CULTURAL ORIENTATION

GERMAN

Steel and glass dome atop the historic Reichstag, Berlin Flickr / icke_63

2018

DLIFLC
DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER

CULTURAL ORIENTATION | German

Profile

Religion

Traditions

Urban Life

Rural Life

Family Life

Further Reading and Resources

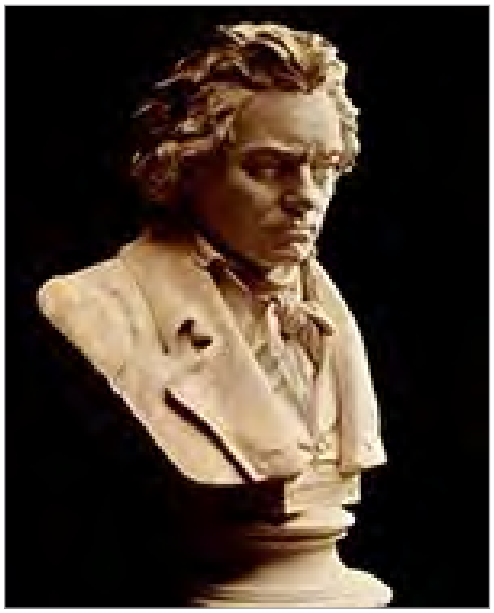
Final Assessment

The Reichstag, fully restored after German reunification, Berlin Flickr /Steve Collis

Profile

Introduction

Germany is at the center of Europe, not only geographically, but also in terms of politics and economics. The country is Europe's second-most populous after Russia, with more than 81 million people. It has the fourth-largest gross domestic product (GDP) in the world, and its economy is the largest in the European Union (EU), of which it is a founding member.[1, 2] Bordering nine countries, Germany's central location makes it a trade and transportation hub for the EU. The country plays a leading role in Europe's foreign, economic, political, defense, and security affairs.[3, 4] The influx of migrants over the last 60 years has made many areas of Germany more ethnically and culturally diverse.[5]



German composer Ludwig van Beethoven
Wikimedia / Library of Congress

Historically, Germany has been called *Das Land der Dichter und Denker* (the country of poets and thinkers).[6] It is the country that gave the world The Brothers Grimm fairy tales, Goethe's *Faust*, Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha*, Wagner's *Flight of the Valkyries*, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, and Schiller's "Ode to Joy," the European anthem. German inventors and creative thinkers were the minds behind the Bauhaus movement, the printing press, the X-ray, contact lenses, MP3s, and the automobile. The western world has adopted Germany's age-old traditions of the Easter Bunny and the Christmas tree. Despite all this, Germany's role in World War II (WWII) and the Holocaust remains in the minds of the world today.[7, 8]

Modern Germany

Berlin statue reflecting the fate of Nazi-era children
Flickr / Leon Yaakov

Since the war, Germany has made great efforts to accept responsibility for the crimes of the Holocaust and to commemorate its victims, providing material and political support for Israel and combating hate crimes and the spread of neo-Nazi doctrine. As a modern nation, Germany struggles to balance its national interests with those of the millions of political and economic refugees it has accepted in the last decades.[9, 10] The influx of these refugees—primarily from North Africa, Turkey, and South Asia—has fueled ethnic tensions and swelled the ranks of nationalist political parties, particularly in eastern Germany where unemployment is much higher than in the west.[11, 12]

When the British voted in 2016 to leave the EU, Germany assumed the leadership role in Europe for the first time in the post-WWII era.[13, 14] Under Chancellor Angela Merkel, Germany heads Europe's response to climate change, energy security, nuclear nonproliferation, the refugee crisis, and terrorism. Germany contributes the most

to the EU's budget, and is the third-largest contributor to the United Nations (UN). The country 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.[15, 16] German troops participate in UN peace missions throughout the world and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (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.[17, 18]

Climate

Vineyards, Josephshof, Bavaria
Pixabay / Chorengel

Much of Germany lies at the same latitude as the United States-Canada border, the 49th parallel. Despite this northern latitude, most of the country enjoys a moderate climate. Microclimates throughout the nation create many weather variations. Along the northern coastal regions, summers are warm, and winters are mild and frequently cloudy. Inland, more seasonal variations occur; summers are usually hotter, and winters are colder. During the coldest periods, rivers and canals may freeze and much of the country is covered with snow. In the southern mountainous regions, higher altitudes bring much colder temperatures and more precipitation. In the west, weather conditions can change quickly due to winds from the Atlantic Ocean.[19, 20]

The coldest month of the year is January; the average temperature is around 2°C (36°F) in the north and -2°C (28°F) in the south. Temperatures as low as -34°C (-30°F) are sometimes recorded in Bavaria. 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. In Bavaria, temperatures can climb as high as 40°C (104°F) during the summer months.[21, 22]

Precipitation varies by region. Northern Germany is the driest area of the country, averaging about 50–75 cm (20–30 in) of rain and snow per year. This increases as one travels south. An average of 75–150 cm (30–60 in) falls annually across central Germany. The alpine areas may receive 200 cm (80 in) or more rainfall.[23, 24]

Geographic Divisions

Germany and its Eurpoean neighbors
Graphic / DLIFLC

Measuring 357,340 sq km (137,970 sq mi), Germany is the fourth-largest country in the EU and stretches from the North and Baltic Seas southward to the Bavarian Alps. Forests cover almost a third of the country, while lakes, rivers, and canals account for 2% of the area. The northern region is low-lying, with rolling plains dotted with lakes and marshes. The lowest point in the country is in Schleswig-Holstein, the northernmost of the 16 German federal states, at 3.54 m (11.6 ft) below sea level. Further into central and southern Germany, as the elevation increases, rivers and valleys shape the landscape.[25, 26] Several mountain ranges, including the Alps, stretch along Germany's southernmost region.[27, 28]

North German Plain (Norddeutsches Tiefland)

Rügen Island, Baltic Sea
Pixabay / henner_94

Germany's coastline along the North Sea is characterized by vast stretches of tidal flats and several important seaports, including Hamburg, Bremerhaven, and Emden. The islands off the coast—especially Rugen and Sylt, are favorite vacation spots for many Germans.[29, 30] The northern region of Germany is a vast lowland plain stretching from the border with Denmark to the cities of Cologne and Hamburg. Many of the nation's major cities, including the capital, Berlin, are in this region. Elevations rarely reach 200 m (656 ft).[31] 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.[32]

Central German Uplands (Mittelgebirge)

Uplands of Hesse, central Germany
Pixabay / MonikaP

Germany's Central Uplands begin south of Hanover and extend southward toward the hilly terrain of the Alpine Foreland. Elevations rarely exceed 1,100 m (3,609 ft). There are several mountain ranges in the uplands, the most central of which are the Rothaar Mountains (Rothaargebirge) and the Harz Mountains (Harzgebirge). One of the highest peaks, the Brocken (1,142 m/3,747 ft), is in the Harz Mountains. Here, the annual average temperature is 3°C (37°F) and most of the year the mountain is covered in fog.[33] The Brocken appears in the literary works of Johan Wolfgang von Goethe and Heinrich Heine. Legend has it that Princess Brunhilde escaped the giant Bodo on this rugged mountain, and marks on the edge of one of its cliffs are her stallion's hoof prints.[34]

Biekhofen village, North Rhine-Westphalia
Flickr / Thomas Depenbusch

To the west, the Rheinish 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 and Hamburg. Below this extends the Rhine River Valley, from which the mountains of the Black Forest rise 1,200 m (4,000 ft) to the east. The higher elevations of this forest are dense with fir trees, giving the range its name, Schwarzwald (murky or "black" forest).[35] This area is well-known for its high concentration of health resorts and recreational facilities, and for making cuckoo clocks.[36]

To the southeast, the mountain ranges that extend along the 815-km (506-mi) border with Czechia (the Czech Republic) can reach much higher elevations. The highest town in Germany, Oberwiesenthal, at 922 m (3,025 ft) above sea level, lies in the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge), which have a long tradition of mining. The highest

mountain in the Central Uplands is the Great Arber (Großer Arber) at 1,456 m (4,777 ft), located in the Bavarian Forest (Bayerischer Wald).[37]

Alpine Foreland (Alpenvorland) and the Bavarian Alps (Bayerische Alpen)

Berchtesgaden, Bavarian Alps
Flickr / Bernd Thaller

The triangular-shaped region of Germany's Alpine Foreland covers the southernmost section of the nation. From west to east, the region measures approximately 400 km (249 mi), 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 at 2,963 m (9,718 ft)—rises in the Bavarian Alps.[38, 39]

Rivers

Sculling, Neckar River in Heidelberg
Wikimedia / qwesy qwesy

Of the hundreds of rivers and canals that traverse the German landscape, the greatest are the Rhine, Danube, and Elbe rivers.[40] Nearly all of Germany's major rivers flow northward, linked by an extensive network of canals in the north and by the River Main and the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal in the south. Those that flow into the North Sea include the Rhine, Weser, Elbe, and Ems rivers. The Oder, which rises in Czechia, flows northward to form 187 km (116 mi) of the Polish-German border (part of the historic Oder–Neisse line established during WWII) before emptying into the Baltic Sea.[41]

Rivers and canals have played an important role in Germany's economic development and serve as internal and international trade routes. Smaller rivers such as the Weser and Niesse are also significant transport routes. Annually, rains and heavy snowmelt cause many of Germany's rivers, including the Rhine, Mosel, and Oder, to overflow their banks, flooding many parts of the country.[42, 43]

Rhine (Rhein)

The Rhine is historically and culturally one of the great rivers of Europe and one of its most important waterways. Germany's longest river, it has been used to ferry passengers and goods for centuries. The Rhine originates high in the Swiss Alps and courses 865 km (538 mi) through the country.[44, 45] Its banks are lined with historical towns, remnants of once heavily fortified castles, and modern industrial cities. Of the numerous tributaries that stretch in all directions, the longest is the Main River (527 km/327 mi).[46]

The Rhine River
Flickr / Gary Bembridge

German literature is steeped in legends of the Rhine—from the famous epic *Das Nibelungenlied* and Richard Wagner's opera about a magic ring forged from Rheingold, to the legend of the Lorelei, a siren who lured sailors to their deaths. Today, a statue of the nymph watches over a stretch of water near Sankt Goarshausen, one of the deepest and most dangerous points along the river.[47, 48]

Danube (Donau)

The Danube River, the second-longest river in Europe after the Volga, connects southern Germany with Austria and Eastern Europe. The river originates in Germany's Black Forest region, where it begins its 2,850-km (1,770-mi) trek eastward through 10 nations, eventually emptying into the Black Sea.[49] The Upper Danube, the German section of the river, is 687 km (426 mi) long. Since the recent construction of the Rhine-Danube Canal, freight can be transported by barge from the North Sea to the Black Sea. The medieval city of Regensburg is a major German port on the Danube; it is also the oldest city along its banks and a UNESCO World Heritage site.[50, 51]

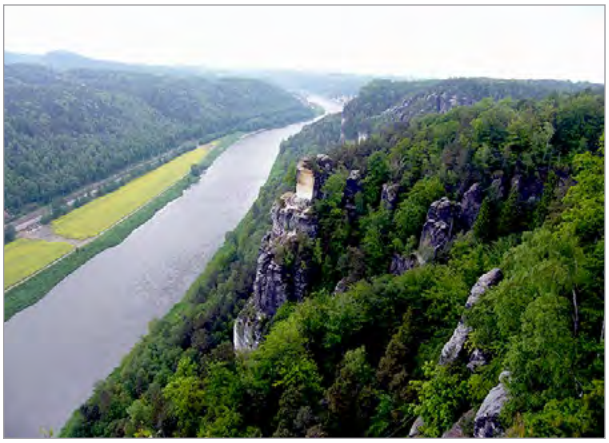
The Danube was once the long-standing northern frontier for much of the Roman Empire. As a commercial highway between nations, it also played an important role in the settlement and evolution of central and southeastern Europe. A preferred route of travel by rulers for centuries, the Danube has long been called "the Highway of Kaisers and Kings."[52, 53]

Bavarian town of Passau, Danube River
Flickr / sugarbear96

Elbe

The fourth-longest river in Europe and the second-longest in Germany, the Elbe River runs northward 1,165 km (724 mi) from Czechia, passing through the cities of Magdeburg and Dresden before emptying into the North Sea at the large seaport of Hamburg.[54] Approximately two-thirds of the river runs through Germany. The Elbe provides transportation, including tour boats and barges of up to 1,000 tons, as far inland as Prague. Its main tributaries are the Havel, Saale, and Spree. Canals link the river to Berlin and other industrial cities.[55, 56, 57]

The Elbe River Basin has been settled since prehistoric times. It was the western boundary of the area inhabited by the northern Slavs until the Middle Ages. In the 12th century, Germans began to colonize these lands and along the Baltic Sea. During the closing days of WWII, a point on the Elbe near the Renaissance city of Torgau was the meeting place for U.S. and Soviet armies. For over 40 years, the river formed part of the demarcation between East and West Germany.[58]



Schrammsteine rocks, Elbe River, Saxony
Pixabay / steinchen

Lakes and Bodies of Water

Lakes

City of Meersburg, on Lake Constance
Flickr / Bernd Thaller

Just 2% of Germany's landmass is covered by water. Despite the thousands of smaller lakes and reservoirs dotting the German countryside, there are relatively few lakes of any significant size.[59] The greatest concentration is found in the lowlands of the north. All of Germany's northern lakes are relatively shallow. Lake Muritz (der Müritzsee)—Germany's largest natural lake—is 114 sq km (44 sq mi) and has an average depth of 31 m (102 ft).[60] Steinhude (das Steinhuder Meer), in Lower Saxony, is 30 sq km (12 sq mi), but is only 3 m (10 ft) at its deepest. Most of the remaining lakes are in southeastern Bavaria. Lake Constance, known locally as Bodensee, is here. It is Europe's third-largest lake and the surrounding area is famous for its mild climate.[61, 62] Over half of Lake Constance lies within Germany's borders, with the remainder in Austria and Switzerland. The German portion is about 65 km (40 mi) long and 13 km (8 mi) at its widest point.[63] Most lakes and reservoirs in the country are popular with locals looking to cool off from the summer heat, or, in cold winters, for ice-skating and *Spaziergänge*, or long walks.[64, 65]

The North (Nordsee) and Baltic (Ostsee) Seas

Kiel Firth Ferry, Baltic Sea
Pixabay / m5tef

The North and Baltic Seas separate Germany from Norway, Sweden, and Finland, and as such see considerable ferry traffic. Most ferries, which carry passengers and vehicles, depart from various German ports.[66] Ferries, which are busy on weekends and holidays during the summer, often also function as cruise liners with festivities and recreational activities. Travel in the Baltic Sea during the winter is limited, as much of the sea ices over. The North and Baltic Seas are

dotted with islands that serve as favorite summer vacation spots for Germans who prefer their cooler climate over the warmer Mediterranean. Rugen, in the Baltic Sea, is the country's largest island at 925 sq km (357 sq mi).[67] With its long beaches, it became a popular vacation spot in the 20th century. As a result, fascist architecture and communist-era high-rise blocks coexist with more modern seaside architecture.[68, 69] In the North Sea, the quaint island of Sylt is just 39 km (24 mi) in length. Its extensive beaches and world-class restaurants have long drawn Germany's rich and famous.[70, 71]

Tugboat, Bremerhaven, Bremen
Wikimedia / Tvabutzku1234

The North Sea is an offshoot of the Atlantic Ocean, and it is one of the busiest shipping areas in the world. In addition to the ferries, its shipping lanes are traveled by large container ships. Bremerhaven and Wilhelmshaven are important North Sea port cities.[72] The Baltic Sea 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. Shallow fjords and bays shape the German coastline.[73] The Baltic Sea is linked to the North Sea by the vital Kiel Canal (Nord-Ostsee-Kanal), the world's busiest artificial waterway.[74] The canal is 98 km (61 mi), and provides the shortest and safest route between the two seas, eliminating the need for a shipping route around Denmark. Major German seaports on Baltic coast include Kiel and Rostock.[75]

Major Cities

Berlin

Berlin is Germany's capital and largest city. It is a modern, thriving city of nearly 4 million people—known for art, architecture, history, and nightlife. Berlin was founded in the 13th century, but recent archaeological discoveries suggest that the region may have been inhabited earlier.[76, 77] It was the seat of the kings of Prussia for 160 years and became the political center of a unified German Empire (Deutsches Reich) in 1871. From the turn of the century, Berlin was the avant-garde capital of central Europe.[78, 79, 80] The historian Peter Gay wrote that Berlin in the 1920s was the dream of "the composer, the journalist, the actor; with its superb orchestras, its 120 newspapers, its forty theaters, Berlin was the place for the ambitious, the

energetic, the talented. Wherever they started, it was in Berlin that they became, and Berlin that made them famous."[81, 82, 83]

Berlin commercial center with Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church
Flickr / Gilly

The city was razed to the ground during WWII. Only half the original population remained. At the end of the war, Berlin 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 (GDR or East Germany). Bonn became the de facto capital of the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), and West Berlin became an island within communist East Germany.[84, 85] In 1961, at the height of the Cold War, West Berlin's isolation became physically manifest when the Soviets built a 155-km (96-mi) "antifascist" wall around the city. In the 28 years the wall was in place, West Berlin developed a thriving free-spirted subculture of artistic, social, and cultural experimentation, and became a refuge for world-famous artists, including David Bowie and Iggy Pop.[86, 87]

Berlin Philharmonic, Waldbühne ampitheater
Pixabay/Funki50

Following the reunification of Germany in 1991, Berlin once again became the capital of the nation. The now-hip metropolis is a fashion and cultural center for Germany, Europe, and the world—one that prides itself on individualism and creativity. But Berlin is still haunted by WWII and "spirits that call upon the visitor to consider not just beautiful sights, but big issues—war and persecution, protest and resistance, guilt and atonement."[88, 89, 90]

Hamburg

Located on the Elbe River in north Germany, cosmopolitan Hamburg is Germany's second-largest city. It is home to the country's largest seaport, its leading industrial firms, and more foreign consulates than any other city in the world except New York. Hamburg is a major commercial center, whose modern buildings contrast

with centuries-old architecture, carefully restored. There are numerous canals, streams, and bridges throughout the city. At its heart is Alster Lake, surrounded by parks and exclusive neighborhoods. Hamburg's population of 1.8 million is 75% Protestant; the remainder is Catholic with a small Muslim population. Few foreigners live in the city, which retains a unique culture evolving out of its years as an independent medieval state.[91]

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.[92] With the decline of the Hanseatic League, Hamburg left the league in 1550 and took off on its own.[93] 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. 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.[94, 95] Hamburg is particularly known for its classical music.[96]

Container terminal, Port of Hamburg
Wikimedia / Icy Mirror

A Hamburg restaurant in the evening hours
Flickr / Jorge Franganillo

Munich (München)

Munich is the capital and, with nearly 1.5 million residents, the largest city of the southern state of Bavaria. The city, whose name means "Home of the Monks," was founded around 1157. As a bastion of Catholicism, Munich 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.[97, 98]

Neues Rathaus (New Town Hall), Marienplatz, Munich
Flickr / Pixelteufel

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.[99, 100] A modern city emerged around 1825 under King Louis I of Bavaria and 50 years later it became part of the newly formed German Empire.[101] Following Germany's defeat in World War I (WWI), 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.[102, 103]

Today's Munich is a banking and financial center, often regarded as one of Germany's most livable cities.[104] It is famous for its beer and its breweries and is a major tourist destination, especially in the fall when it hosts Oktoberfest.[105] The city is a center for the arts, especially opera. It is home to several important libraries, museums, and art galleries.[106, 107, 108]

