provided Germany a unique position in European politics. Below are some comparative statistics that pertain to Germany and its immediate neighbors:²⁶

Aging Population: Germany has a higher population of senior citizens than all of its neighbors (21.1%).²⁷

- **Unemployment:** Only the Czech Republic has a lower unemployment rate than Germany (3.6% vs. 3.9%). France has 10% unemployment.²⁸
- **Average Annual Income:** With an average income of USD 45,810, Germany falls behind Switzerland (USD 60,242), Luxemburg (USD 62,580), the Netherlands (USD 52,729), Denmark (USD 51,463), Belgium (USD 50,098) and Austria (USD 48,252).^{29, 30}



*Aging population in Hamburg
Flickr / Rupert Ganzer*



*Refugee welcome center in Hamburg
Flickr / Rasande Tyskar*

- **Refugees:** Germany has accepted over a million refugees and economic migrants since 2015. Germany received 91,200 applications for asylum in the first half of 2017; France received 36,150 asylum applications, and Poland received 1,450 applications during the same timeframe. Disagreements over the EU's compulsory quota system for refugees has caused deep divisions among Germany's neighbors.^{31, 32, 33}

- **Air Pollution:** With the same levels as the Czech Republic, Germany's CO2 emissions are among the highest in Europe, in spite of having a reputation as an environmentally conscious nation. Germany emits 9.4 metric tons of CO2 per capita. Only the Netherlands (10.1) and Luxemburg (18.7) surpass Germany's CO2 emissions.^{34, 35, 36}



*Air pollution in Berlin
Flickr / Efe Arat*

- **Terrorism and Violence:** In 2016, Germany suffered fewer fatalities from terrorist attacks than the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain, and Greece. Most attacks were related to Islamic terrorism. Attacks on refugees who reside in Germany are in the thousands.^{37, 38}



*Ulrike Flender, the first female combat pilot
Wikimedia / Public Domain*

- **Military Spending:** Germany spends 1.2% of its GDP on military expenditures, falling significantly short of the 2% expected of NATO countries. Poland and Switzerland spend more than Germany on their armed forces. France spends nearly twice as much as Germany (2.3% of its GDP). The Netherlands spends approximately as much as Germany.³⁹

Austria

Germany and Austria share a common history and language. The two nations have strong ties concerning economic, cultural, and academic exchanges. Nearly 30,000 Germans study in Austrian universities and 8,000 Austrians study in Germany; most degrees and certifications are mutually recognized. Due to their shared language, the media and publishing markets of both countries are interconnected. The Austrian state broadcaster often airs the same programs as German TV stations. Germany is Austria's most important economic partner. Austria-based German firms employ nearly 100,000 Austrians. Both countries call for a fair distribution of refugees among EU member to resolve the refugee crisis.^{40, 41}



Map of Austria
CIA

Belgium



Map of Belgium
CIA

Germany and Belgium have close ties; Belgium was one of the first countries to resume diplomatic relations with Germany after World War II. There are frequent high-level visits between the two countries and both agree on the need for continued integration in the EU. Since 2014, Belgium has implemented many economic reforms based on the German government's policies. The two countries have strong cultural relations that promote student exchanges, cultural projects, and the use of German in schools and universities.⁴²

Germany is Belgium's largest trading partner.⁴³ German investments in Belgium employ thousands of Belgians in the automobile assembly and the petrochemical industries.⁴⁴ Numerous German companies and associations have representatives in Brussels, the official seat of many EU institutions.⁴⁵ The Belgian port of Antwerp, Europe's second-largest port, is an important transport center for Germany.⁴⁶

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic was established in January 1993 after the breakup of the former Czechoslovakia.⁴⁷ For nearly two decades, relations with Germany were strained, mostly because of the Nazi legacy and mutual atrocities the two people inflicted on one another during World War II.⁴⁸ By 2008, most disagreements between the two countries were settled.^{49, 50}



*Border crossing point Dolní Poustevna from German side
Wikimedia / Nillerdk*

Relations have strengthened since the Czech Republic became a member of the EU in 2004. Frequent visits of high-ranking government officials of both countries helped forge close bilateral relations. The two countries cooperate closely on European and foreign policy concerns. Germany and the Czech Republic have agreed to deploy emergency services across their shared border if needed. Several agreements established strong judicial, police, and military cooperation as well as cultural exchanges.^{51, 52} Both economies are strongly linked, partially as a result of their membership in the EU. Germany is the Czech Republic's main trading partner.^{53,}

⁵⁴

The two countries have differing views on nuclear power, renewable energy, and on some aspects of the refugee policy regarding mandatory distribution.⁵⁵

Denmark

Relations between Denmark and Germany are close. After English, German is the most frequently taught foreign language in Danish schools. There is a significant German minority in Denmark's North Schleswig region. Similarly, a Danish minority resides in Germany's South Schleswig. Both regions are accorded special relations based on the 1955 Bonn-Copenhagen Declarations on minority rights.^{56, 57} Germany is Denmark's number one trading partner.^{58, 59, 60} Foreign investment plays a key role in the two countries' economic relations; Danish companies have more than 2,000 subsidiaries in Germany.