Cologne (Köln)

Cologne, with just over 1 million residents, is the fourth-largest city in Germany. The city has an inland port, and it is the economic capital of Germany's industrial Rhineland region. 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.[109]

Cologne is one of the oldest cities in Germany. The Roman general Agrippa colonized it in the first century BCE. Named Colonia Claudia Ara Aggrippinensium, 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.[110, 111]

In the eighth century, Charlemagne made the city an archbishopric, and by the 10th century its ecclesiastical status overshadowed commerce. The city remained under the archbishop's control until 1288, when it became a free imperial city. Cologne joined the Hanseatic League and continued to prosper. In 1388, Cologne established

the first city university in Europe; today the University of Cologne is one of Germany's leading research universities, with over 44,000 students. The French took Cologne in 1794 and lifted the prohibition of Protestant services and the presence of Jews in the city after dark.[112, 113]

Cologne, Cologne Cathedral, and Rhine River
Flickr / Chad Sparkes

Central Cologne, Peek & Cloppenburg department store
Flickr / seier+seier

Cologne became part of the Prussian empire in 1815. WWII 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.[114]

Cologne is home to some of Germany's best museums, which gives the city huge appeal for cultural tourists.[115, 116] It is also a major ecclesiastical and intellectual center. The city has numerous bars and clubs and a contemporary art scene. One of the city's best-known sites is the twin-spired Cologne Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.[117] Cologne 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.[118, 119]

Frankfurt am Main

Frankfurt am Main (Frankfurt) lies along the Main River in western Germany and is the capital of the state of Hesse. 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, and about one-third of the city's residents do not hold a German passport.[120, 121]

Frankfurt was founded as Franconofurt around the end of the eighth century, but the region has been continuously inhabited since 3000 BCE.[122] The city's castle was

a royal residence of the East Frankish Carolingians from the ninth century through the Middle Ages. In 1356, the city was made the permanent election site for future German kings by Roman Emperor Charles IV.[123] In 1806, the Holy Roman Empire collapsed and, after a brief period of French control, Frankfurt became a free city.[124] From 1816, Frankfurt served as the German capital until Prussia annexed it in 1866.[125]

The outskirts of Frankfurt am Main
Flickr / Jeanne Menjoulet

After Bonn's selection as the capital of West Germany following WWII, nearby Frankfurt firmly established its role as a major commercial and trading center. The contemporary city of 730,000 is the site of the EU's Central Bank and Germany's stock exchange, which opened late in the 16th century. It is home to major automobile, mechanical, chemical, and pharmaceutical manufacturers.[126] The city is known for its famous frankfurter sausages, and as the birthplace of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. It is also the location of Europe's largest and one of its busiest airports.[127, 128] Frankfurt's cultural scene includes a variety of museums and exhibition halls, an opera house, and several theaters that offer high-quality state productions.[129, 130]

The Frankfurt Stock Exchange
Flickr / Bankenverband-Bundesverband

Stuttgart

The stately and affluent city of Stuttgart is the capital of Baden-Württemberg State. It straddles the Neckar River in a fertile valley just northeast of the Black Forest mountains. The city—an important transportation and manufacturing hub—is the birthplace of the automobile; Porsche and Mercedes-Benz have headquarters here. Other important industries include engineering, clean energy, robotics, and fuel cell technology. Founded in the 10th century, Stuttgart was originally a site for breeding cavalry horses, and its name comes from the word *Stutengarten*, meaning "stud yard." The city's coat of arms features the same black stallion as the one on the Porsche logo, which is recognizable around the world.[131, 132]

With a population of 620,000, Stuttgart is the sixth-largest city in Germany. Despite its size and industrial core, the city is filled with greenspaces, and is considered the least stressful metropolis in the world; this may be attributed to its many thermal baths and expansive parks, including Rosensteinpark, the Schlossgarten, and Killesbergpark. Stuttgart is also home to Wilhelma, one of the largest botanical gardens and zoos in Europe. Numerous other cultural attractions include museums, an observatory, an opera house, and the Stuttgart Ballet.[133, 134, 135]

Mercedes-Benz Museum, Stuttgart
Flickr / Kylie & Rob (and Helen)

Stuttgart lies in Germany's wine-growing region, first developed by the Romans who brought grape vines from northern Italy. Today, there are vineyards in the surrounding hills and the heart of the city itself; popular varietals include Riesling and the rare Trollinger.[136, 137]

Dresden

Dresden, situated in a valley on the Elbe River, is the capital of Saxony. With a population of 570,000, it is the third-largest city in eastern Germany, after Berlin and Leipzig.[138] For centuries, the city was the capital and royal residence for the kings of Saxony, who furnished it with cultural and artistic splendor and cultivated a great operatic tradition. Dresden's famous Semperoper has a long history of premieres, including major works by Richard Wagner, Carl Maria von Weber, and Richard Strauss.[139]

The Semperoper Opera House, Dresden
Pixabay / paulsteuber

Dresden is also the site of a devastating bombing raid by Allied forces during WWII. Before the war, the city was called "the Florence on the Elbe." It was considered one of the world's most beautiful cities because of its Baroque architecture and

world-class museums. But in February 1945, an Allied attack obliterated much of the city, killing tens of thousands of civilians. The scale of the death and destruction, and questions about the legitimacy of Dresden as a target have led to decades of debate about whether the attack was justified. American author Kurt Vonnegut, who was a prisoner of war in Dresden during the Allied attack, tackled the controversial event in his book *Slaughterhouse-Five*.[140, 141, 142]

Zwinger Palace, Dresden
Flickr / Bernd Thaller

Since the German reunification in 1990, Dresden is once again a cultural, political, educational, and economic center. Home of the Dresden State Theatre and the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra, there is a music college as well as colleges of medicine, plastic arts, and the celebrated Academy of Art. Its historic center is a cluster of Baroque churches and the Rococo-style Zwinger Palace, restored along with the opera house and the Frauenkirche, the main cathedral. The majestic villas of Dresden's heart, however, contrast with massive concrete apartment blocks, a reminder of Dresden's Socialist-era past.[143]

Like many eastern German cities, Dresden battles high unemployment. Conservative politics have flourished here, and in contrast to other major German cities, right-wing sentiment is on the rise; refugee shelters have been attacked in recent years. People Against the Islamization of the West, an anti-Islamic protest movement, is strong in Dresden.[144]

History

Introduction

The history of the Germanic peoples goes back to the first century BCE, when Germanic tribes arrived in the area of modern-day Germany.[145, 146] The country's present form, more or less, was established recently—in the 19th century when Prussian Prime Minister Otto von Bismarck brought together dozens of German-speaking kingdoms, principalities, free cities, and duchies to form the German Empire. Imperial Germany quickly became one of the most powerful European nations.[147] In addition to its economic prowess, the German Empire acquired colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.[148]

The Rise of Prussia (1789–1871)

Kaiser Franz Joseph, Congress of German Princes, Frankfurt, 1863
Wikimedia / Joseph Albert

In 1814, a year after Prussian, Austrian, and Russian forces defeated Napoleon at Leipzig and drove the French out of Germany, European diplomats gathered in Vienna (the Congress of Vienna) to redraw Europe's borders. Their goals were to establish a balance of power and set up a defense against further French aggression. The German Confederation that emerged consisted of 39 states, including the two Great Powers—Austria and Prussia—and smaller kingdoms such as Bavaria. It was Prussia, however, that achieved a strategic position on both frontiers, gaining Saxony, the Rhineland, Westphalia, and the valuable coal-rich Ruhr Valley. In the decades that followed, while Prussia industrialized, Austria remained agrarian.[149, 150, 151]

Crowning of Kaiser Wilhelm I
Wikimedia

By 1866, the Confederation had collapsed because of the ongoing rivalry between Austria and Prussia. Each claimed the right to rule the German lands. The Austro-Prussian War, or Seven Weeks' War of 1866, ended in favor of Prussia and led to the creation of the North German Confederation.[152, 153] In 1870, the Franco-Prussian War prompted the remaining, mostly southern, German states to become part of a new German Empire with the Prussian king as emperor. In 1871, the German Empire was formally established with Prussia's King Wilhelm I as the new kaiser.[154, 155]

Imperial Germany (1871–1914)

The German Empire (or so-called Second Reich), 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.[156] The empire possessed a military second only to

Kaiser Friedrich III of Prussia, 1874
Wikimedia / kaiserinfriedrich.de

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.[157, 158]

While Bismarck and many in power had no desire for territorial expansion, there was much interest among the German public and its trade merchants. Bismarck consented to the colonization of parts of Africa and Asia to protect trade, among other reasons.[159, 160] Shortly after the death of Wilhelm I in 1888, Bismarck fell out of favor with the Prussian monarchy and, two years later, the new kaiser, Frederick III, forced him to resign from his position as chancellor.[161, 162]

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.[163, 164]

Tensions in Europe 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.[165, 166]

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.[167, 168]

The German public supported the war and territorial expansion, but when the conflict became bogged down by trench warfare, support waned. In 1917, the parliamentary assembly passed a resolution calling for peace. Soon afterward, the German chancellor resigned, and military leaders rejected the call for peace.[169]

After the Battle of Amiens, which concluded on 12 August 1918, there were again calls for peace that were rejected. The situation in Germany continued to deteriorate; a mutiny broke out on the navy battleship Kiel in October and revolution spread throughout Germany.[170] 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. WWI left Europe devastated, and the countries that had fought in it suffered casualties never experienced before: an estimated 8.5 million dead, with 21 million wounded.[171, 172, 173]

General Ferdinand Foch, Supreme Allied Commander, armistice signing Wikimedia

The Weimar Republic (1918–1933)

After the war, Germany was plagued by food and fuel shortages and widespread discontent. In 1919, Germans voted for democracy. In February, an assembly convened in the small town of Weimar to draft a new constitution. The result was the creation of the Weimar Republic and a constitution that looked much like those of other European democratic republics. Meanwhile, the Allies, led by the heads of state of France, Great Britain, and the United States, were meeting in Versailles, France, to finalize the terms of Germany's surrender.[174, 175]

The Treaty of Versailles was exceptionally punitive toward Germany; it lost 13% of its European territory and all its colonies, and ceded control of its industrial Saar region to the League of Nations. Germany returned Alsace-Lorraine to France, which it had seized 40 years earlier, and the Rhineland was demilitarized. Poland, Belgium, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, and Lithuania each received long-standing German territories: parts of Silesia and West Prussia, Eupen-Malmedy, Northern Schleswig, the Hultschin district, and

French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau addresses German delegates, Versailles, 7 May 1919 Flickr / O Suave Gigante

territory in East Prussia, respectively. 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—132 billion gold marks (USD 33 billion). The reparation payments required by the Versailles Treaty crippled the German economy.[176] It would not be until 2010, 92 years after the end of the war, that Germany would pay off the last installment of interest.[177]

Resentment toward the peace treaty, especially among the impoverished low-middle classes, fueled disillusionment with the Weimar government.[178] It was at this time that a failed artist and soldier turned political activist, Adolf Hitler, began receiving attention.[179] His fledgling National Socialist (Nazi) Party promoted German pride and antisemitism. In 1923, Hitler and the Nazis led a failed coup in Munich. He was arrested and sentenced to prison, where he wrote the autobiography and manifesto, *Mein Kampf*, outlining his plans for Germany.[180, 181]

Hitler's Rise to Power—The Third Reich

Hitler and von Hindenburg
Flickr / Tullio Saba

Under the Weimar Republic, the economy began to rebound and Germany appeared on the road to recovery. In 1926, it joined the League of Nations. But the stock market crash of 1929 was major setback to Germany's vulnerable economy. Massive unemployment and misery aided the efforts of Weimar's critics.[182] Hitler's private paramilitary organization, the *Sturmabteilung* (SA), known as Storm Troopers or Brownshirts, along with his elite guard, the *Schutzstaffel* (SS), unleashed a campaign of intimidation, repression, and propaganda against Communists and Social Democrats across the country. In what would be the last free election until 1949, the Nazi Party emerged as the largest party in 1932.[183] In 1933, President Paul von Hindenburg reluctantly appointed Hitler as chancellor. Shortly after, Hitler consolidated his power, setting the stage for WWII.[184, 185, 186]

In 1933, the burning of the Reichstag building in Berlin, blamed on communist revolutionaries, prompted the arrest of Communist Party officials. Shortly after, an intimidated parliament passed Hitler's Enabling Act, which gave the Nazis unchecked powers over the German state.[187] To give his government legitimacy, Hitler adopted

the term "Third Reich" (Third Empire) for Nazi Germany. The Nazis solidified their control, purging Communists, liberals, and Jews from civil services and universities. Hitler disbanded trade unions and established the Gestapo, the secret state police. When President Hindenburg died in 1934, Hitler, in defiance of the constitution, combined the offices of chancellor and president to further increase his power.[188, 189]

World War II (1935–1945)

Hitler, a nationalist and a racist, believed Germany should be the leader in the defense of a wider Aryan people, a master race. He portrayed Jews as the source for a variety of political, social, and economic problems Germany faced.[190, 191] Hitler intended to reassert Germany's position in the world, undo the humiliation of Versailles, and expand eastward to ensure German-led prosperity.[192] From there, Hitler planned to dominate the world.[193]

Hitler, center left, at the Reichstag, 1938
National Archives / 208-N-39843

In 1935, Hitler took back Germany's industrial heartland, the Saarland, and in March 1938, annexed Austria. Several months later, to appease Hitler, Britain, France, and Italy signed the Munich Pact, which allowed Germany to annex the Sudetenland—a region of Czechoslovakia with a mostly German population.[194] Unappeased, Hitler seized the rest of Czechoslovakia in 1939. Britain did not respond.[195] 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.[196, 197, 198]

At the beginning of the war, Germany experienced uninterrupted military success. By 1941, it controlled much of Europe; the United States entered the war in December of that year. In early 1943, the tide began to turn when the Germans sustained major losses to the Allied forces, particularly at the Battle of Stalingrad in southern Russia, and in 1944 during the Allied invasion of Normandy (D-Day).[199, 200] In 1945, Hitler retired to his bunker outside of Berlin, where he committed suicide days before the Soviet army, which Hitler had turned against in 1941, reached the capital.[201, 202]

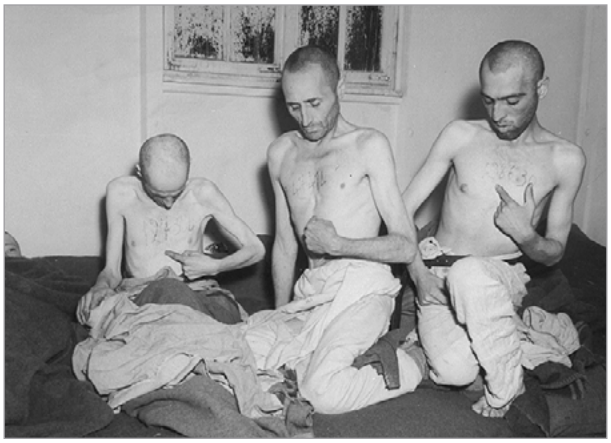
The Holocaust (1938–1945)

From 1933 until the war's end, the Nazis passed more than 400 decrees and regulations that restricted all aspects of Jewish public and private life. The 1935 Nuremberg Laws were the centerpiece of anti-Jewish legislation. A precedent for categorizing Jews in German-controlled lands, the laws prohibited marriage and sexual relations between Jews and citizens of "German blood." Only "racial" Germans were entitled to civil and political rights.[203, 204]

Boycott of Jewish businesses, 1933
Wikimedia / Yad Vashem

Initially, the Nazis had planned to expel Jews from the Reich, but the presence of millions of Jews across parts of now German-controlled Europe posed a logistical challenge. In January 1942, elite members of the Third Reich met in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee to solidify plans for the "final solution" (*Endlösung*) to the so-called "Jewish question." The "solution" was the extermination of Europe's Jews. The plan's chief architect and implementer was Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS, the Nazis' paramilitary arm.[205, 206] The purpose of the 90-minute meeting in Wannsee, however, was purely administrative. In fact, three months before the Wannsee Conference, work on the first extermination camp, Chelmno, in Poland, had already begun.[207, 208]

Between 1933 and 1945, the Nazis and their allies established more than 40,000 camps and other incarceration sites across Europe for a range of purposes, including forced labor, detention, and mass murder. The Nazis' extermination efforts extended beyond Jewish populations to political opponents and people the Nazis deemed as racially, socially, and physically "defective."[209, 210] By the end of the war, the Nazis had systematically murdered 11 million Jews, Roma (Gypsies), blacks, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, the mentally and physically disabled, Communists, and Social Democrats.[211, 212, 213]



Dachau survivors point to numbers they carved into their skin to ensure their identification after death *USHM / Used with permission*

The Cold War Era

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 went to the Soviets. The capital, Berlin, was also divided among the four Allied Powers.[214, 215, 216]

German Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signs surrender terms, Berlin, 1945 National Archives and Records Administration

Disagreements among the Allies quickly emerged. Within their occupation zones, different social, political, and economic systems developed. The Allies allowed regional governmental units to form. 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.[217]

Berlin—Focal Point of the Cold War

To manage economic recovery efforts and control the black market, in June 1948 American and British policymakers introduced the new deutsche mark to West Berlin. 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. The Allies also organized a counter-blockade of East Germany. The crisis ended when the Soviets lifted the blockade a year later, but it solidified the division between Western and Eastern Europe.[218] In May 1949, the Federal Republic of

American C-54, Berlin airlift, 1948
Wikimedia / United States Air Force Historical Research Agency

East German workers reinforce the Berlin Wall, 1961
National Archives / 6003284

Germany (West Germany) was established, and Bonn was chosen as its capital.[219, 220] In response, the Soviets created the GDR (East Germany) in October.[221, 222]

East Germany failed to achieve legitimacy among its citizens. Between 1949 and 1961, 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 15-foot concrete walls topped with barbed wire. Watchtowers manned by soldiers with machine guns, electric fences, and mines were added to fortify the wall. Checkpoint Charlie was the only gateway through which East Germany allowed Allied diplomats, military personnel, and tourists to pass into Berlin's Soviet section.[223] The Berlin Wall became a symbol of communist oppression.[224, 225, 226]

Reunified Germany

East German guards await Brandenburg Gate opening, 1989
Wikimedia / DoD

In 1989, numerous anti-GDR protests occurred throughout East Germany. Events reached a climax in November of that year when crowds in East Berlin gathered at the Berlin Wall demanding entry into West Berlin. On 9 November the wall came down, uniting the formerly divided city. The people demanded a voice in their government and in March 1990, East Germany's Communist Party suffered a resounding defeat in the elections. The new government launched reunification negotiations with West Germany. In July, the two countries adopted a single currency. The Soviets ceased their opposition to reunification, and on 3 October 1990, the German Unification treaty reunited former East and West Germany into the Federal Republic of Germany. Shortly after, unified Berlin was restored as Germany's capital.[227, 228]

Reunification created serious challenges. The economy of the former East Germany was in shambles. Unemployment was high. The infrastructure needed repair and

modernization. Social differences between the 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 the East soared, the economy began to stagnate. Unemployment grew, and political divisions became more pronounced. In the 1998 elections, Germany's longest-serving chancellor, Helmut Kohl, lost to Gerhard Schröder.[229]

A West Berlin mother petitions for her children in East Berlin
U.S. Army

Over the next four years, Schröder's government worked unsuccessfully to rebuild the economy. Nevertheless, Schröder was narrowly elected again in 2002. Again, 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 reelected chancellor in 2009 and again in 2013.[230] In September 2017, Merkel won a fourth term. In addition, a far-right party, the Alternative for Germany (AfD), won a little over 12.6% of the votes and entered the lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, the first far-right party to do so since WWII.[231, 232]