Entering Denmark from Germany at Kruså
Wikimedia / Arne List

The two countries are planning to connect Denmark with Continental Europe by building an 18 km (11 mi) long road and rail tunnel. The Fehmarnbelt fixed-link will be the world's longest undersea tunnel; it will have four-lane road and a two-track electrified railway. The fixed link will cut travel time between Hamburg and Copenhagen from four and a half hours to three hours. The project is expected to open for traffic in 2028.^{61, 62, 63}

France

French-German diplomatic relations have been more a matter of pragmatism than a true affinity for each other. Cultural, political, and historical differences underlie many of the divisions between the two countries. Relations have often been fraught with mistrust, frustration, and misunderstanding. Since Germany's reunification in 1990, the partnership with France has been more fragile than ever. The two nations continue to cooperate on defense issues.^{64, 65}



Map of France
CIA

Differences over Eurozone economic policies have not weakened bilateral trade. France is Germany's largest export partner and second-largest import partner.⁶⁶ Germany is France's most significant trading partner.^{67, 68}

Luxembourg

Luxembourg is the wealthiest nation in Europe. It has close cultural, economic, and political ties with Germany. A significant number of Germans live or work in Luxembourg. Each day, 35,000 Germans commute to work in Luxembourg. Germany is Luxembourg's main export trading partner. Thirty-three branches of German banks are registered in Luxembourg.^{69, 70} In 2012, both countries signed an agreement to end double taxation on income.⁷¹

The Netherlands

Relations between the Netherlands and Germany were rocky after World War II.^{72, 73} Presently, the two nations maintain close ties. The Netherlands is Germany's largest import market and its third-largest export market. The Dutch port of Rotterdam, Europe's largest, advertises itself as "Germany's largest port."^{74, 75}

Both countries maintain close cultural and educational ties; they frequently exchange scientists and students. Currently, 24,000 Germans study in the Netherlands.⁷⁶

Poland



Map of Poland
CIA

In 2016, Germany and Poland celebrated the 25th anniversary of the signing of the German-Polish Treaty on Good Neighborliness, Friendship, and Cooperation. Poland is one of Germany's key partners in the EU. The German minority in Poland is one of Poland's largest national or ethnic minorities. A deputy in the Polish Parliament represents the German minority.⁷⁷ Chancellor Merkel's mother was Polish, which has helped bilateral relations.⁷⁸

Mutual high-level visits by government officials are frequent. Poland, Germany, and France created the Weimar Triangle in 1991, to serve as a communication platform and to help solve European problems; the influence of the group has waned, and Poland is seeking new affiliations.⁷⁹ The German and Polish economies are intertwined. German companies rank first among foreign investors in Poland, and more than a quarter of Polish exports are destined for Germany.⁸⁰

Differences over foreign policy have somewhat tempered relations during the Ukraine crisis. Polish diplomats feel marginalized by Germany over the Ukraine crisis because Poland had taken a more hardline approach to the situation than Germany. Poland has feared the crisis might lead to a new Iron Curtain.^{81, 82}

Switzerland



Rötteln castle, seen across from Kaiserstuhl (Switzerland)
Wikimedia / Roland Zumbühl

Relations between Germany and Switzerland are cordial but tampered by tensions over Switzerland's insistence on maintaining its banking secrecy laws. In 2008, concerns over tax evasion by German citizens prompted the German finance minister to demand that Switzerland be placed on a blacklist.⁸⁵ Germany demanded more concessions from the Swiss, who would not be moved, and compromise appears elusive.^{84, 85}

Germany is Switzerland's most significant trading partner and one of its largest sources of foreign investment. German companies employ nearly 120,000 Swiss workers, and Swiss companies operating in Germany employ about 235,000 Germans.^{86, 87}

Swiss German is one of Switzerland's four major languages. More than 1,000 German professors and nearly 3,000 German lecturers work in Swiss universities. More than 11,000 German students study in Swiss universities, making them the largest group of international students in Switzerland. German television shows and print media are popular in Switzerland.⁸⁸

Police

The Federal Republic of Germany has a professional police force consisting of 3 federal law enforcement agencies and 16 state police forces.^{89, 90}

Federal Police

The *Bundeskriminalamt* (BKA), Germany's national police agency, is modeled after the FBI. The BKA handles serious federal crime such as kidnapping and bank robberies. The *Landeskriminalamt* (LKA) handles criminal activities at the state level.^{91, 92}

The *Bundespolizei* (BPOL Federal Police) has eight regional headquarters. This agency covers borders and coastlines, airports and airline security, railway systems, federal



Bundespolizei cutter BP 21 Bredstedt
Wikimedia / Darkone

buildings, embassies, and more. There are 30,000 officers and 10,000 support personnel in BPOL. After the Munich Olympic massacre in 1972, the counterterrorist unit known as Grenzschutzgruppe 9 (GSG 9) was established.^{93, 94, 95}

A third federal police agency, the Polizei beim Deutschen Bundestag (DBT Parliamentary Police), is responsible for policing in and around the Bundestag building in Berlin.^{96, 97}

State Police

Each state, or *Länder*, has its own police force. There are two types of local and regional police.