Angela Merkel before the European People's Party congress
Flickr / European People's Party

Current Events

In 2015, more than one million immigrants, including many 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.[233] Anti-immigrant demonstrations raised the specter of Nazi extremism and xenophobia, stirring fears and anxiety among much of the population.[234] Attacks against immigrants and refugees increased.[235]

At the same time, sex crimes and attacks on Germans by migrants inflamed the situation.[236, 237] In spite of these developments, the vast majority of Germans continue to support centrist politicians and policies. After the 2017 elections, thousands of Germans went to the streets to protest the success of the AfD.[238, 239]

Government

Germany is a parliamentary democracy, where authority is divided among federal, state, and local levels of government. This system dates from 1949, when the American, British, and French zones of occupation in West Germany were consolidated into the Federal Republic of Germany. The constitution of 1949, called the Basic Law (*Grundgesetz*), distributes power between the central government and the 16 German federal states (*Bundesländer*), a concept found in previous constitutions (1871, 1919).[240] As a result, states have a great deal of autonomy.[241]

Hamburg Parliament plenary hall
Pixabay / 12019

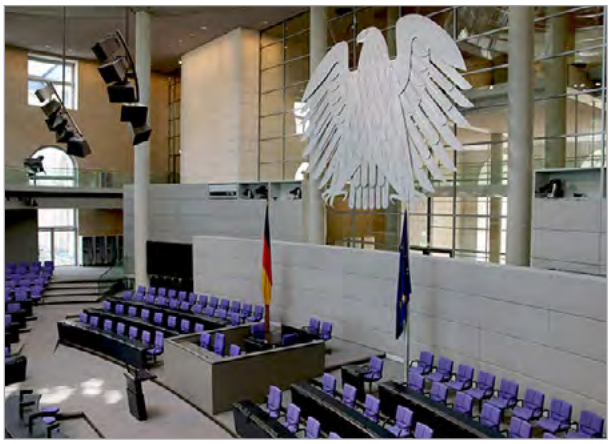
There are two houses of Parliament, the Bundestag (lower house) and the Bundesrat (upper house). In federal elections held every four years, all German citizens 18 years of age or older are eligible to vote for candidates and parties, which form the Bundestag. Similarly, states and local communities elect parliaments and officials. Each state government appoints three to five representatives to serve on the Bundesrat. Both houses can initiate legislation, and most bills must be passed by both houses, as well as the executive branch of the government.[242]

The president, a largely ceremonial position, is elected by the Bundestag and representatives of the states for a maximum of two five-year terms. As of 2018, the president is Frank-Walter Steinmeier, a member of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and former foreign minister, who was elected in February 2017.[243] The chancellor is the head of the government and is elected by a Bundestag majority. As of 2018, the chancellor is Angela Merkel of the CDU.[244]

Germany's armed forces, which are under the control of the civilian government, are integrated into NATO. In 2011, the country suspended mandatory military service as well as the alternative community service offered to those who refuse military

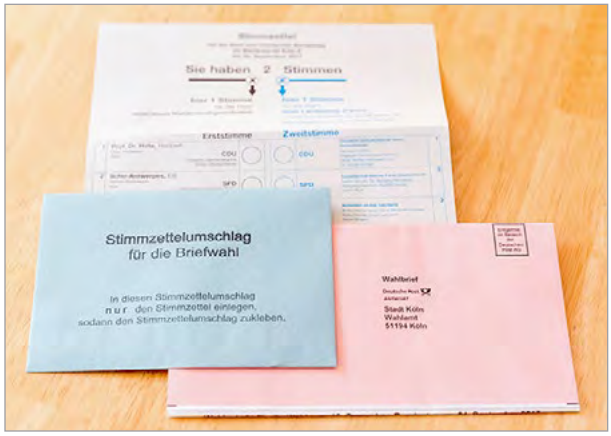
service. After a series of terror attacks in 2016, the federal government briefly considered reinstating the draft for civil defense, though as of 2018 military service remained voluntary.[245]

Political Parties



Bundestag plenary hall, Reichstag, Berlin
Pixabay / moerschy

Germany's most important political parties are the liberal-conservative CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the conservative Christian Social Union (CSU); the Social Democratic Party (SPD), a labor party; the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP); the Greens (*Die Grünen*), an environmentalist party; and the Party of Democratic Socialism, the successor to the East German Socialist Unity Party. Since the late 1980s, a few right-wing parties occasionally received enough votes (at least 5% of the total) to gain seats in some of the regional parliaments.[246, 247]



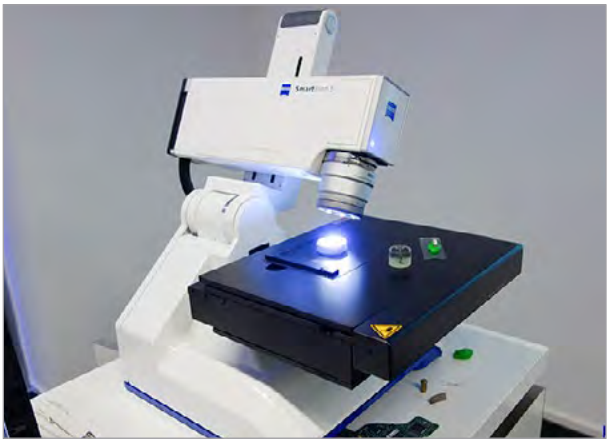
Postal ballot, 2017 parliamentary elections
Flickr / Marco Verch

The popularity of the AfD in the September 2017 federal elections is considered a result of political agitation, increasing antiestablishment (and anti-euro) sentiment, and public concern over the growing rate of immigration. Support for the AfD is strongest in eastern Germany, where unemployment is higher.[248, 249] There are also indications that Russian media influenced the AfD's success, portraying Chancellor Angela Merkel and the CDU in a negative light while airing complimentary reports about the AfD.[250, 251]

Because Germany has a system of proportional representation in its lower house, no one party wins an absolute majority; all German parties therefore, form coalitions. Following the September 2017 elections and months of deadlock, the center-right CDU and CSU joined with the liberal SPD to create a so-called grand coalition party to secure a majority in the Bundestag.[252, 253, 254]

Economy

Germany's economy is structured according to a social market economic model (*soziale Marktwirtschaft*), which is the middle ground between a free market economy and socialism. German government agencies foster competition and encourage individuals to assume responsibility, while providing a social safety net. This model requires a strong welfare system.[255, 256]



Microscope, Zeiss Museum of Optics, Oberkochen
Flickr / Zeiss Microscopy

The social market model has been successful in Germany. Through innovation and research, Germany has maintained its manufacturing edge for the last 70 years in areas such as renewable energy, molecular biotechnology, lasers, and software engineering.[257] Thus, the German economy is Europe's largest, and the fourth-largest in the world. In 2016, it overtook the United Kingdom as the fastest-growing economy among the Group of Seven nations (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United States, and United Kingdom).[258, 259, 260]

Germany's economy is driven by international trade and supported by industry. In 2017, Germany was the world's second-largest exporter, and manufacturing accounted for 23% of the economy.[261, 262] The largest contributor to the German GDP (69%) is the services sector, which employs 75% of Germans. The country ranks among the world's best in technical services, including information technology, research and development, and financial services.[263, 264]

Germany is Europe's largest creditor. Deutsche Bundesbank, which has been part of the Eurosystem since 1999, is the central bank of Germany. 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.[265]

Current Socioeconomic Climate

Germans have one of the highest standards of living in the world. The UN's Human Development Index rates Germany as one of the world's most developed nations—sixth

out of 187 countries that were studied.[266] That said, those living in western Germany enjoy a higher standard of living than those in former East German regions.[267, 268] The average German lives 81 years, thanks in part to a healthy and active lifestyle and universal medical coverage.[269, 270]

German laborers are usually highly skilled. The average German completes about 13 years of schooling followed by vocational training, which partially accounts for the generally higher wages in the nation.[271, 272] There is also a system of well-organized, aggressive unions.[273]

Germany's strong exports have led to relatively low unemployment compared with other European countries.[274, 275] Nationally, the German unemployment rate hovers around 4%, though it is uneven throughout the country.[276] Unemployment is lowest in the southern states of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg and higher in the former east.[277, 278] Youth unemployment, ages 15–25, is 7%—higher than the national average but the lowest in the EU.[279]

Participants at a high-tech conference, Berlin
Flickr / TechCrunch

Despite the relatively high wages and low unemployment, nearly 16% of Germans live in poverty. Internally, there is concern that the minimum wage (just over 8 euros) is too low. Seniors and single parents are the hardest hit, and there is a growing number of working poor.[280] Poverty rates parallel unemployment rates in the various states. Poverty is most likely to affect those between the ages of 13 and 24 and 55 and 64.[281, 282]

International Trade

Trade is a key aspect of the economy and, as such, Germany is the world's third-largest exporter and importer.[283] Germany joined the World Trade Organization in 1995, and it accounts for more than half of the EU's international trade. Approximately 25% of the nation's income comes from international trade, and about 20% of all jobs depend on international trade.[284, 285]

Germany's global exports in 2016 included motor vehicles, machinery and computers, electrical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment.[286] Germany lacks oil and natural gas, and imports these and other goods such as machinery, data processing

equipment, and chemicals. The country's most important trading partners are the United States, France, China, the United Kingdom, and other European countries.[287, 288]

Ethnic Groups

Pedestrian street shopping area, Munich
Flickr / Mike Steele

Of Germany's 81 million residents, 92% are German and 2.4% are Turkish. The rest of the population consists of people with Greek, Italian, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Croatian, Romanian, and Syrian backgrounds. These residents are a mix of foreign nationals—lawful permanent residents, refugees, and other immigrants—and naturalized citizens.[289, 290] Exact numbers are difficult to determine because people in Germany are identified as citizens rather than immigrants or their descendants.[291]

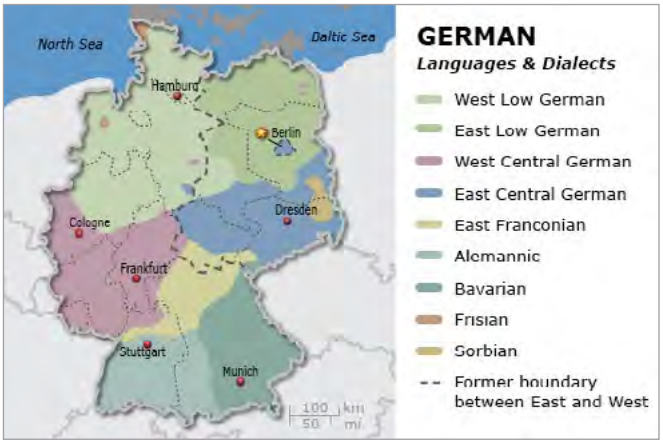
Four officially recognized national minorities enjoy special protections and government funding: Danes, Frisians, Sorbs, and Roma. These minorities have their own language, culture, and history. Since these groups have always resided in Germany, they are not considered immigrants. German Jews are a religious minority rather than a national minority.[292] Ethnic Germans from the former Eastern European and Soviet Blocs can resettle in Germany if they declare fidelity to German traditional culture and learn German.[293]

Languages

German, the official language, is spoken as a first language by 95% of the population.[294] High German (*Hochdeutsch*) is the standard form used for administration and in institutions of higher education. It is also the language of literature and mass media.[295]

There are as many as 250 regional variations of German. The three major dialectical 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 (*Bairish-Österreichish*), which is spoken mostly in southern Germany.[296] The Alemannic dialect, common in southwestern Germany, has significant variations from the *Hochdeutsch*.[297]

Other languages recognized under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and spoken in Germany, include Sorbian, Danish (spoken near the Germany-Denmark border), and Romani, spoken by the Roma and Sinti peoples.[298, 299] Among the unofficial languages, Turkish is the second-most spoken language in Germany—spoken by as many as 5 million ethnic Turks. In some German states, it is an approved subject for the *Abitur*, or secondary school final exams. German-born Turks are bilingual, learning Turkish at home and German in school. They often code-switch between languages; among urban Turkish youth, a variant of German influenced by Turkish has evolved (*Kanak Sprak*).[300, 301, 302]



Regional variations of major German dialects
Graphic / DLIFLC

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

1 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: Background," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

2 Alex Gray, "The World's 10 Biggest Economies in 2017," World Economic Forum, 9 March 2017, https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/03/worlds-biggest-economies-in-2017/.

3 EW Work Economy Team, "German Economy," 10 June 2013, http://www.economywatch.com/world_economy/germany/.

4 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: Background," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

5 *Economist*, "Germany Is Becoming More Open and Diverse," 14 April 2018, https://www.economist.com/leaders/2018/04/14/germany-is-becoming-more-open-and-diverse.

6 Spiegel Online, "Germans and Indians Spätzle Westerns," 6 April 2006, http://www.spiegel.de/international/germans-and-indians-spaetzle-westerns-a-410135.html.

7 Nicholas Boyle, "Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: Faust," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 9 May 2007, https://www.britannica.com/biography/Johann-Wolfgang-von-Goethe#toc260249.

8 Kate Connolloy, "Friedrich von Schiller: The Romantic Lover," *Guardian*, 21 November 2009, https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2009/nov/22/friedrich-schiller-anniversary-film-biography.

9 Philip Oltermann, "Divided Germany Appears as Year of War and Wall Anniversaries Begins," *Guardian*, 2 January 2014, http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/02/german-division-berlin-wall-reunification-war-anniversaries.

10 Local, "East Happier Than West with Reunification," 25 September 2014, http://www.thelocal.de/20140925/east-happier-than-west-with-reunification.

11 Frank-Walter Steinmeier, "Germany's New Global Role: Berlin Steps Up," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2016, https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/europe/2016-06-13/germany-s-new-global-role.

12 William Tucker, "Germany's Role in the European Union and the World," In Homeland Security, 29 June 2017, http://inhomelandsecurity.com/germany-european-union/.

13 Elizabeth Pond and Hans Kundnani, "Germany's Real Role in the Ukraine Crisis: Caught between East and West," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2015, https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/eastern-europe-caucasus/germany-s-real-role-ukraine-crisis.

14 Judy Dempsey, "Britain's Decision to Withdraw from the European Union Will Have a Profound Effect on the Bloc's Realignment, Starting with Germany," Carnegie Europe, 30 March 2017, http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/?fa=68459.

15 Jefferson Chase, "German, Iranian Foreign Ministers: Iran Nuclear Deal Must Stay," Deutsche Welle, 27 June 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/german-iranian-foreign-ministers-iran-nuclear-deal-must-stay/a-39440941.

16 Katinka Barysch, "Two False Assumptions about Germany's Take on Brexit," World Economic Forum, 3 April 2017, https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/04/what-will-shape-germany-s-stance-on-brexit/.

17 Tyler Durden, "NATO Splinters: Germany Says 'Has No Choice but to Pull out' Troops from Turkey's Incirlik Airbase," Zero Hedge, 5 June 2017, http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-06-05/nato-splinters-germany-says-has-no-choice-pull-out-troops-turkeys-incirlik-airbase.

18 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government, "Germany Country Brief: Country Profile," accessed 27 November 2017, http://dfat.gov.au/geo/germany/pages/germany-country-brief.aspx.

19 German Culture, "Climate in Germany," accessed 27 November 2017, http://germanculture.com.ua/germany-facts/climate-in-germany/.

20 Climates to Travel, World Climate Guide, "Climate: Germany," accessed 5 September 2018, https://www.climatestotravel.com/climate/germany.

21 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Land: Climate," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Climate.

22 Weather and Climate, "Average Weather and Climate in Germany," accessed 27 November 2017, http://www.weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine-in-Germany.

23 Eric Solsten, ed., "Northern German Lowland," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/75.htm.

24 Weather and Climate, "Average Weather and Climate in Germany," accessed 27 November 2017, http://www.weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine-in-Germany.

25 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Land: Relief," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Relief.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

26 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: Geography," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

27 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Land: Relief," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Relief.

28 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: Geography," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

29 Anna Winger, "The German Island Getaway You Didn't Know About," *Condé Nast*, 23 June 2015, https://www.cntraveler.com/stories/2015-06-23/german-island-getaway-you-didnt-know-about.

30 Andrea Schulte-Peevers, "Northern Germany's Secret Islands," Lonely Planet, accessed 27 November 2017, https://www.lonelyplanet.com/germany/northern-germany/travel-tips-and-articles/northern-germanys-secret-islands/40625c8c-8a11-5710-a052-1479d276ed7f.

31 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: Geography," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

32 Eric Solsten, ed., "North German Lowland," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/75.htm.

33 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Land: Relief: Central German Uplands," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Relief#ref57986.

34 Wernigerode Tourismus, "The Brocken—the Highest Mountain in Harz," accessed 27 November 2017, http://www.wernigerode-tourismus.com/sights/schierke/brocken-mountain.html.

35 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Black Forest," updated 18 November 2011, https://www.britannica.com/place/Black-Forest-mountain-region-Germany.

36 Michelin Travel Publications, "The Black Forest," in *Michelin Green Guide Germany* (Hertz, UK: Michelin Travel Partner, 2016), 36.

37 Eric Solsten, ed., "Northern German Lowland," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/75.htm.

38 Zugspitze, "Zugspitze—Germany's Highest Peak," accessed 27 November 2017, http://zugspitze.de/en/winter/mountain/zugspitze.

39 Eric Solsten, ed., "Northern German Lowland," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/75.htm.

40 Florian Schmidt, "How May Rivers Does Germany Have? Informative," Helpster, accessed/translated 11 January 2018, https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=de&u=http://www.helpster.de/wie-viele-fluesse-hat-deutschland-informatives_188718&prev=search.

41 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Land: Drainage," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Drainage.

42 Centre for Climate Adaptation, "Germany: River Floods Germany," accessed 9 January 2018, https://www.climatechangepost.com/germany/river-floods/.

43 Sertan Sanderson, "Floods Sweep Across Germany," Deutsche Welle, 6 January 2018, http://www.dw.com/en/floods-sweep-across-germany/g-42048433.

44 World Atlas, "Germany: Geography," accessed 2 February 2018, http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/europe/germany/deland.htm.

45 Loreley Info, "The Rhein (Rhine) River," accessed 27 November 2017, http://www.loreley-info.com/eng/rhein-river.php.

46 Karl A. Sinnhuber and Alice F. A. Mutton, "Rhine River," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 2 April 2010, https://www.britannica.com/place/Rhine-River.

47 Klaus Plonien, "Germany's River, but Not Germany's Border—The Rhine as a National Myth in Early 19th Century German Literature," *National Identities* 2, no. 1 (18 August 2010): 81–86, http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14608940011346?journalCode=cnid20.

48 Europe Diaries, "Myths, Legends, Folklore from Germany," 10 July 2017, https://www.europediaries.com/myths-legends-folklore-germany/.

49 Black Forest Info, "Information around the Black Forest in Germany," accessed 27 November 2017, http://www.blackforestinfo.com/regions/index.html.

50 Patricia Garland Pinka, "Danube River," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1 December 2016, https://www.britannica.com/place/Danube-River.

51 UNESCO, "Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof," accessed 27 November 2017, http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1155.

52 Nick Thorpe, "How the Danube Became a Multinational Power Source," *Smithsonian Journeys Quarterly*, 18 April 2016, https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/shape-shifting-danube-river-smithsonian-journeys-travel-quarterly-180958732/.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

53 Planet Wissen, "Danube," accessed/translated 11 January 2018, https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=de&u=https://www.planet-wissen.de/natur/fluesse_und_seen/donau/index.html&prev=search.

54 Planet Wissen,"Elbe," accessed 27 November 2017, http://www.planet-wissen.de/natur/fluesse_und_seen/die_elbe/index.html.

55 Hermann Friedrich and Frankdieter Grimm, "Elbe River," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 26 July 1999, https://www.britannica.com/place/Elbe-River.

56 Viking Cruises, "About the Elbe River," accessed 27 November 2017, http://www.vikingrivercruises.com/cruise-destinations/europe/rivers/elbe/about.html.

57 Philip Oltermann, "How a German River Marks Cultural Divide between East and West," *Guardian*, 2 September 2017, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/02/germany-elbe-river-cultural-divide-east-west-federal-elections.

58 Hermann Friedrich and Frankdieter Grimm, "Elbe River," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 26 July 1999, https://www.britannica.com/place/Elbe-River.

59 TMB Tourism Marketing Brandenburg, "Land of the 3000 Lakes," accessed 27 November 2017, http://www.brandenburg-tourism.com/about-brandenburg/land-of-the-3000-lakes.html.

60 My German City, "German Lakes: Müritz—The Largest Lake Inside Germany," accessed 27 November 2017, http://www.mygermancity.com/mueritz.

61 Lonely Planet, "Chiemsee," accessed 27 November 2017, https://www.lonelyplanet.com/germany/chiemsee.

62 My German City, "German Lakes: Lake Constance—Who Needs the French Riviera Anyway?" accessed 31 January 2018, http://www.mygermancity.com/lake-constance.

63 Lonely Planet, "Introducing Lake Constance," accessed 27 November 2017, http://www.lonelyplanet.com/germany/lake-constance/introduction.

64 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Lake Constance," updated 15 September 2011, https://www.britannica.com/place/Lake-Constance.

65 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Land: Drainage," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Drainage.

66 Direct Ferries, "How to Book Ferries from Germany to Sweden," accessed 27 November 2017, https://www.directferries.com/ferries_from_germany_to_sweden.htm.

67 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Rügen," 27 May 1999, https://www.britannica.com/place/Rugen.

68 Anthony Faiola, "'Hitler's Tourist Resort' Pits German Commercialism against Dark Nazi Past," *Guardian*, 18 December 2014, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/18/nazi-architecture-germany-property-rugen-past.

69 Jon Bryant, "Rügen, Germany: Brighton for Berliners," *Telegraph*, 4 June 2008, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/germany/2074452/Rugen-Germany-Brighton-for-Berliners.html.

70 Steph Glinski, "Exploring Germany's Northernmost Island," BBC Travel, 28 May 2013, http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20130523-exploring-germanys-northernmost-island.

71 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Sylt," updated 18 February 2011, https://www.britannica.com/place/Sylt.

72 Lewis M. Alexander, "North Sea," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 5 July 2007, https://www.britannica.com/place/North-Sea.

73 Alastair Dougal Couper and Alice F. A. Mutton, "Baltic Sea," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 16 April 2010, https://www.britannica.com/place/Baltic-Sea.

74 Michael Clarke, "Kiel Canal," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 6 May 2013, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Kiel-Canal.

75 Michael Clarke, "Kiel Canal," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 6 May 2013, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Kiel-Canal.

76 Berlin in Brief, "History," accessed 31 January 2018, http://www.berlin.de/berlin-im-ueberblick/en/history/.

77 Lutz R. Reuter and Hubert Joseph Erb, "Berlin," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 9 August 2016, https://www.britannica.com/place/Berlin.

78 Berlin in Brief, "The Royal Capital," accessed 31 January 2018, http://www.berlin.de/berlin-im-ueberblick/en/history/the-royal-capital/.

79 Culture Trip, "Berlin's Cultural History: Violence, Division and the Avant Garde," 16 December 2016, https://theculturetrip.com/europe/germany/articles/berlin-s-cultural-history-violence-division-and-the-avant-garde/.

80 Eva-Maria Schnurr, "Berlin's Turn of the Century Growing Pains," Spiegel Online, 22 November 2012, http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/the-late-19th-century-saw-the-birth-of-modern-berlin-a-866321.html.

81 Berlin in Brief, "The Cosmopolitan City of the Weimar Republic," accessed 9 August 2017, http://www.berlin.de/berlin-im-ueberblick/en/history/the-cosmopolitan-city-of-the-weimar-republic/.

82 Lutz R. Reuter and Hubert Joseph Erb, "Berlin," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 9 August 2016, https://www.britannica.com/place/Berlin.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

83 Culture Trip, "Berlin's Cultural History: Violence Division and the Avant Garde," 16 December 2016, https://theculturetrip.com/europe/germany/articles/berlin-s-cultural-history-violence-division-and-the-avant-garde/.

84 Matt Rosenberg, "Germany's Capital Moves from Bonn to Berlin," ThoughtCo., 3 March 2017, https://www.thoughtco.com/germany-capital-from-bonn-to-berlin-1434930.

85 Berlin in Brief, "Berlin after 1945," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.berlin.de/berlin-im-ueberblick/en/history/berlin-after-1945/.

86 Anna Ilin, "Tracing West Berlin's 70s and 80s Subculture," Deutsche Welle, 21 February 2013, http://www.dw.com/en/tracing-west-berlins-70s-and-80s-subculture/a-16615845.

87 Amy C. Beal, "Changing of the Guards," in *New Music, New Allies: American Experimental Music in West Germany* (Berkeley: University of California Press), 153.

88 Christine Schoefer, "Germany's Beating Heart: Berlin's Turbulent Past Gives Rise to Exuberant Culture," *California*, Fall 2014, https://alumni.berkeley.edu/california-magazine/fall-2014-radicals/germanys-beating-heart-berlins-turbulent-past-gives-rise.

89 Berlin in Brief, "Berlin after 1945," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.berlin.de/berlin-im-ueberblick/en/history/the-new-berlin/.

90 Official Website of Berlin, "Berlin as an Economic Center," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.berlin.de/en/business-and-economy/economic-center/.

91 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Hamburg," updated 13 April 2016, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/253231/Hamburg.

92 Stadebund Die Hanse, "The History of the Hanseatic League," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.hanse.org/en/hanse-historic/the-history-of-the-hanseatic-league/.

93 Arthur Boyd Hibbert, "Hanseatic League," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 11 May 2016, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hanseatic-League.

94 Port of Hamburg, "History," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.hafen-hamburg.de/en/history.

95 World Travel Guide, "Hamburg History," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.worldtravelguide.net/hamburg/history.

96 Christopher Angus McIntosh and Helmuth Thomsen, "Hamburg," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 13 April 2016, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/253231/Hamburg.

97 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Munich: History," updated 19 March 2015, https://www.britannica.com/place/Munich-Bavaria-Germany#toc253001.

98 Discover Munich, "History," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.discover-munich.info/history/.

99 Discover Munich, "History," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.discover-munich.info/history/.

100 Rick Steves, "Munich," in *Germany* (Berkeley: Avalon Travel, 2013), 60–61.

101 Discover Munich, "History," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.discover-munich.info/history/.

102 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Munich: History," updated 19 March 2015, https://www.britannica.com/place/Munich-Bavaria-Germany#toc253001.

103 Jewish Virtual Library, "The Nazi Party: The Beer Hall Putsch," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-beer-hall-putsch-november-1923.

104 Muenchen.de, "Events: Munich Christmas Market," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.muenchen.de/int/en/events/christmas-market.html.

105 Oktoberfest.de, "Oktoberfest 2017," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.oktoberfest.de/en/.

106 Ben Cosgrove and Nilanjana Bhowmick, "Terror at the Olympics: Munich, 1972," *Time*, 5 August 2013, http://life.time.com/history/munich-massacre-1972-olympics-photos/#1.

107 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Munich: The Contemporary City," updated 19 March 2015, https://www.britannica.com/place/Munich-Bavaria-Germany#toc253002.

108 Germany Travel, "Munich: Putting the Style into Lifestyle," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/towns-cities/munich.html.

109 Margaret Kohl et al., "Cologne," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 31 December 2014, https://www.britannica.com/place/Cologne-Germany.

110 Margaret Kohl et al., "Cologne," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 31 December 2014, https://www.britannica.com/place/Cologne-Germany.

111 Cologne.de, "History of Cologne," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.cologne.de/history-of-cologne.html.

112 Top Universities, "University of Cologne," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.topuniversities.com/universities/university-cologne.

113 Cologne.de, "History of Cologne," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.cologne.de/history-of-cologne.html.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

114 Margaret Kohl et al., "Cologne," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 31 December 2014, https://www.britannica.com/place/Cologne-Germany.

115 German National Tourist Board, "Cologne: A City Bursting with Life," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.germany.travel/en/towns-cities-culture/towns-cities/magic-cities/cologne.html.

116 Cologne.de, "What to Do in Cologne: Museums," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.cologne.de/what-to-do/museums.html.

117 UNESCO, "Cologne Cathedral," accessed 28 November 2017, http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/292.

118 World Travel Guide, "Cologne Travel Guide," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.worldtravelguide.net/cologne.

119 Cologne.de, "History of Cologne," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.cologne.de/history-of-cologne.html.

120 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Frankfurt am Main," updated 27 April 2017, https://www.britannica.com/place/Frankfurt-am-Main.

121 Frankfurt.de, "Welcome," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=stadtfrankfurt_eval01.c.317693.en.

122 World Travel Guide, "Frankfurt History," 2014, http://www.worldtravelguide.net/frankfurt/history.

123 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Frankfurt am Main," updated 27 April 2017, https://www.britannica.com/place/Frankfurt-am-Main.

124 World Travel Guide, "Frankfurt History," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.worldtravelguide.net/frankfurt/history.

125 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Frankfurt am Main," updated 27 April 2017, https://www.britannica.com/place/Frankfurt-am-Main.

126 Frankfurt.de, "Welcome to Business in Frankfurt am Main," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=stadtfrankfurt_eval01.c.125162.en.

127 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Frankfurt am Main," updated 27 April 2017, https://www.britannica.com/place/Frankfurt-am-Main.

128 Joanna Egert-Romanowska and Malgorzata Omilanowska, "Western Germany," in *Germany* (New York: Dorling-Kinderling, 2014), 378.

129 Frankfurt.de, "Culture," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/detail.php?id=stadtfrankfurt_eval01.c.125161.en.

130 World Travel Guide, "Frankfurt Travel Guide," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.worldtravelguide.net/frankfurt.

131 Deutsche Welle, "Stuttgart: Home of the Car," 15 July 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/stuttgart-home-of-the-car/av-39662600.

132 Stuttgart Information, "Stuttgart's History," accessed 20 December 2017, http://www.stgt.com/stuttgart/historye.htm.

133 Zipjet, "The 2017 Global Least and Most Stressful Cities Ranking," accessed 20 December 2017, https://www.zipjet.co.uk/2017-stressful-cities-ranking.

134 Elisabeth Yorck von Wartenburg, "10 Reasons to Visit Stuttgart," Deutsche Welle, 21 July 2016, https://p.dw.com/p/1JTAD.

135 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Stuttgart," updated 20 July 1998, https://www.britannica.com/place/Stuttgart-Germany.

136 Stuttgart Citizen, "Stuttgart Wine Culture: Viniculture Permeates City," 21 August 2014, https://www.stuttgartcitizen.com/lifestyle/stuttgarts-viniculture-permeates-city-2/.

137 Wines of Germany, "Württemberg," accessed 20 December 2017, http://www.germanwines.de/tourism/wine-growing-regions/wuerttemberg/.

138 City Populations Worldwide, "Dresden: Population," accessed 21 December 2017, http://population.city/germany/dresden/.

139 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Dresden," updated 18 March 2010, https://www.britannica.com/place/Dresden-Germany.

140 History, "Bombing of Dresden," accessed 21 December 2017, http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/battle-of-dresden.

141 Dominic Selwood, "Dresden Was a Civilian Town with No Military Significance. Why Did We Burn Its People?" *Telegraph*, 13 February 2015, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/11410633/Dresden-was-a-civilian-town-with-no-military-significance.-Why-did-we-burn-its-people.html.

142 Alan Taylor, "Remembering Dresden: 70 Years After the Firebombing," *Atlantic*, 12 February 2015, https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2015/02/remembering-dresden-70-years-after-the-firebombing/385445/.

143 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Dresden," updated 18 March 2010, https://www.britannica.com/place/Dresden-Germany.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

144 Nina Haase and Sumi Somaskanda, "Why Germany's Far-Right Flourishes in Dresden," Deutsche Welle, 16 June 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/why-germanys-far-right-flourishes-in-dresden/a-39076094.

145 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/History.

146 Eric Solsten, ed., "Early History," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/4.htm.

147 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/History.

148 Peter N. Stearns, ed., "Empire and Imperialism: The German Colonial Empire," *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), 136, http://condor.wesleyan.edu/egrimmer/pdf/German_Colonial_Empire.pdf.

149 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/History.

150 Bamber Gascoigne, "History of Germany," HistoryWorld, accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=2803&HistoryID=ac62&gtrack=pthc.

151 Eric Solsten, ed., "The German Confederation, 1815–66," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/23.htm.

152 Bamber Gascoigne, "History of Germany," in *History World*, accessed 26 August 2018, http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=2803&HistoryID=ac62&gtrack=pthc.

153 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Results of the Congress of Vienna," updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Results-of-the-Congress-of-Vienna#ref297485.

154 Eric Solsten, ed., "The Restoration," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/26.htm.

155 Gustav Adolf (Moltke), "The German Empire," All Empires Online History Community, accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.allempires.com/article/index.php?q=german_empire.

156 Bamber Gascoigne, "History of Germany," in *History World*, accessed 26 August 2018, http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=2804&HistoryID=ac62&gtrack=pthc.

157 Gustav Adolf (Moltke), "The German Empire," All Empires Online History Community, accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.allempires.com/article/index.php?q=german_empire.

158 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/History.

159 Eric Solsten, ed., "Imperial Germany," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/28.htm.

160 Eleanor L. Turk, "The Second German Empire," in *The History of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999), 81–83.

161 Bamber Gascoigne, "History of Germany," in *History World*, accessed 26 August 2018, http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=2804&HistoryID=ac62&gtrack=pthc.

162 Kenneth Barkin, "Otto von Bismarck," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 19 July 2016, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/66989/Otto-von-Bismarck.

163 Eric Solsten, ed., "Foreign Policy in the Wilhelmine Era," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/33.htm.

164 Bamber Gascoigne, "History of Germany," in *History World*, accessed 26 August 2018, http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=2804&HistoryID=ac62&gtrack=pthc.

165 Eric Solsten, ed., "Foreign Policy in the Wilhelmine Era," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/33.htm.

166 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Germany from 1871 to 1918," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Germany-from-1871-to-1918.

167 Bamber Gascoigne, "History of Germany," in *History World*, accessed 26 August 2018, http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=2827&HistoryID=ac62&gtrack=pthc.

168 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Germany from 1871 to 1918," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Germany-from-1871-to-1918.

169 Eric Solsten, ed., "World War I," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/34.htm.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

170 On War, "The Kiel Mutiny in Germany 1918," accessed 23 January 2018, https://www.onwar.com/aced/chrono/c1900s/yr10/fgermany1918.htm.

171 Bamber Gascoigne, "History of Germany," in *History World*, accessed 26 August 2018, http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=25&HistoryID=ac62&gtrack=pthc.

172 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Germany from 1871 to 1918," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Germany-from-1871-to-1918.

173 Eric Solsten, ed., "World War I," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/34.htm.

174 Eric Solsten, ed., "The Weimar Republic, 1918–33," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/35.htm.

175 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Germany from 1918 to 1945," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Germany-from-1918-to-1945.

176 Bamber Gascoigne, "History of Germany," in *History World*, accessed 26 August 2018, http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=2809&HistoryID=ac62&gtrack=pthc.

177 Claire Suddath, "Why Did World War I Just End?" *Time*, 4 October 2010, http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2023140,00.html.

178 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "National Socialism," updated 11 July 2012, https://www.britannica.com/event/National-Socialism.

179 Robert Wilde, "How Treaty of Versailles Contributed to Hitler's Rise," ThoughtCo., 30 June 2017, https://www.thoughtco.com/treaty-of-versailles-hitlers-rise-power-1221351.

180 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Germany from 1918 to 1945," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Germany-from-1918-to-1945.

181 Eleanor L. Turk, "The First World War," in *The History of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999), 103–105.

182 Facing History and Ourselves, "1929: A Turning Point During the Weimar Republic," accessed 29 November 2017, https://www.facinghistory.org/weimar-republic-fragility-democracy/readings/1929-turning-point.

183 Richard J. Evans, "Chapter 5: Creating the Third Reich," in *The Coming of the Third Reich* (New York: Penguin Press, 2004).

184 Bamber Gascoigne, "History of Germany," in *History World*, accessed 26 August 2018, http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?groupid=2809&HistoryID=ac62&gtrack=pthc.

185 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: From 1918 to 1945," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Germany-from-1918-to-1945.

186 Eleanor L. Turk, "The First World War," in *The History of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999), 105–111.

187 Marc von Lüpke-Schwarz, "The Law that 'Enabled' Hitler's Dictatorship," Deutsche Welle, 23 March 2013, http://www.dw.com/en/the-law-that-enabled-hitlers-dictatorship/a-16689839.

188 Eric Solsten, ed., "The Third Reich, 1933–45," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/39.htm.

189 Ken Rise, "Hitler and the Law, 1920–1945," *History Review* 60 (March 2008), http://www.historytoday.com/ken-rise/hitler-and-law-1920-1945.

190 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: World War II," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/World-War-II.

191 Ken Rise, "Hitler and the Law, 1920–1945," *History Review* 60 (March 2008), http://www.historytoday.com/ken-rise/hitler-and-law-1920-1945.

192 Roger Eatwell, "Chapter 29: Fascism and Racism," in *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Nationalism*, ed. John Breuilly, 579–581, 588.

193 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: World War II," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/World-War-II.

194 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Sudetenland," updated 29 January 2009, https://www.britannica.com/place/Sudetenland.

195 History, "1938 Munich Pact Signed," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/munich-pact-signed.

196 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: World War II," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/World-War-II.

197 Eric Solsten, ed., "The Outbreak of World War II," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/41.htm.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

198 History, "World War II: 1939, Nazis take Czechoslovakia," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/nazis-take-czechoslovakia.

199 Laurence Rees, "What Was the Turning Point of World War II?" HistoryNet, accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.historynet.com/what-was-the-turning-point-of-world-war-ii.htm.

200 Kelley Murray, "The Effects of D-Day" (paper, Mount Holyoke College, accessed 29 November 2017), https://www.mtholyoke.edu/~kmmurray/The%20Longest%20Day/The%20Effects%20of%20D-Day.html.

201 Eric Solsten, ed., "Defeat," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/43.htm.

202 Eleanor L. Turk, "Hitler and the Second World War," in *The History of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999), 123–130.

203 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Nuremberg Laws," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007902.

204 Michael Berenbaum, "Nürnberg Laws," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 January 2001, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nurnberg-Laws.

205 Michael Berenbaum, "Wannsee Conference: Germany 1942," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 January 2001, https://www.britannica.com/event/Wannsee-Conference.

206 Albinko Hasic, "What People Get Wrong About the Nazi Conference to Plan the 'Final Solution'," *Time*, 19 January 2017, http://time.com/4636171/wannsee-conference-75-years/.

207 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "The 'Final Solution'," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007704.

208 History, "World War II: 1942, The Wannsee Conference," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-wannsee-conference.

209 Greg Rienzi, "Other Nations Could Learn from Germany's Efforts to Reconcile After WWII," *Johns Hopkins Magazine*, Summer 2015, https://hub.jhu.edu/magazine/2015/summer/germany-japan-reconciliation/.