The *Kriminalpolizei* (Kripo) handles serious crimes such as assault, murder, rape, and grand theft. Kripo officials do not wear a uniform. The *Schutzpolizei* conduct daily law and order activities. Most of the states have special *Autobahnpolizei* (highway patrol), which is responsible for patrolling major highways. The *Bereitschaftspolizei* are trained in crowd control and can deploy water cannons and armored vehicles. Most state police agencies have a *Wasserschutzpolizei* (waterways police), which patrols rivers, coastlines, harbors, and large lakes.^{98, 99}



SEK operators raid a hijacked ship during a public exhibition
Wikimedia / Dirk Vorderstraße

Military

The German Federal Armed Forces (*Bundeswehr*) consist of the Army (*Heer*), Navy (*Deutsche Marine*), Air Force (*Luftwaffe*), Joint Support Service (*Streitkraeftebasis, SKB*), Central Medical Service (*Zentraler Sanitaetsdienst, ZSanDstBw*), and Cyber and Information Space Command.¹⁰⁰

The military has 180,000 active personnel and 30,000 reservists. Since 1994, the *Bundeswehr* has been involved in defense and peacekeeping missions as part of UN or NATO forces; the *Bundeswehr* also participates in humanitarian missions.^{101, 102}



Eurofighter Typhoon EF2000 of the German Air Force
Wikimedia / Julian Herzog

Since the abolition of conscription in 2011, the size of the army has shrunk. However, geopolitical developments have forced Germany to revise its foreign and security policies. In February 2017, the defense minister announced an increase in troop strength and budget.^{103, 104, 105}

As scandal rocked the military in 2017 when Nazi-era memorabilia was discovered in a barracks, and two soldiers were caught planning a terrorist attack against the state. The incident has shown that some issues still need to be resolved, especially regarding the army's connection to its Nazi-era predecessor, the *Wehrmacht*.¹⁰⁶

Army



German Army Leopard II tank
Flickr / U.S. Army Europe

The German Army has approximately 45,000 soldiers, supported by about 130,000-145,000 reservists.¹⁰⁷ Structural reforms emphasize flexible light forces and adaptability. The deployment of troops is a controversial topic in Germany.¹⁰⁸

Morale is suffering from political uncertainty and frequent deployments. Instances of post-traumatic stress have increased significantly in recent years. The standard of living for German soldiers is generally higher than those of other NATO members.¹⁰⁹

Navy



Anti-Submarine Warfare frigate
Wikimedia / Monsterxxl

The German Navy (*Deutsche Marine*) is the smallest branch of the German military. The navy has a fleet of 80 vessels including nuclear-powered submarines, frigates, corvettes, mine warfare vessels, and patrol craft. Its forces have been deployed in support of UN missions. Most of the naval operations involve cooperation with NATO and the EU.^{110, 111}

Even though the navy has little combat experience, its overall level of professionalism is high. Regular training with NATO and other foreign navies have helped maintain a high level of professionalism.¹¹²

Air Force

The German Air Force (*Luftwaffe*) has 698 aircraft including fighters, fixed-wing attack planes, helicopters, and transport aircraft. The force has limited combat experience.¹¹⁵ Quick reaction alert elements, capable of responding within 15 minutes, are stationed in Neuburg and Wittmund.^{114, 115}

Personnel receive high levels of training, particularly in cooperation with NATO forces. Pilots receive much of their training in the United States or Italy.¹¹⁶



German Air Force Tornado IDS
Flickr / André Karwath

Foreign Troops

There are roughly 50,000 US troops, 17,000 British troops, and 3,000 French troops stationed in Germany.¹¹⁷ The last of the British troops will return to the UK in 2020. NATO maintains 20 bases in Germany.^{118, 119, 120}

Issues Affecting Stability



*The fire-damaged house used by the Nationalsozialistischer Untergrund in Zwickau
Flickr / André Karwath*

Germany has led European sanctions and condemnation in Response to Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and ongoing support for separatist fighters in eastern Ukraine.¹²¹ In 2015, Germans began to feel the effects of the war in Syria when over one million refugees streamed into their country. The foreign policy priorities of the U.S. administration, especially the expectation that NATO allies honor their commitment to spend at least 2% of their GDP on their militaries, have changed the way Germans discuss security issues. Military spending among NATO allies increased their spending by a combined USD 46 billion in 2017.^{122, 123}