210 Jewish Virtual Library, "Concentration Camps: How Many Camps? 1933–1945," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/how-many-concentration-camps.

211 Eric Solsten, ed., "Total Mobilization, Resistance, and the Holocaust," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/42.htm.

212 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Mentally and Physically Handicapped: Victims of the Nazi Era," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.ushmm.org/learn/students/learning-materials-and-resources/mentally-and-physically-handicapped-victims-of-the-nazi-era.

213 Ina R. Friedman, "The Other Victims of the Nazis," National Council for the Social Studies, accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.socialstudies.org/sites/default/files/publications/se/5906/590606.html.

214 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Formation of the Federal Republic of Germany," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Formation-of-the-Federal-Republic-of-Germany.

215 Eric Solsten, ed., "Postwar Occupation and Division," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/44.htm.

216 Eckhard Bernstein, "Modern German History: Ruptures and Continuities," in *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 22–23.

217 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Formation of the Federal Republic of Germany," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Formation-of-the-Federal-Republic-of-Germany.

218 Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State, "The Berlin Airlift, 1948–1959," accessed 28 November 2017, https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/berlin-airlift.

219 Deutsche Welle, "Bonn: Germany's Former Capital," 26 June 2016, http://www.dw.com/en/bonn-germanys-former-capital/g-19344057.

220 Eric Solsten, ed., "The Federal Republic of Germany," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/48.htm.

221 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Formation of the Federal Republic of Germany," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Formation-of-the-Federal-Republic-of-Germany.

222 Eric Solsten, ed., "The German Democratic Republic," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/49.htm.

223 Evan Andrews, "8 Things You Should Know About Checkpoint Charlie," History, 22 June 2015, http://www.history.com/news/8-things-you-should-know-about-checkpoint-charlie.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

224 Eric Solsten, ed., "The Berlin Wall," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/58.htm.

225 History, "1961: Berlin Wall Built," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/berlin-wall-built.

226 Deutsche Welle, "Germany Remembers Rise of the Berlin Wall 56 Years On," 13 August 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/germany-remembers-rise-of-the-berlin-wall-56-years-on/a-40073965.

227 Eric Solsten, ed., "1945–1990," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/3.htm.

228 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Reunification of Germany," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/The-reunification-of-Germany.

229 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: History: Reunification of Germany," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/The-reunification-of-Germany.

230 George Packer, "The Quiet German," *New Yorker*, 1 December 2014, http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/12/01/quiet-german.

231 Elizabeth Schumacher, "German Election Results: Disappointing Victory for Angela Merkel as CDU Sinks, Nationalist AfD Surges," Deutsche Welle, 25 September 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/german-election-results-disappointing-victory-for-angela-merkel-as-cdu-sinks-nationalist-afd-surges/a-40666430.

232 Jefferson Chase, "Far-Right AfD Enters German Parliament: What it Means for German Politics," Deutsche Welle, 24 September 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/far-right-afd-enters-german-parliament-what-it-means-for-german-politics/a-40664281.

233 Alix Culbertson and Monika Pallenberg, "'I Wish I Could Turn Back Time' Merkel Finally Admits She Regrets Open-Door Migrant Policy," *Express*, 20 September 2016, http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/712125/Angela-Merkel-admits-regrets-open-door-migrant-policy.

234 Stephanie Kirchner, "The Arrival of Hundreds of Thousands of Migrants is Fueling a German Identity Crisis," *Washington Post*, 1 June 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/the-arrival-of-hundreds-of-thousands-of-migrants-is-fueling-a-german-identity-crisis/2017/05/31/e47403d2-424b-11e7-b29f-f40ffced2ddb_story.html?utm_term=.c5b68fd41be0.

235 Alison Smale, "A Neo-Nazi's Political Rise Exposes a German City's Ethnic Tensions," *New York Times*, 24 June 2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/25/world/europe/a-neo-nazis-political-rise-exposes-a-german-citys-ethnic-tensions.html.

236 Alessandro Speciale and Chad Thomas, "Hamburg Attack Puts Merkel Refugee Policy Back in Spotlight," Bloomberg, 29 July 2017, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-29/hamburg-mayor-calls-for-swifter-deportations-following-attack.

237 Soeren Kern, "Germany: Migrant Sex Crimes Double in One Year," Gatestone Institute International Policy Council, 12 June 2017, https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/10522/germany-migrant-sex-crimes.

238 Jefferson Chase, "Far-Right AfD Enters German Parliament: What it Means for German Politics," Deutsche Welle, 24 September 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/far-right-afd-enters-german-parliament-what-it-means-for-german-politics/a-40664281.

239 Deutsche Welle, "Anti-AfD Protests Break Out Across Germany after Election," 24 September 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/anti-afd-protests-break-out-across-germany-after-election/a-40664356.

240 German Bundestag, "Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany," 23 May 1949 (last amended 13 July 2017), https://www.btg-bestellservice.de/pdf/80201000.pdf.

241 International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and Constitutionnet, "Constitutional History of Germany," accessed 13 August 2018, http://www.constitutionnet.org/country/constitutional-history-germany.

242 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Government and Society," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Government-and-society.

243 Deutsche Welle, "The Role of the German President," 24 February 2012, http://www.dw.com/en/the-role-of-the-german-president/a-3880008.

244 Federal Chancellor, "Chancellery: Tasks of the Federal Chancellor," accessed 13 August 2018, https://www.bundeskanzlerin.de/Webs/BKin/EN/Chancellery/Tasks_of_the_Chancellor/tasks_of_the_chancellor_node.html.

245 Deutsche Welle, "Germany Mulls Bringing Back Compulsory National Service," 12 August 2016, http://www.dw.com/en/germany-mulls-bringing-back-compulsory-national-service/a-19494191.

246 Roger Darlington, consumer affairs specialist, "A Short Guide to the German Political System," updated 6 July 2018, http://www.rogerdarlington.me.uk/Germanpoliticalsystem.html.

247 Eric Solsten, ed., "The Legislature," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/154.htm.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

248 Eleonora Vio, "Why Eastern Germany Has Become Fertile Soil for the Far Right," World Politics Review, 18 April 2017, https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/21877/why-eastern-germany-has-become-fertile-soil-for-the-far-right.

249 BBC News, "German Election: How Right-Wing Is Nationalist AfD?" 13 October 2017, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37274201.

250 Charles Hawley, "Merkel Re-Elected as Right Wing Enters Parliament," Spiegel Online, 24 September 2017, http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/german-election-merkel-wins-and-afd-wins-seats-in-parliament-a-1169587.html.

251 Simon Shuster, "How Russian Voters Fueled the Rise of Germany's Far-Right," *Time*, 25 September 2017, http://time.com/4955503/germany-elections-2017-far-right-russia-angela-merkel/.

252 "The State and Politics: Federal State," Facts about Germany, accessed 23 January 2018, https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/chapter/state-politics/federal-state.

253 Claire Greenstein and Brandon Tensley, "Why Does Germany Have Boring Politics?" *Foreign Affairs*, 17 May 2017, https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/germany/2017-05-17/why-does-germany-have-boring-politics.

254 Griff Witte, "Germany Will Finally Have a Government after Social Democrats Clear the Way for Merkel's Fourth Term," *Washington Post*, 4 March 2018, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/germany-will-finally-have-a-government-after-social-democrats-clear-the-way-for-merkels-fourth-term/2018/03/04/837b6486-1bcf-11e8-98f5-ceecfa8741b6_story.html?utm_term=.a5c03344896b.

255 Siegfried F. Franke and David Gregosz, "The Social Market Economy: What Does It Really Mean?" Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, March 2013, 7–17, http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_14667-1442-2-30.pdf?141210073938.

256 Seeking Alpha, "The German Economy: Current Situation, Trends and Characteristics: May 2017," 3 May 2017, https://seekingalpha.com/article/4068485-german-economy-current-situation-trends-characteristics-may-2017.

257 Dan Breznitz, "Why Germany Dominates the U.S. in Innovation," *Harvard Business Review*, 27 May 2014, https://hbr.org/2014/05/why-germany-dominates-the-u-s-in-innovation.

258 Angela Monaghan and Graeme Wearden, "Germany Overtakes UK as Fastest-Growing G7 Economy," *Guardian*, 23 February 2017, https://www.theguardian.com/world/blog/2017/feb/23/germanys-gdp-shows-19-rise-over-last-year.

259 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: Economy," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

260 *Financial Times*, "Germany Ends 2016 as World's Fastest Growing Advanced Economy," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.ft.com/content/f3ef3ef3-8e12-3675-b995-d621f9f6114f.

261 Matt Phillips, "The World's Largest Export Engines are Running Hot," Quartz, 9 September 2014, http://qz.com/261567/the-worlds-largest-export-engines-are-running-hot/.

262 Facts About Germany, "OECD Economic Outlook," accessed 13 August 2018, https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/lfyt/lqtsd-wlbd/oecd-economic-outlook.

263 Business Development Germany, "Germany and the Service Sector," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.businessdevelopmentgermany.com/about-germany/german-economy/germany-and-the-service-sector.html.

264 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: Economy," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

265 Deutsche Bundesbank Eurosystem, "Bundesbank: The Tasks of the Bundesbank," accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.bundesbank.de/Redaktion/EN/Standardartikel/Bundesbank/Tasks_and_organisation/tasks.html.

266 United Nations Development Program, "Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone," 2016, 2–3, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/DEU.pdf.

267 Charles Calvert Bayley et al, "Germany: Government and Society: Health and Welfare: Standards of Living," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 29 August 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Health-and-welfare#ref233607.

268 Andrea Shalal, "Merkel Looks at Ways to Tackle Germany's East/West Disparities," Reuters, 15 April 2018, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-politics/merkel-looks-at-ways-to-tackle-germanys-east-west-disparities-idUSKBN1HM0F4.

269 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: Economy," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

270 H. Burkharad Dick, "Germany's Universal Health Care System on Solid Foundation," Ocular Surgery News, accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.healio.com/ophthalmology/practice-management/news/print/ocular-surgery-news-europe-edition/%7B996d0eb5-a9f5-44b2-aba0-97ea93f2bd38%7D/germanys-universal-health-care-system-on-solid-foundation.

271 United Nations Development Program, "Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone," 2016, 2–3, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/DEU.pdf.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

272 OECD Better Life Index, "Germany: How's Life?" accessed 28 November 2017, http://www.oecdbetterlifeindex.org/countries/germany/.

273 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 31 January 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html.

274 Deutsche Welle, "German Unemployment Keeps on Falling," 30 June 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/german-unemployment-keeps-on-falling/a-39486363.

275 Alexandra Spitz-Oener, "The Real Reason the German Labor Market is Booming," *Harvard Business Review*, 13 March 2017, https://hbr.org/2017/03/the-real-reason-the-german-labor-market-is-booming.

276 OECD, "How Does Germany Compare? Employment Outlook 2017," June 2017, http://www.oecd.org/germany/Employment-Outlook-Germany-EN.pdf.

277 *Economist*, "Explaining the Munich Miracle: On Almost Every Indicator, Germany's South is Doing Better than its North," 20 August 2017, https://www.economist.com/blogs/kaffeeklatsch/2017/08/explaining-munich-miracle.

278 Akhil Reddy, "Germany's Poverty Rate," Borgen Project, 10 September 2017, https://borgenproject.org/germany-poverty-rate/.

279 Trading Economics, "Germany Youth Unemployment Rate: 1991–2017," accessed 13 August 2018, https://tradingeconomics.com/germany/youth-unemployment-rate.

280 Economist, "Special Report: Germany May Be Rich, but Inequalities Are Widening," 14 April 2018 https://www.economist.com/special-report/2018/04/14/germany-may-be-rich-but-inequalities-are-widening.

281 Ben Knight, "German Poverty Rising: Despite Economic Growth," Deutsche Welle, 3 February 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/german-poverty-rising-despite-economic-growth/a-37787327.

282 Ben Knight, "Unemployed in Germany Have Greatest Risk of Poverty in the EU," Deutsche Welle, 27 February 2018, https://p.dw.com/p/2tNta.

283 Global Edge, "Germany: Trade Secrets," accessed 28 November 2017, https://globaledge.msu.edu/countries/germany/tradestats.

284 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: Economy," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

285 Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, "Facts about German Foreign Trade," August 2017, 2, https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Publikationen/facts-about-german-foreign-trade-2017.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=6.

286 Daniel Workman, "Germany's Top 10 Exports," World's Top Exports, 2 August 2017, http://www.worldstopexports.com/germanys-top-10-exports/.

287 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: Economy," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

288 Statistiches Bundesamt, "Foreign Trade: Imports and Exports (Special Trade) by Division of the National Product Classification for Production Statistics 2016," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.destatis.de/EN/FactsFigures/NationalEconomyEnvironment/ForeignTrade/Tables/ImportsExports.html.

289 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: People and Society," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

290 Country Meters, "Germany Population: Population Clock," 6 September 2017, http://countrymeters.info/en/Germany#Population_clock.

291 Lilla Farkas, "Analysis and Comparative Review of Equality Data Collection Practices in the European Union: Data Collection in the Field of Ethnicity" (Brussels: European Commission, 2017), 12, http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?action=display&doc_id=45791.

292 Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Republic of Germany, "National Minorities," accessed 28 November 2017, https://www.bmi.bund.de/EN/topics/society-and-integration/national-minorities/national-minorities-node.html.

293 Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Republic of Germany, "Admission of Ethnic German Resettlers under the Federal Expellees Act," accessed 5 September 2018, https://www.bmi.bund.de/EN/topics/community-and-integration/ethnic-german-resettlers/resettlers.html.

294 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: People and Society," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

295 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "German Language," 8 January 2009, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/230814/German-language.

296 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "German Language," 8 January 2009, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/230814/German-language.

297 Hyde Flippo, "German Dialects—Dialekte (1)," ThoughtCo, 28 February 2017, https://www.thoughtco.com/german-dialects-dialekte-1-4083591.

298 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: People and Society," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

Endnotes for Chapter 1: Profile

299 Paul M. Lewis, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig, eds., "Germany," in *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 17th ed. (Dallas: SIL International, 2014), http://www.ethnologue.com/country/DE/languages.

300 Julie Gregson, "Immigrants Help Create New Type of German Language," Deutsche Welle, 12 August 2007, http://www.dw.com/en/immigrants-help-create-new-type-of-german-language/a-2989308.

301 Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, "Chapter 3: The Turks in Germany," in *Muslims in the West: From Sojourners to Citizens* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), 53.

302 Wilhelm Griehaber, Jochen Rehbein, S. Çiğdem Sağin Şimşek, and S. Cigdem, "Turkish Immigrants in Germany," in *Third Language Acquisition: Turkish-German Bilingual Students' Acquisition of English Word Order in a German Educational Setting* (Münster: Waxmann Verlag, 2006), 22–24.

Chapter 1 | Profile

Assessment

1. Germany is the largest economy in Europe.

2. The German language has many regional variations and dialectical divisions, but only one variation is used in formal contexts.

3. Life expectancy in Germany is very high compared with other developed nations.

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. True; 2. True; 3. True; 4. False; 5. True

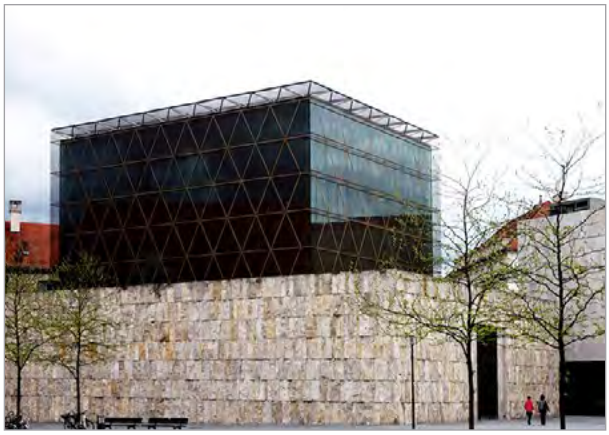
Regensburg Cathedral (Dom St. Peter), Bavaria Flickr / Mattias Ripp

Religion

Introduction

Christianity is the most widespread and influential religion in Germany. An estimated 58% of the population practice Christianity, with roughly equal numbers of Roman Catholics and Protestants.[303, 304] Many Germans (about 34%) are not affiliated with any church or religion, and this trend is on the rise. This is especially true in eastern Germany, where the communist regime of the former GDR discouraged religion. Until German reunification in 1990, church membership in the former East was a barrier to career advancement and university admission. Three decades later, eastern Germany remains a very secular society.[305, 306]

The philosophical split between Catholics and Protestants in Germany, deep-rooted until a few decades ago, occurred during the Protestant Reformation in the 15th and 16th centuries. The struggle for religious freedom and political dominance culminated in the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). The long and destructive war, which was fought across most of Europe, ended with the Peace of Westphalia. The treaty reshaped the religious map of Germany: it secured religious tolerance in most northern and central German areas and allowed Protestants to emigrate away from areas where tolerance was not guaranteed.[307] Today, most German Catholics still live in southern Germany (especially in Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia), whereas Protestants dominate in northern and central parts of the country.[308]



Ohel Jakob Synagogue, Munich
Flickr / Clayton Shonkwiler

In addition to Catholics and Protestants, about 2% of Germans are Orthodox Christians. The Greek and Russian Orthodox churches were established in Germany when Greek and Serbian immigrants arrived as *Gastarbeiter* (guest workers) in the 1960s and 1970s. Thousands more Serbs came to Germany as refugees during the early 1990s breakup of the former Yugoslavia.[309]

Among the important minority religions in Germany are Judaism and Buddhism, which represent less than 1% of Germany's population, and Islam, which is increasingly practiced. Because of Germany's open-door immigration policy, its Muslim community grew from 4.5% of the population to an estimated 7.6% between 2015 and 2016.[310, 311, 312]

Overview of Major Religions

Catholicism

The Roman Catholic Church—the oldest of all Western institutions—is led by the pope. In Catholicism, popes are part of a succession believed to trace back to Saint Peter. Apostolic succession grants popes the right to speak infallibly about spiritual matters. After the pope, cardinals, archbishops, bishops, and priests make up the rest of the hierarchy.[313, 314, 315] Catholic religious practice revolves around seven ceremonies, or sacraments—baptism, reconciliation (confession), Eucharist, confirmation, marriage,

holy orders (joining the priesthood), and the sacrament of anointing the sick.[316] Devotion to saints, the use of the rosary, and undertaking pilgrimages are other important features of Catholicism.[317, 318]

Portrait of Emperor Charlemagne
Wikimedia / Germanisches Nationalmuseum

In Germany, the religious and cultural heritage of the Catholic Church reaches back to Saint Boniface, the "apostle of Germany" and first archbishop of Mainz, and to Charlemagne, buried in Aachen Cathedral. But as Germany becomes an increasingly secular society, the centuries-old spiritual authority of the Roman Catholic Church has declined. Today, the church is the second-largest employer in Germany, with only the state employing more people.[319] Many of those employed are not churchgoing Christians, reflecting the more formal and utilitarian relationship many Germans have with the church.[320]

In recent decades, Germany has seen a significant decline in church marriages, reconciliation, and Sunday mass attendance. In fact, many Germans are leaving the church altogether. As a result, local bishops have called for more relaxed rules regarding Holy Communion for the divorced and civilly remarried. Additionally, as the number of men joining the priesthood declines, most German Catholics favor permitting priests to marry, and many support the ordination of women.[321]

Protestantism


Martin Luther before the Holy Roman Empire general assembly *Wikimedia/Staatsgalerie.de*

In contrast to the Catholic and the Orthodox churches, Protestantism comprises thousands of denominations that do not have structural unity or a central human authority (such as the pope). Protestants worship God directly, without the intercession of saints or priests. Women and men may be ministers; a minister can marry.[322]

Protestantism originated with the German theologian Martin Luther (1483–1546).

He was the founder of the Protestant Lutheran faith and the German Reformation movement of the 16th century. Luther attempted to reform the Catholic Church, and in 1517, he published the "Ninety-Five Theses," which criticized Catholic Church doctrine. Religious scholars view the publication of these theses as the event that led to the split between Catholics and Protestants and the creation of the Evangelical Church in Germany. The animosity between the two sides, which deepened over the centuries through religious conflicts and wars, persisted in Germany until a few decades ago.[323, 324]

The main Evangelical church, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD), includes a community of 20 independent Protestant regional churches. Most EKD worshipers are Protestant, Lutheran, or Calvinist. Other sects of Protestantism in Germany are grouped under the Free Evangelical churches, a loose union of predominantly Baptists and Methodists.[325]

In 1989, Protestant churches served as rallying points for unofficial protests against the GDR. These gatherings became known as the "Monday demonstrations." In October of 1989, thousands gathered at the main church in Leipzig, the Nikolaikirche, and then joined a protest march of 70,000 that became the largest impromptu demonstration in East German history. Historians credit the 9 October demonstration with emboldening the dissatisfied population and ultimately with the fall of the Berlin Wall a month later.[326, 327]

Leipzig's St. Nicholas Church
Flickr / Charlie Dave

Islam

In Arabic, the term Islam means "to submit" or "to surrender." Islam, like Judaism and Christianity, is a monotheistic religion and Abrahamic faith. Islam recognizes the validity of some of the Old and New Testaments, but Muslims believe the final and culminating revelations were made to the Prophet Muhammad, a merchant who lived in Arabia from 570 to 632 CE. They consider Muhammad the last in a long line of prophets including Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. The Quran, the sacred Muslim text, is considered the record of God's revelations to Muhammad. The Muslim community, or *umma*, worship Allah directly, without the intercession of clergy.[328]

Islam is gaining significance in Germany, which now vies with France for the highest Muslim population in western Europe. Germany welcomed more than 1 million refugees and asylum seekers between 2015 and 2017, bringing the number of Muslims in in the country to an estimated 7 million. Muslim integration spurred, in part, the rise of the right-wing AfD party in the 2017 national elections. The AfD used incidents like the 2016 attack at Berlin's Christmas market and the sexual assaults that occurred at New Year's in Cologne to play on fear of the "Islamicization" of Germany.[329]

Cologne's Central Mosque
Flickr / Marco Verch

Before 2015, Germany was already home to 4 million Muslims, mostly Turks who had arrived 60 years before as *Gastarbeiter* to help rebuild the country after WWII. Others came in later migratory waves and have Kurdish, Iranian, Palestinian, Bosnian, or Syrian backgrounds. Many are poorly integrated into German society, living in tight-knit communities where they speak their native language more than German, attend mosque, and are grouped in a range of decentralized organizations. One of Germany's largest Muslim groups, the Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs, is supported by the Turkish government and those who practice Sunni Islam in Turkey. There are also associations of Kurdish Alevis (a religious community partially connected to Shi'a Islam), Bosnian Muslims, and others.[330, 331] The German Muslim community is split between liberal and conservative lines; some who have converted to Christianity have faced violent attacks.[332, 333, 334]

Judaism

Judaism is a monotheistic religion and the oldest of the three Abrahamic faiths. Developed among the ancient Hebrews, the laws and tenets of Judaism originate in the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. Jews believe that God revealed himself to Abraham, Moses, and the Hebrew prophets.[335]

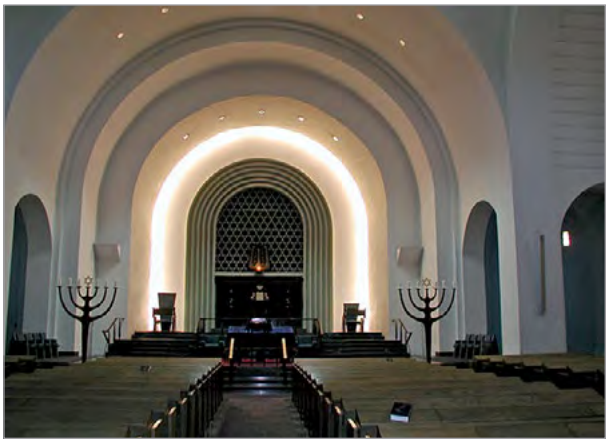
Much of Jewish religious observance takes place in the home. This includes daily prayers in the morning, afternoon, and after sunset. Congregational prayers are usually practiced in a synagogue, a Jewish house of prayer and study. On the Sabbath, a day of rest and worship, and religious holidays, the service includes readings in Hebrew from the Torah and the prophets. In most synagogues, the service is performed by

a cantor, a religious official who chants liturgical music, or by a rabbi, an ordained religious teacher.[336, 337]

The long history of Judaism in Germany is overshadowed by the Holocaust. By some estimates, Jews have been living in the region of today's Germany since 321 CE. Since then, Jews experienced periods of peaceful coexistence with the majority population, and other periods of religiously motivated persecution. Before 1933, more than 600,000 people of Jewish faith or heritage lived in Germany. In the 12 years that followed, the anti-Semitic Nazis killed most Jews in the country; only a few thousand survived.[338]

Monument to Lappenberg Synagogue, Hildesheim
Pixabay / falco

Today around 200,000 Jews live in Germany. The increase is due in large to Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union.[339] Roughly 100,500 immigrants are organized in 107 Jewish communities. The communities are administered by the federally recognized and funded Central Council of Jews in Germany, founded in 1950. The largest Jewish congregations are in Frankfurt and Berlin. Berlin's Jewish community has 11,500 officially registered members, and twice as many unaffiliated. Many of these are among the 10,000–15,000 young Israelis who have flooded the capital in recent years, driven there by the high cost of living in Israeli cities.[340, 341]



Roonstrasse Synagogue, Cologne
Wikimedia / Horsch, Willy

Religion and the State

Germany has no official religion. Freedom of religion is provided in the Basic Law and the state maintains religious neutrality, giving religious communities the right of self-determination.[342] The state and religious communities have a cooperative arrangement. The state helps finance child care and schools sponsored by religious

communities, while churches levy a church tax (*Kirchensteuer*) that is collected by the state. The revenue from this tax is used to finance social services, such as support for community centers, hospitals, senior citizen centers and group homes, and construction of church buildings in the former East Germany. In return, religious communities may teach religion as a regular course in state schools. The exception is the Free Evangelical churches, which see themselves as "free churches in a free country" and do not levy taxes; they are funded almost exclusively by voluntary member contributions.[343, 344]

Since 1875, Germans who intended to marry in a church had to first go through a civil ceremony in a local registry office (*Standesamt*). A law passed in 2009 now permits couples to marry in a church without the civil ceremony, but church-only marriages have little legal standing. Rights of inheritance, tax advantages, support in case of divorce, and other standard rights of next-of-kin cannot be legally enforced. Women's rights activists are concerned that this change will allow multiple and forced marriages among Germany's growing Muslim community.[345, 346]

Religion in Daily Life

Chancel of St. Mary's (Marienkirche), Berlin
Flickr / Berit Watkin

For most German Christians, religious activities may be largely confined to the occasional Sunday mass or special holidays and religious events. In fact, church attendance is declining, as is the number of people belonging to one of the country's two main churches. Some Germans have left the Catholic Church, disillusioned over sexual abuse allegations, while others declared themselves *Konfessionslose* (religiously unaffiliated) after recent changes to the German tax code that made affiliation more expensive.[347] Still others, looking for a more charismatic church, have joined the church of the Latter-day Saints (Mormons) or become Jehovah's Witnesses.[348, 349] Despite growing secularism, the Basic Law, which mentions God in its preamble, protects Christian holidays.[350, 351]

While religious education is compulsory in most of the 16 *Bundesländer* (federal states), each state can decide how to organize religious education. They also review and approve the curriculum provided by the churches. Children who do not want to

participate in religious education are obliged to attend an alternative "ethics" or "knowledge of life" class, in which philosophy, society, and morals are discussed.[352] In most cases, students are divided into three groups for their religious education—Roman Catholic, Protestant, or Ethics. Some states, such as Berlin, which has a significant Muslim population, also offer Islamic religious instruction. With the growth in Muslim immigrant populations across Germany, Islamic education is expanding.[353]

Public school staff are prohibited from displaying religious symbols. While there is no national law restricting the public wearing of the hijab, or Islamic headscarf, half of the *Bundesländer* ban teachers from wearing them, and in the state of Hesse the ban includes civil servants.[354, 355]

Religious Holidays and Events

Christmas (Weinachten)

A Christmas market on Rindermarkt Square, Munich
Flickr / Raul

For many Germans, *Weinachten* (hallowed night) is a purely secular holiday, but it remains the traditional celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Germans celebrate Christmas Eve or *Heiligabend*, which means "holy night," rather than Christmas Day on December 25th. On December 24th, Germans take a day off from work or only work until lunchtime. In the early evening, families gather around the decorated Christmas tree and exchange presents; religious families go to church. Christmas Day and December 26th are public holidays, which most people spend at home with their relatives.[356, 357]

The Christmas season spans the entire month of December, starting with the fourth Sunday before Christmas (Advent). In anticipation of the season, shopping centers will put up Christmas decorations in November and sell Christmas supplies as early as October. Apples, walnuts, chestnuts, advent wreaths made of evergreen branches, and Christmas markets are a few symbols of the typical German holiday season. There are more than 2,500 Christmas markets across Germany. These brightly lit and festive markets sell toys, sweets, cinnamon apples, roasted almonds or cashews, baked goods, textiles, and ornaments. The most famous markets include the one in

Nuremberg, which draws millions each year and dates back to the 16th century. In addition, Dresden's Striezelmarkt is well known for its stollen (fruit cakes coated with powdered sugar).[358, 359]

St. Nicholas Day (*Nikolaus*), which used to have its own traditions, has been folded into the Christmas season. German children place a single boot in front of the front door the night before December 6th. In the morning, the boot is filled with candy, fruit, and small toys.[360, 361]

Easter (Ostern)

Easter egg tree (Eierbaum), Saalfeld, Thuringia
Wikimedia / AndrewPoison

During Easter, German Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and families may attend church service on Holy Saturday evening or Easter Sunday. The beginning of the Christian Easter season begins a week earlier, on Palm Sunday. This holiday goes back to the biblical story of Jesus entering the palm-strewn streets of Jerusalem on a donkey. The Friday before Easter is Good Friday (*Karfreitag*) and is a public holiday commemorating the Crucifixion. On this day, strict Catholic families hold a fast, and many Germans prefer eating fish rather than meat. Schools are typically closed for two weeks around this time.[362]

Like Christmas, Easter is a secular celebration for many Germans. In the weeks leading up to Easter, chocolate bunnies and painted eggs are sold in shops around the country. Since palm trees are rare in Germany's climate, many Germans decorate their homes with pussy willow or lilac (*Flieder*) branches on which they hang colorful blown eggs. On Easter Sunday, friends and families group together in parks, fields, and gardens for an Easter egg hunt. In some regions, Germans light "Easter bonfires" on the night of Easter Sunday.[363]

Regional Holidays and Events

Across different areas in Germany, various public holidays are celebrated, and stores may stay open on these days. In predominantly Catholic *Bundesländer*, these holidays include Epiphany (the Feast of the Three Kings, January 6), Maria Lichtmess (Candlemass, February 2), Corpus Christi (varies), Assumption Day (August 15),

and All Saints' Day (November 1). For Protestants, Reformation Day (October 31) is significant. It commemorates the day Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg in 1517. It is celebrated only in the states of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia.[364, 365]

Buildings of Worship and Memorial Sites

Churches

German churches are often impressive architectural structures, and they dominate the central area of nearly every city and town. In the predominantly Catholic south, areas surrounding towns and villages are strewn with shrines and chapels, such as the Wieskirche (Church in the Meadow) at the foot of the Alps. The 18th-century Rococo church is home to the sculpture of the Scoured Savior, which was said to cry tears. Pilgrimages to such shrines were common until the early 20th century.[366]

Pilgrimage Church of Wies (Wieskirche), Bavaria
Pixabay / dozemode

May I enter the church?		
Visitor:	daarf iKh dee keerKha betreyten?	May I enter the church?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 1

When are church services?		
Visitor:	vaan virt gotesdeenst gefaayert?	When are church services?
Local:	am zontaag	On Sunday.

Exchange 2

With German secularization, many churches have become the objects of *Denkmalpflege* (cultural preservation). Berlin's Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church (Gedächtniskirche) serves as both a church and a war memorial. One of the city's

most prominent landmarks today, it was heavily damaged during WWII. The entrance hall and one broken spire were preserved, and a new, distinctly modern concrete church with blue stained-glass windows and a hexagonal bell tower were built in the 1960s alongside the original church.[367]

Shrine of the Three Kings, Cologne Cathedral
Flickr / Steve Moses

One of the most recognizable landmarks in Germany is the massive Cologne Cathedral (Kölner Dom). The construction of the Gothic structure, completed in 1880, took over 600 years. The cathedral can fit up to 20,000 people, and it holds precious works of art such as the Shrine of the Three Kings, a golden sarcophagus studded with jewels.[368] The Ulm Minster Church, located in the southern city of Ulm, is the world's tallest. This centuries-old Gothic church has spires that rise 162 m (531 ft). Visitors who climb the 768 steps to the observation platform have sweeping views of the Alps and the Zugspitze, Germany's highest peak.[369, 370]

May I take photographs inside the church?		
Visitor:	daarf iKh in der keerKha fotos maaKhen?	May I take photographs inside the church?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 3

Other notable churches include Munich's Frauenkirche and the Aachen Cathedral. The Aachen cathedral, which lies on the borders with Holland and Belgium, is more than 1,200 years old, making it the oldest in northern Europe. It is the resting place of Charlemagne, the Frankish king who helped unite large sections of Western Europe in the Middle Ages. After his death, the Byzantine-style church became the site where more than 30 German kings were coronated.[371]

Is this acceptable to wear?		
Visitor:	kaan iKh daas traagen?	Is this acceptable to wear?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

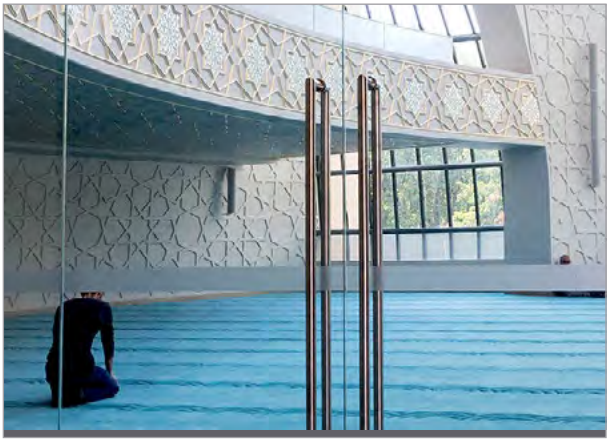
Exchange 4

Mosques

Aerial view of the Cologne Central Mosque
Wikimedia / Marco Verch

Construction for the massive Cologne Central Mosque was completed in 2017, and it is Germany's largest—seating up to 4,000 people. The construction of mosques is controversial in Germany, particularly after the 2016 Berlin Christmas market attack, which spurred calls within the government to ban Salafist (ultra-conservative Islamist) mosques.[372, 373] Of the approximately 1,200 institutions used as mosques to serve the community of over 4 million, only 159 are recognizable mosques. The remaining "backyard mosques" are located in rooms of buildings that have other purposes or would not appear to be mosques to passers-by.[374, 375]

Muslim mosques are sacred spaces, and they should be respected as such. When foreigners visit a mosque, they should ask permission to enter. The dress code requires modesty and dignity. Clothing should always be loose fitting. Once inside the mosque, non-Muslims should not touch books or walls (especially the western corner where people direct their prayers).[376]



At prayer, Cologne Central Mosque
Flickr / Marco Verch

Under normal, noncombat circumstances, visitors should remove their shoes at the doorway and place them in the designated area. Visitors should take care not to disrupt or walk in front of Muslims in prayer; this is thought to invalidate the prayers and will upset the worshipper. The presence of dogs in a mosque is considered a desecration.[377]

The rules that govern mosque etiquette, such as women covering their heads and the separation of men and women during prayer, hold true in the vast majority of mosques in Germany.[378] But there is a growing number of liberal Muslims in the country, and this is reflected in the Ibn Rushd-Goethe Mosque in Berlin. Here, the imam is a woman, and women pray uncovered next to men.[379]

Memorials

The Berlin Holocaust Memorial, designed by American architect Peter Eisenman Flickr / Bhavishya Goel

Since the late 19th century, not only churches but other historical buildings in Germany have become the objects of *Denkmalpflege*. These historical monuments constitute a new set of special sites, which may be approached only with a correspondingly respectful attitude. Graveyards and war memorials occupy a sort of middle ground between holy sites and historical monuments. All settlements in Germany have graveyards, which surviving family members visit on holidays or on private anniversaries.

Stolpersteine (bottom left: Here resided Bella Levitta, born 1876, deported September 1, 194 to Treblinka, murdered September 29, 194*)* Flickr / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

War memorials from WWI and WWII are found everywhere. WWII memorials often carry a very different character. For example, Buchenwald, the concentration camp near Weimar, has, since the early 1950s, served as a commemorative site and is dedicated to the victims of the Nazi regime. The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, also known as the Holocaust Memorial, is a memorial in Berlin to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. It is made of 2,711 massive rectangular stone slabs (stelae) on a stretch of land in the center of the city and resembles a vast field of nameless tombstones.[380, 381] In towns throughout Germany, *Stolpersteine*, or "stumbling stones," serve as memorials to Holocaust victims. Placed in streets and walls, the cobblestone-size concrete cubes bear brass-plated inscriptions with the name and life dates of victims of Nazi persecution.[382, 383]

Endnotes for Chapter 2: Religion

303 Pew Research Center, "Regional Distribution of Christians," 19 December 2011, http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-regions/.

304 World Council of Churches, "Evangelical Church in Germany," accessed 15 November 2017, https://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/evangelical-church-in-germany.

305 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Religion," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Religion.

306 Peter Thompson, "Germany: The Most Godless Place on Earth," *Guardian*, 22 September 2012, https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2012/sep/22/atheism-east-germany-godless-place.

307 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Peace of Westphalia," 15 October 2015, https://www.britannica.com/event/Peace-of-Westphalia.

308 Deutsche Welle, "The Main Differences between Catholics and Protestants," 30 October 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/the-main-differences-between-catholics-and-protestants/a-37888597.

309 Documentation Centre and Museum of Migration in Germany, "Migration History in Germany," accessed 22 August 2018, https://www.domid.org/en/migration-history-germany.

310 Deutsche Welle, "Is Islam Changing Germany?" 7 July 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/is-islam-changing-germany/a-39076179.

311 Soeren Kern, "Germany's Muslim Demographic Future," Gatestone Institute, 8 February 2017, https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/9892/germany-muslims-demographic.

312 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: People and Society," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

313 Peter Stanford, "Roman Catholic Church," BBC Religions, 29 June 2011, http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/catholic/catholic_1.shtml#h2.

314 Michael David Knowles et al., "Roman Catholicism," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 8 August 2018, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/507284/Roman-Catholicism.

315 Catholic Bridge, "Why Did the Church Move to Rome from Jerusalem?" accessed 3 November 2017, http://catholicbridge.com/catholic/why_did_the_catholic_church_move_to_rome_from_jerusalem.php.