Extremism on the left and the right is on the rise.¹²⁴ Members of the neo-Nazi terror cell, the National Socialist Underground (NSU), managed to kill 10 people, rob banks, plant bombs, and evade the authorities for 13 years before they were caught and put on trial in 2011.^{125, 126} There is a substantial risk of politically or ideologically motivated crimes by foreigners and violence between the Turkish and Kurdish communities.¹²⁷ The effects of the failed 2016 coup in Turkey have also affected the security situation in Germany.¹²⁸



*Police patrolling Hamburg during the G20 Summit, in 2017
Flickr / Klaus Frieese*

Outlook



Frankfurt am Main
Flickr / Polybert49

Germany has a low level of economic, financial, and political risk.¹²⁹ Its economic growth is expected to remain strong, and the low unemployment rate will likely continue to fall. Tax revenues are expected to provide the government with surplus funds, but that surplus will narrow somewhat due to rising oil prices. Poverty rates will likely remain low due to growing labor demands. Training programs for immigrants may help boost the economy.¹³⁰

Terrorism threat levels have been elevated since the 2016 Berlin Christmas market attack by a Tunisian national; the attack resulted in 12 fatalities and 55 injured.^{131, 132} Germany has become a target for extremists with links to the Islamic State terrorist group, though the German authorities have thwarted some activities.^{133, 134} Occasional demonstrations result in violence, but such instances have been sporadic and quickly contained.^{135, 136}

The working-age population is expected to decline in the coming years. This trend suggests that Germany's continued economic strength will depend on foreign workers. Increased numbers of immigrants could fuel more dissent. Already, fractures are apparent as Germany tries to come to grips with growing anti-Islamic and anti-immigrant sentiments.^{137, 138, 139}



House of parliament - Reichtag, Berlin
Flickr / Michael J. Moeller

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Germany in Perspective

Chapter 5 | Security

Assessment

1. The Fehmarnbelt fixed-link is a railway network used to transport shipping containers from Germany's largest port in Hamburg to other locations in Europe.
2. France has long-established and strong political, diplomatic, and cultural ties with Germany.
3. Banking secrecy laws have put a strain on the relations between Germany and Switzerland.
4. The Bundeskriminalamt is responsible for security in and around the Bundestag building in Berlin.
5. Germany spends less than Switzerland on its military budget.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True

Further Readings and Resources

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Germany in Perspective

Final Assessment

1. Germany shares borders with four nations and a landlocked sea in the north.
2. The 1972 Olympic Games in Munich were overshadowed by the first doping scandal involving Soviet athletes.
3. Many German cities exceed the EU Commission's limits for air pollution.
4. The effect of acid rain is evident in Germany's forests.
5. In the summer, Germans flock to the so-called "German Riviera" along the Baltic Sea.
6. The Thirty Years' War was a violent religious conflict.
7. The "Final Solution," first outlined by Nazi leadership in the Wannsee Conference, resulted in the murder of six million Jews between 1941 and 1945.
8. Otto von Bismark was the first Emperor of Rome, crowned by Pope Leo III in 800 CE.
9. At the end of World War II, Germany was divided among the four Allied Powers.

10. The United States established a blockade around East Berlin when the Soviets began building a wall around the city to prevent East Germans from crossing to the West.
11. Deutsche Bundesbank is the central bank of Germany.
12. Life expectancy in Germany is high compared with other developed nations.
13. Due to Germany's broad social safety net, poverty is nearly non-existent.
14. Germany is the most industrialized nation in Europe and the third-largest manufacturer in the world.
15. Acid rain and illegal logging have destroyed Germany's forests and timber industry.
16. The composer of the European Union anthem is German.
17. Herman Hesse is a famous German mountain climber.
18. Owing to its large Muslim population, Germany has one of the highest birth rates in the EU.
19. Although religious freedom is protected in Germany, there is some religious discrimination at the state and local levels.

20. Germany's progressive family policy makes it easy for women to re-enter the workforce following the birth of a child.
21. Military service is mandatory for men over 18 in Germany.
22. Terrorism threat levels have been elevated in Germany since the Christmas market attack in 2016.
23. The Port of Rotterdam, which is located in the Netherlands, is essential for Germany's economy.
24. Landstuhl Regional Medical Center is a modern medical facility that has been serving NATO troops since the Cold War.
25. Poland disagrees with Germany on how to address the crisis in Ukraine.

21 False 22 True 23 True 24 False 25 True
10. False 11. True 12 True 13. False 14. True 15. False 16. True 17 False 18 False 19 True 20 False
Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. False; 3. True; 4. True; 5. False 6. True 7. True 8. False 9. True