316 Peter Stanford, "Roman Catholic Church," BBC Religions, 29 June 2011, http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/catholic/catholic_1.shtml#h2.

317 Religion Facts, "Christianity," 5 March 2017, http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/overview.htm.

318 Religion Facts, "Compare Christian Denominations: Rituals and Practices," 10 April 2017, http://www.religionfacts.com/charts/denominations-practices.

319 Technology.Org, "Catholic Church Has Become the Largest Private Employer in Germany," 16 September 2014, https://www.technology.org/2014/09/16/catholic-church-become-largest-private-employer-germany/.

320 Josef Hein, "The Return of Religion? The Paradox of Faith-Based Welfare Provision in a Secular Age" (paper, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne, Germany, 2014), http://www.mpi-fg-koeln.mpg.de/pu/mpifg_dp/dp14-9.pdf.

321 Eric Solsten, ed., "Society: Roman Catholicism," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/96.htm.

322 Deutsche Welle, "The Main Differences between Catholics and Protestants," 30 October 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/the-main-differences-between-catholics-and-protestants/a-37888597.

323 Deutsche Welle, "The Main Differences between Catholics and Protestants," 30 October 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/the-main-differences-between-catholics-and-protestants/a-37888597.

324 E. Clifford Nelsen et al., "Protestantism," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 17 August 2018, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Protestantism.

325 World Council of Churches, "Evangelical Church in Germany," accessed 15 November 2017, https://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/evangelical-church-in-germany.

326 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: People: Ethnic Groups," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Ethnic-groups#toc58006.

327 Peter Crutchley, "Did a Prayer Meeting Really Bring down the Berlin Wall and End the Cold War?" BBC News, 9 October 2015, http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/0/24661333.

328 Annemarie Schimmel, Muhsin S. Mahdi, and Fazlur Rahman, "Islam," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 1 February 2016, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/295507/Islam.

329 BBC News, "German Election: How Right-Wing Is Nationalist AfD?" 13 October 2017, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37274201.

Endnotes for Chapter 2: Religion

330 Gisela Procházka-Eisl, "The Alevis," in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 5 April 2016), http://religion.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.001.0001/acrefore-9780199340378-e-101.

331 Harvard Divinity School, "Alevism," accessed 3 November 2017, https://rlp.hds.harvard.edu/faq/alevism.

332 Chantal Da Silva, "Cologne Rally: As Many As 10,000 Muslims to Protest Islamic Extremism," *Independent*, 16 June 2017, http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/cologne-rally-muslims-protest-islamic-extremism-germany-terror-attacks-uk-nichtmituns-not-with-us-a7792876.html.

333 Joseph Nasr, "Syrian Refugees in Germany Find Country's Mosques Too Conservative," *Independent*, 28 October 2016, http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/germany-syrian-refugees-islam-religion-mosques-too-conservative-strict-a7384146.html.

334 Wolfgang Dick, "Christian Refugee Converts in Germany Face Violent Attacks," Deutsche Welle, 5 May 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/christian-refugee-converts-in-germany-face-violent-attacks/a-38725243.

335 Salo Wittmayer Baron et al., "Judaism," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 19 October 2017, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Judaism.

336 Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "About the Jewish Religion," 1 January 2014, http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/aboutisrael/spotlight/pages/about%20the%20jewish%20religion.aspx.

337 BBC Religion, "Judaism," 6 December 2009, http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/judaism/.

338 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: People: Ethnic Groups," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Ethnic-groups#toc58006.

339 InterNations, "Religion in Germany," accessed 3 November 2017, https://www.internations.org/germany-expats/guide/16030-culture-shopping-recreation/religion-in-germany-16010.

340 Lucy McKeon, "Being Jewish in Today's Germany," *Boston Review*, 24 January 2014, http://bostonreview.net/books-ideas/lucy-mckeon-yascha-mounk-jewish-modern-germany.

341 Anthony Faiola and Ruth Eglash, "Waves of Young Israelis Find a Home in the Former Nazi Capital," *Washington Post*, 21 October 2014, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/waves-of-young-israelis-find-a-home-in-the-former-nazi-capital/2014/10/21/7ecd02bf-70fa-4b9f-b226-c4be22049a2f_story.html?utm_term=.244284fabb48.

342 Facts About Germany, "Foreign Policy: Protection of Human Rights," accessed 13 August 2018, https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/chapter/foreign-policy/protection-human-rights.

343 World Council of Churches, "Evangelical Church in Germany," accessed 15 November 2017, https://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/evangelical-church-in-germany.

344 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: People: Ethnic Groups," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Ethnic-groups#toc58006.

345 Deutsche Welle, "New German Marriage Law Causes Controversy," 7 July 2008, http://www.dw.com/en/new-german-marriage-law-causes-controversy/a-3466047.

346 Sheri Stritof, "German Marriage License Information: How to Get Married in Germany," Spruce, 21 January 2017, https://www.thespruce.com/german-marriage-license-information-2302907.

347 Justin Huggler, "Compulsory Income Tax on Christians Drives Germans away from Protestant and Catholic Churches," *Telegraph*, 30 January 2015, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/germany/11380968/Compulsory-income-tax-on-Christians-drives-Germans-away-from-Protestant-and-Catholic-churches.html.

348 Eric Kelsey, "More German Catholics Quit Church over Sex Abuse," Reuters, 7 April 2011, http://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-religion-catholic/more-german-catholics-quit-church-over-sex-abuse-idUSTRE73643020110407.

349 Harvard Divinity School, "With Changes to German Church Tax, Many Citizens Leaving Church," 27 July 2015, https://rlp.hds.harvard.edu/news/changes-german-church-tax-many-citizens-leaving-church.

350 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: People: Ethnic Groups," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Ethnic-groups#toc58006.

351 Tamsin Walker, "In Search of Germany's Religious Identity," Deutsche Welle, http://www.dw.com/en/in-search-of-germanys-religious-identity/a-2782986.

352 *Economist*, "God and Berlin," 26 March 2009, http://www.economist.com/node/13377308.

353 Ulrike Hummel, "Bumpy Start for Islam Classes in Germany," Deutsche Welle, 3 May 2013, http://www.dw.com/en/bumpy-start-for-islam-classes-in-germany/a-16648215.

354 Nicky Jones and Kerstin Braun, "Secularism and State Neutrality: The Headscarf in French and German Public Schools," *Australian Journal of Human Rights* 23, no. 1 (2017): 61–89, http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/1323238X.2017.1314441.

355 Emma Anderson, "When Muslim Women Are Allowed to Wear Headscarves in Germany, and When Not," Local Europe, 4 July 2017, https://www.thelocal.de/20170704/when-muslim-women-may-wear-headscarves-in-germany-an-ongoing-debate.

Endnotes for Chapter 2: Religion

356 Deutsche Welle, "Christmas Traditions in Germany," 22 December 2013, https://p.dw.com/p/1Aemx.

357 Cathrin Schaer, "Why Germans Are so Good at Christmas," Handelsblatt Global, 22 December 2017, https://global.handelsblatt.com/politics/why-germans-are-so-good-at-christmas-868526.

358 Frohe Weihnachten, "A Visit to Germany's Christmas Markets," Spiegel Online," 7 December 2006, http://www.spiegel.de/international/frohe-weihnachten-a-visit-to-germany-s-christmas-markets-a-451474.html.

359 The German Way and More, "German Christmas Traditions," accessed 13 August 2018, https://www.german-way.com/history-and-culture/holidays-and-celebrations/christmas/.

360 Sertan Sanderson, "Why St. Nicholas Puts Candy in Boots and Stole Our Hearts," Deutsche Welle, 6 December 2016, http://www.dw.com/en/why-st-nicholas-puts-candy-in-boots-and-stole-our-hearts/a-18889948.

361 Kerstin von Glowacki, "Celebrating Nikolaus before Christmas," Local Europe, 6 December 2013, https://www.thelocal.de/20131206/15915.

362 Deutsche Welle, "German Easter Traditions," 17 March 2005, http://www.dw.com/en/german-easter-traditions/a-1520904.

363 Kate Müser, "How to Celebrate Easter in Germany," Deutsche Welle, 31 March 2018, https://p.dw.com/p/1IGpl.

364 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Reformation Day," updated 23 July 2008, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Reformation-Day.

365 Timeand date.com, "Reformation Day in Germany," accessed 6 September 2018, https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/germany/reformation-day.

366 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 13 August 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html#ixzz4saJIWMQK.

367 DPA News Agency, "Rescuing Berlin's Most Famous World War II Ruin," Deutsche Welle, 17 August 2008, https://p.dw.com/p/Eyoe.

368 UNESCO, "Cologne Cathedral," accessed 22 August 2018, https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/292.

369 Frommer's, "Ulm Münster," accessed 27 August 2018, https://www.frommers.com/destinations/ulm/attractions/ulm-mnster.

370 Tourist Information Ulm/Neu-Ulm, "Ulm Minster," accessed 27 August 2018, https://tourismus.ulm.de/web/en/ulm-und-neu-ulm/kirchen-kloester/ulmer-muenster.php.

371 UNESCO, "Aachen Cathedral," accessed 27 August 2018, https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/3.

372 Deutsche Welle, "Salafists Worry German Islam Conference," 19 April 2012, http://www.dw.com/en/salafists-worry-german-islam-conference/a-15895927.

373 Sigmar Gabriel, "German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel Calls for Ban on Islamist Mosques," Deutsche Welle, 6 January 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/german-vice-chancellor-sigmar-gabriel-calls-for-ban-on-islamist-mosques/a-37036379.

374 Jesse Coburn, "As German Church Becomes Mosque, Neighbors Start to Shed Unease," *New York Times*, 23 July 2015, https://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/24/world/europe/as-german-church-becomes-mosque-neighbors-start-to-shed-unease.html.

375 Alice Su, "Why Germany's New Muslims Go to Mosque Less," *Atlantic*, 27 July 2017, http://pulitzercenter.org/reporting/why-germanys-new-muslims-go-mosque-less.

376 Harvard Divinity School, "Home: Religions: Islam: Beliefs and Practices," accessed 27 August 2018, https://rlp.hds.harvard.edu/beliefs-and-practices.

377 Higher Education Academy, "Etiquette for a Visit to a Mosque," accessed 27 August 2018, https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/system/files/ettiquette_mosque-2.pdf.

378 Jeffrey Hays, "Muslim Prayers and Symbols and Mosque Worship," Facts and Details, updated May 2016, http://factsanddetails.com/world/cat55/sub358/item1446.html.

379 Sabrina Pabst, "Liberal Mosque in Berlin Draws Criticism," Deutsche Welle, 21 June 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/liberal-mosque-in-berlin-draws-criticism/a-39353066.

380 Stiftung Denkmal, "Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe with Exhibition at the Information Centre," accessed 3 November 2017, https://www.stiftung-denkmal.de/en/memorials/the-memorial-to-the-murdered-jews-of-europe.html.

381 Jackie Craven, "The 2005 Berlin Holocaust Memorial by Peter Eisenman," ThoughtCo, 31 October 2017, https://www.thoughtco.com/the-berlin-holocaust-memorial-by-peter-eisenman-177928.

382 Michael Birnbaum, "In Germany, Cobblestones Mark Lives Lost in Holocaust," *Washington Post*, 14 December 2012, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/in-germany-cobblestones-mark-lives-lost-in-holocaust/2012/12/14/e8d64428-445b-11e2-8061-253bccfc7532_story.html?utm_term=.fe462dcb46e0.

383 Anne Thomas, "20 Years of 'Stolpersteine'," Deutsche Welle, 12 May 2016, http://www.dw.com/en/20-years-of-stolpersteine/a-19252785.

Chapter 2 | Religion

Assessment

1. The Protestant Reformation began when the Holy Roman Emperor imprisoned Martin Luther.

2. Germany now vies with France for the highest Muslim population in the EU.

3. Catholics and Protestants are distributed evenly throughout Germany.

4. Jews have been living in the region of today's Germany since 321 CE.

5. Religious education is compulsory in most German federal states.

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

Floating swimming pool, Spree River, Berlin Flickr / Carlos ZGZ

Traditions

Introduction

Although Germany is ethnically homogenous, its culture varies considerably by region. The most noticeable differences exist between the north and south. Historically, the north was mostly outside the Roman Empire, the south mostly inside it. As a result, Protestantism dominates in the north, Catholicism in the south. Northerners are more liberal; southerners, more conservative. In the north, Prussian influences are evident; people tend to be cool, self-sufficient, practical, and intellectual.[384, 385] People in the south are regarded as warmer and friendlier. Southerners often value family and community over individual needs and economic success, and they have a more relaxed

view of life. Attitudes about time in the south are also more relaxed than in the north, where punctuality is a virtue. Additionally, there are distinct differences in cuisine and speech. Within the country, the singsong southern dialects, with the rolled 'r' sound, are often compared to accents from the American South.[386, 387]

After the conflicts of the 19th century, the north industrialized sooner, and for much of the last two centuries it was wealthier. The once agrarian south, however, has evolved into a high-tech powerhouse since WWII. Today it is the most prosperous part of the Germany.[388, 389]

Values and Characteristics

Workers' protest, 1960s Hamburg
Wikimedia / Hennercrusius

Since the defeat in WWII, Germans have wholly rejected militarism as a part of their culture, instead focusing on collective responsibility and atonement. Swastikas and other Nazi emblems are banned, and Holocaust denial and incitement to hatred is punishable by imprisonment.[390, 391, 392] At the same time, the closely related Prussian virtues of efficiency, discipline, and work ethic remain prized. Thus, Germans today sometimes have mixed feelings about these virtues. The student protesters of 1968 rejected militarist virtues as a form of *Kadavergehorsam* (blind obedience) and a prerequisite for atrocities like those committed by the Nazi regime. In the same way, the term *Nibelungentreue* (Nibelung loyalty), which in the German Empire was a positive term used to describe absolute military loyalty, became an insult tied to the fanatical loyalty of fascism. Moreover, Germany became a country "almost devoid of nationalism" after WWII.[393]

Much of Germany's post-WWII financial success has been the result of the well-known industriousness and self-sacrifice of its people. This dedication to hard work, combined with public behavior that is both reserved and assertive, has produced a stereotype of Germans as cold and distant. But Germans treasure their private friendships, have a keen sense of community, and maintain a strong social conscience—they are firm supporters of renewable energy, recycling, and organic farming; they prize free time and traveling, and value the arts.[394, 395]

Ampelmännchen ("little traffic light men"), Berlin
Pixabay / betexion

Germans' ability to organize and create structure has also earned them a reputation for being efficient. This love of rules can sometime lead to overregulation and a certain inflexibility. For example, pedestrians do not cross the street at a red traffic light, even if no car is coming. Every house has four different garbage cans: two recycling bins—paper, and plastic and metal—a third for organic waste, and a fourth for general garbage.[396, 397] Many cities have a government office called the *Ordnungsamt* (Office of Order), which oversees sanitation and health inspections, and handles minor infractions such as illegal parking and littering, among other things.[398, 399]

Formulaic Codes of Politeness

In everyday life, many Germans interact in ways that tend to be neat and formal, especially in professional and public settings. When entering a store, for example, you will likely go unnoticed unless you announce yourself by saying *Guten Tag*. In the former East Germany, it is still common for friends and acquaintances to shake hands when they see each other every day. West Germans consider it more modern not to do so. When directly addressing someone, Germans use either the formal *Sie* or the informal *Du*. Coworkers typically use *Sie* with each other or use a title and the family name, such as Herr/Frau Schmidt. *Doktor* is used for people who hold a doctoral degree, and it may be repeated for people with double doctorates (Doktor Doktor Müller).[400] (When speaking, Germans only double the doctorates in formal occasions.) *Doktor* can also be combined with honorifics (Herr Doktor Meier).[401] The word *Fräulein* is even more outdated than its English equivalent "Miss," and younger women in Germany regard it as patronizing.[402, 403]

▶ Hi, Mr. Schmidt! (Informal) Are you doing well?		
Visitor:	halo hehr shmidt!	Hi, Mr. Schmidt!
Local:	halo!	Hello!
Visitor:	geyt es eenen goot?	Are you doing well?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 5

Germans tend to be very goal-oriented in their interactions. As a result, their communication style is frank, open, and direct. Truth comes before diplomacy. Many foreigners are surprised by the directness and honesty of Germans. Arguments tend to be educated and logical.[404] Moreover, unlike the United States, Germany does not have a small-talk culture, so it is uncommon for Germans to talk to strangers on the street. The benefit to the German directness is that there is not that much to decode.[405, 406]

Good morning!		
Visitor:	gooten morgen!	Good morning!
Local:	eenen aawch aaynen gooten morgen!	Good morning to you too!

Exchange 6

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter with German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen, 2015 DoD

Germans generally guard their personal space; it is normal to not touch, and Germans keep an arms' length distance when in conversation. Between close friends and family, holding hands, walking arm in arm, and hugging are common, but it takes quite a bit of time before Germans reach the point where it is acceptable to hug. Among younger Germans, especially in cities, the two- (Berlin) or three-cheek (Munich) kiss is a common greeting between close friends, but not typically between males, and not in the workplace. If there is any uncertainty about how to greet someone, the standard approach is a handshake while looking the other in the eyes. [407, 408]

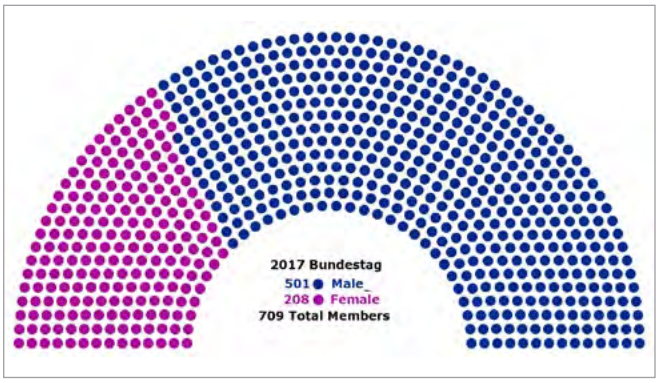
Good night!		
Visitor:	goote naKht!	Good night!
Local:	eenen aawch aaynen goote naKht!	Good night to you too!

Exchange 7

How are you?		
Visitor:	vee geyt es eenen?	How are you?
Local:	meer geyt es zer goot	I am doing very well.

Exchange 8

Gender Roles and Relationships



Members of the 2017 Bundestag, shown by gender
Graphic/DLIFLC

The German constitution guarantees equal rights to men and women.[409] Nevertheless, German society remains largely patriarchal, and women often experience sexism and discrimination in pay, hiring, and representation on executive boards.[410] They are also more likely to be responsible for childcare and household management. While the gap between men's and women's salaries has closed in the past decades, women still earned 21% less than their male counterparts as of 2016.[411, 412] German men tend to work at higher-level jobs than German women—though this difference has become a third smaller over the past decade. While the number of women in politics has increased since the 1980s, women are frequently underrepresented in positions of power.[413, 414, 415] In 2017, 31% of the Bundestag representatives were women.[416, 417] Women also remain underrepresented in business leadership roles. Of the 877 seats on the executive boards of the top 200 German companies, only 47 are occupied by women. In 2015, parliament passed a law aimed at increasing the number of women in leadership positions; the law includes quotas for Germany's largest publicly held companies.[418, 419]

The Arts

Germans have a strong tradition of handicrafts and literary arts, including printmaking by woodcut and engraving. Germany's impressive architecture spans all periods—including Romanesque, Gothic, Classicist, Baroque, Rococo, and Renaissance—and can be seen in seen in its cathedrals, castles, and public buildings. One well-known example of classical German art is the Brandenburg Gate, a former city gate that is now used to symbolize Berlin's—and the country's—unity.[420]

Literature

Two centuries ago, Germany had the reputation as a 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 best-known literary giants. The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm,

such as “Rumpelstiltskin,” “The Golden Goose,” “Cinderella,” “Rapunzel,” and “Little Red Riding Hood,” are known to children around the world.[421] Friedrich Nietzsche (1844–1900), Karl Marx (1818–1883), and Albert Einstein (1879–1955) are among the most famous German-born thinkers.[422]

Herman Hesse is one of the most widely read German authors; Hesse won the 1946 Nobel Prize in Literature. Hesse’s most popular novels are *Siddhartha* (1922) and *Steppenwolf* (1927).[423] Other famous authors who made their mark on the literary world are Thomas Mann and Heinrich Böll, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1929 and 1972, respectively.[424] 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.[425] The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, such as “Rumpelstiltskin,” “The Golden Goose,” “Cinderella,” “Rapunzel,” and “Little Red Riding Hood,” are known to children around the world.[426]

Visual Arts

Blue Horses by Franz Marc (detail)
Wikimedia / The Yorck Project

German painting has a long and distinguished history stretching back to medieval illuminated manuscripts and wall paintings. Among Germany’s most internationally recognized artists are the Renaissance painter Albrecht Dürer, the Romanticist Casper David Friedrich, the members of the Expressionist art groups *Die Brücke* and *Der Blaue Reiter*, and the pioneer of the Dada and Surrealist movements, Max Ernst.[427] The Expressionist movement is in many ways a German movement that began when German artists rebelled against the bourgeois culture at the turn of the century.[428] The style first emerged in 1905 with *Die Brücke* (the Bridge) artist collective in Dresden, and was championed by such artists as Franz Marc, August Macke, and Ernst Ludwig Kirchner.[429], [430], [431] Their bold style using jagged lines and crude brushwork dominated German art until the end of WWI. Under Nazi rule, German Expressionist painters suffered greatly.[432, 433]

During the Expressionist era of the 1920s, Germany produced more films than any other European nation. The nature and quality of the films produced at this time—such as Robert Wiene’s *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and Fritz Lang’s *Metropolis*—had a

lasting influence on the international film industry.[434, 435] Contemporary German feature films and documentaries have enjoyed considerable international success. In recent years, *Nowhere in Africa* (2002), and *The Lives of Others* (2006) won Oscars for Best Foreign Film.[436, 437] Between 1968 and 1982, internationally acclaimed German directors Werner Herzog, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, and Wim Wenders heavily influenced the New German Cinema.[438]

Music and Dance

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.[439]

The Philharmonie concert hall, Berlin
Flickr / Jorge Franganillo

Fasching parade, Donaueschingen
Flickr / F Delventhal

Germans have made great contributions to classical music, and the music of famous German composers such as Ludwig von Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms, George Frideric Handel, and Richard Wagner lives on today. 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.[440, 441] 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 EU. The anthem is played in official ceremonies and does not include the chorus.[442]

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

related *Volkstümliche* or *Schalger* popular music traditions have catchy pop tunes with easy to understand, happy, and often sentimental lyrics—comparable to Country Western music in the United States.[443, 444]

Modern German musicians have influenced many pop and rock musicians around the world. Among Germany's most well-known bands are the Scorpions, Tangerine Dream, and Kraftwerk. Falling under the *Krautrock* genre, Tangerine Dream and Kraftwerk were experimental rock bands of the 1970s that contributed to the evolution of electronic, ambient, and even hip-hop music worldwide.[445, 446]

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—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, and German choreographers continue to influence the modern dance scene.[447, 448, 449]

Pastimes and Sports

Cyclists in the annual Rund um Köln, Cologne
Flickr / Flowizm ...

The average German generally enjoys an active lifestyle; taking long walks, cycling, and hiking are popular pastimes.[450] These quiet activities conceal a population of devoted sports enthusiasts. The German enthusiasm for sports, combined with a knack for organizing and state-of-the-art infrastructure, has led Germany to be a frequent host for world championships for a wide variety of sports, from soccer and figure skating, to hockey and handball.[451] Germany has hosted two Olympics, one in 1936 in Berlin and another in 1972 in Munich.[452] 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.[453]

Soccer (*Fussball*) is the most attended and played sport in Germany. The German Soccer Association consists of more than 26,000 clubs and 178,000 teams. The

country's professional league, the *Bundesliga*, is among the most respected in the world, drawing more spectators, on average, than any other league in the world.[454, 455] Germany has won four World Cups since 1950, and it is the Fédération Internationale de Football Association's top-ranked team heading into the 2018 World Cup season.[456, 457]

Cuisine

Food

Germans love rich, hearty cuisine. Though each area of Germany has its own definition of a traditional meal, it often revolves around three staples: bread, sausage, and potatoes. Contemporary cuisine is lighter and more international, and generally speaking, Germans like their food less sweet than Americans are used to.[458, 459]

Bread rolls (Brötchen), Frankfurt
Flickr / Marco Verch

Germans produce more than 300 varieties of bread and 1,200 types of rolls and mini-breads (*Brötchen* and *Kleingebäck).*[460] *Weizenbrot* is wheat bread, and *Roggenbrot* is rye bread. Whole grain breads are *Vollkornbrote*.[461] German bakeries are so important that they do not have to follow the strictly regulated German laws regarding regular businesses hours.[462]

Varieties of Wurst, Frankfurt
Wikimedia / Daderot

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. *Weisswurst* is made of veal. *Blutwurst* (blood sausage) is made from a mixture of congealed pig's or cow's blood, meat, and bread or oatmeal fillers.[463, 464]

Meals frequently include a meat dish, and pork is more common than beef. Popular choices are *Schnitzel* (breaded and fried meat cutlets), *Schweinbraten* (roast pork),

and *Sauerbraten* (roast beef marinated in vinegar).[465] Cabbage, beets, and turnips are commonly incorporated into meals, as they are native to Germany. Potatoes (*Kartoffeln*) in any form and sauerkraut (including *Rotkohl*, a sweet red cabbage dish) are also stars of German cuisine.[466, 467]

Traditional desserts include cakes (*Kuchen*) 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).[468] Germans have a *Kaffee und Kuchen* (coffee and cake) tradition that allows them to eat cake any afternoon.[469]

Beverages

Germans invented the word *Stammtisch* (a table reserved for regular guests in a pub), and they have a strong social drinking culture. Beer and wine can be purchased almost anywhere (even newspaper stands) and consumed in snack bars, parks, on the street, and even on public transport.[470] Beer (*Bier*) is the favorite alcoholic beverage and comes in either dark (*dunkles*) or light (*helles*) varieties. Pilsner is the most popular variety, though Germany is known as the birthplace of many other beer varieties, including *Weizenbier* (wheat beer) and *Alt*.[471, 472]

Hofbräuhaus am Platzl beer hall, Munich
Wikimedia / Perry Wong

Oktoberfest beer
Flickr / JasonParis

German beer-making generally follows centuries-old brewing traditions once practiced by small family and monastery breweries. The Beer Purity Law of 1516, the world's oldest food law, applies to all German beers. It states that only water, hops, and barley may be used to craft beer. Between 5,000 and 6,000 types of beer are produced in Germany.[473, 474] Brandy (*Weinbrand*), schnapps (*Schnaps*), and wine (*Wein*)—especially Riesling—are also favorite German alcoholic beverages.[475, 476] Germans frequently mix beer

and wine (and apple juice and Coke) with sparkling water, which then becomes a *Schorle* (spritzer).[477]

In Germany, a drink is not just a drink—it represents history, culture, and tradition. When drinking with Germans, it is considered bad form to take the first sip without giving a toast. Usually a toast is as simple as saying "*prost*" (cheers!). Before the first sip, make sure to keep eye contact with each person at the table as you clink glasses—Germans consider it a serious taboo to not make eye contact with every person before drinking.[478]

Eating in a German Home

German dinner, Nuremberg
Flickr / Jan

To avoid dragging dirt from the street into the home, German hosts may expect guests to remove their shoes; if they do, they will often provide slippers. While gift-giving is not common among business associates, when invited to a German home guests may bring flowers, wine, chocolates, or a small gift that represents their home country or region. Flowers are given in uneven numbers (except 13); avoid red roses, as they symbolize romantic intentions, and carnations, lilies, chrysanthemums, as they symbolize mourning. Gifts are usually opened when received.[479]

Where do my shoes go?		
Visitor:	vo zolen maayna shooha hin?	Where do my shoes go?
Local:	heer in daas regaal	Here on the rack.

Exchange 9

I really appreciate your hospitality.		
Visitor:	daanka fuer eereh gast-froynd-shaft	I really appreciate your hospitality.
Local:	es ist meer aayna froyda	It's my pleasure.

Exchange 10

Lesson in German dining etiquette, Ramstein Air Base
U.S. Air Force

It is customary to wait until everyone is seated before beginning to eat. Alternatively, you can begin when the host declares *Guten Appetit* (enjoy your meal) or *Mahlzeit* (literally "meal time"). When eating at a table, it may be considered rude to keep one or both hands in your lap, so always keep your hands (not elbows) on the table in view of everyone.[480] A fork is always held in the left hand, and a knife in the right, and keep both in your hands while eating. Finally, do not cut up an entire piece of meat at one time, but rather one bite at a time.[481]

The food tastes very good.		
Visitor:	daas esen shmeykt zer goot	The food tastes very good.
Local:	daanka fuer daas kompleement	Thanks for the compliment.

Exchange 11

What is the name of this dish?		
Visitor:	vee haaySt deezes geriKht?	What is the name of this dish?
Local:	daas ist saawer-brahten	This is sauerbrauten.

Exchange 12

What ingredients are used to make sauerbraten?		
Visitor:	velKhe tsoo-taten braawKha iKh um aaynen sawer-braaten tsoo maaKhen?	What ingredients are used to make sauerbraten?
Local:	rind-flaaysh, ehseeg, tsweeb-ehln, karotehn, gevooertz-nelken, sukaa unt aandere gevooert-tseh	Beef, vinegar, onions, carrots, cloves, sugar and other spices.

Exchange 13

Dress Codes and Traditional Dress

Spectators near Alexanderplatz
Flickr / David J

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.[482, 483] Several German brands are well-known in the United States. Adidas, more popular in Europe than Nike, started as a footwear company in the 1940s. Puma is another famous German sportswear brand and, like Adidas, is one of the world's most recognizable brands.[484, 485] Descendants of 18th-century shoemakers from a small German village designed the comfortable shoes, clogs, and sandals known throughout the world as Birkenstocks.[486]

The traditional national costume in Germany, and German-speaking countries, is the *Tracht*, a word that covers a variety of regionally-specific men's and women's garments (including the *Dirndl* and *Lederhosen*). It once defined a person's marital status, ethnic heritage, occupation, and region of residence. *Tracht* is still seen during festivals, at weddings, and at official occasions throughout the country.[487, 488]

The *Dirndl* is a traditional woman's dress that is 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. Women generally wear the *Dirndl* with clunky-heeled felt shoes adorned with decorative buckles.[489, 490]

Men's traditional leather pants are called *Lederhosen*. The pants are commonly embroidered with various designs such as the Bavarian edelweiss flower and accessorized with suspenders. The look is completed with a checkered shirt, long socks, and a regionally specific jacket and hat. Men wear a *Haferi* (half-shoe) with a thick leather or rubber sole. Historically, these garments were common attire for Germany's working men in Alpine regions and Bavaria.[491, 492]

Lederhosen, Hofbräuhaus, Munich
Flickr / Roman Boed

Nonreligious Celebrations

New Year's Eve (Sylvester)

New Year's Eve skyline, Jena, Thuringia
Flickr / Rene Schwietzke

Germans mark the New Year with parties, street festivals, fireworks, and feasts. Called *Sylvester* in German, the holiday also marks the feast of St. Sylvester (Pope Sylvester I), who passed away on New Year's Eve in 335 BCE. He is known for having healed lepers and for baptizing the Roman emperor Constantine.[493] Germans typically observe different regional superstitions at the New Year. Around the country, however, fireworks are an important feature in celebrations. The tradition dates to the pre-medieval era when Germanic peoples used loud noises to ward off evil spirits before the start of the new year. The biggest and most notable fireworks display occurs in the capital, Berlin—a massive spectacle that sets off car alarms and fills the skyline with smoke and bright flashes of light.[494] Private parties with friends or family often involve eating fondue or a raclette, drinking *Feuerzangenbowle* or *Gluhwein* (mulled wine or rum). Another ancient tradition, *Bleigießen* involves fortune-telling by reading the shapes made by molten lead dropped into cold water. In Bavaria, feasts may include *Weisswurst* (veal sausages) and goulash soup. As midnight strikes, church bells ring in the new year and people toast with sparkling wine (*Sekt*), wishing each other a *Guten Rutsch*—or good luck as they "slide" into the next year.[495, 496]

Happy New Year!		
Visitor:	fro-hes noy-ehs yaar!	Happy New Year!
Local:	eenen aawch!	Same to you, too!

Exchange 14

Mardi Gras (Karneval, Fasching)

The date varies, but *Karneval* (or *Fastnacht*, *Fasching*) is a pre-Lent festival season that starts in November, breaks for Christmas, and kicks into full swing in January. This German version of Mardi Gras is celebrated in the mostly Catholic south and west of Germany, and energetically in Cologne. The festival's pagan roots trace back to

Roman celebrations; masks were worn to drive out the evil spirits of winter. In the Middle Ages, it was a time when people of different classes could gather and hide their social background behind masks and costumes.[497, 498] Today, it is the time of year when the normal rules of polite society are tossed aside. *Karneval* is an irreverent celebration, an expression of disorderly fun that mocks those in power. *Rosenmontag* (Rose Monday) is the main celebration day of *Karneval*, and features parties and parades with floats known for their biting political satire—and which often descend into the realm of the crude.[499, 500]

Oktoberfest

Traditional dancing at Oktoberfest, Munich
Flickr / digital cat

Annually, as many as 6 million people attend Oktoberfest in Munich, making it the world's largest beer and folk festival.[501] While the 16-day event is called *Oktober*-fest, it starts in mid-September and runs through the beginning of October. Festivities include eating, singing, dancing, and, of course, drinking. Across the 85 acres that host Oktoberfest are strewn 14 huge tents holding 7,000–10,000 people each, plus music stages, fairground rides, shooting galleries, and *Ochsenbraterei* (ox-roasting spits). *Dirndl*-clad barmaids serve one-liter (*ein Maß*) steins of beer from one of Munich's six breweriesand local specialties. The goal for many attendees is to drink beer as quickly as possible while belting out popular songs. But for those who want to hold down their food, there are non-alcoholic beverages, such as *Apfelschorle* (apple juice and mineral water) or *Spezi* (orange lemonade and Coke).[502, 503, 504]

The Oktoberfest tradition started in 1810 with the wedding celebration of Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen. All Munich citizens were invited to a reception party on the field in front of the city gate. The field was later named the *Theresienwiese* (Teresa's Meadow) in the bride's honor. It was so popular that it became an annual event. Oktoberfest is still held on the *Theresienwiese*, and Bavarians refer to the event simply as the "*Wiesn*." Thus, "*Wilkommen zur Wiesn*" means "Welcome to Oktoberfest."[505]

Other Celebrations and Holidays

October 3 marks *Tag der Deutschen Einheit* (German Unification Day), the day in 1990 East and West Germany reunited. It is the only federally mandated holiday in the country. In many countries, national days are marked with large, colorful celebrations that include fireworks and military parades. German Unification Day is more subdued, with a festival at the Brandenburg Gate.[506, 507] Beyond that, most Germans celebrate it as a quiet day of rest and a chance for a family outing, if at all.[508]

A Unification Day festival in Bavaria
Flickr / digital cat

On the night of Easter Sunday in some regions of Germany, people light "Easter bonfires." The April 30 bonfire tradition, however, does not have its roots in Easter, but is derived from an older celebration, *Walpurgisnacht* (Walpurgis Night). It is a hybrid pagan-Catholic celebration that some compare to Halloween. April 30 is the eve of the feast day of Saint Walpurga, an eighth-century abbess known for speaking out against witchcraft and sorcery. Also known as *Hexennacht* (Witches' Night), it is the night when witches are said to hold a large celebration on Brocken, the highest peak in the Harz Mountains.[509, 510] Bonfires were believed to scare away evil spirits, and today many Germans still light bonfires in celebration of Walpurgis Night.[511, 512]

Walpurgisnacht celebration, Heidelberg
Flickr / Gordon

Dos and Don'ts

- **Don't** operate house and garden appliances or machinery after 8 p.m. or anytime on Sundays. There are ordinances around the country limiting noise during these *Ruhezeiten* (quiet times). Additionally, most shops are closed on Sunday, except for bakeries and grocery stores.

• **Don't** talk about WWII with Germans you don't know well. It is considered extremely rude to bring up the subject. More importantly, never carry Nazi memorabilia or do the Nazi salute, even jokingly—it can land you in prison.

• **Don't** close your door to a chimney sweep. It's illegal to refuse entry to a chimney sweep if he or she wants to come into your home.

• **Do** use the formal "you" form (*Sie*) with older Germans and people in authority. In fact, you could be fined if you disrespect a police officer with the informal pronoun *Du*.

• **Do** be on time. Being late to appointments is severely frowned upon; aim to be punctual if not a little early. It is a matter of respect for other people's time.

• **Don't** chew gum in public. A German slang term for Americans is *Kaugummifresser* (gum-chewers). Walking around with chewing gum in your mouth is often considered vulgar.

• **Don't** wish a German Happy Birthday before the actual date. For most Germans, a premature birthday wish is bad luck.

• **Do** look people in the eyes when you toast. Not doing so is considered impolite and, according to some Germans, will saddle you with seven years of bad luck in the bedroom.

• **Do** walk on the same side of the sidewalk as cars drive on the street and avoid walking in bike paths. Walking against foot traffic is considered rude.

• **Do** be frank and as honest as possible. Germans can be blunt in their personal interactions, which they equate with honesty, and they expect the same forthrightness from others.

• **Don't** ask questions about religion, money, or politics of Germans you don't know well. Germans are private people, and it takes a certain amount of time before they are comfortable discussing such topics.

Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions

384 Peter Finn, "Some Germans Wary of New Prussian Pride," *Washington Post*, 19 January 2001, https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2001/01/19/some-germans-wary-of-new-prussian-pride/368651dd-c475-4435-8c23-63edb7129439/?utm_term=.4a59af46b70b.

385 Roger Boyes, "The Prussians are Coming," *Prospect Magazine*, 26 January 2011, https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/magazine/the-prussians-are-coming.

386 *Economist*, "On Almost Every Indicator, Germany's South is Doing Better than its North," 20 August 2017, https://www.economist.com/blogs/kaffeeklatsch/2017/08/explaining-munich-miracle.

387 Spiegel Online, "Germany's Real Divide," 23 March 2006, http://www.spiegel.de/international/backward-southerners-frigid-northerners-germany-s-real-divide-a-407053.html.

388 Julia Kollewe, "How Germany's South Became the Backbone of a Vibrant Economy," *Guardian*, 17 September 2012, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/sep/17/germany-south-backbone-economy.

389 Julia Kollewe, "How Bavaria Became a European Silicon Valley," *Guardian*, 14 March 2011, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/mar/15/bavaria-reinvents-itself-germany-silicon-valley.

390 Anna Saurbrey, "How Germany Deals With Neo-Nazis," *New York Times*, 23 August 2017, https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/23/opinion/germany-neo-nazis-charlottesville.html.

391 Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian, "What Happens When You Ban Nazi Symbols at a Nazi March?" *Foreign Policy*, 21 August 2017, http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/08/21/what-happens-when-you-ban-nazi-symbols-at-a-nazi-march/.

392 Matthew Schofield, "How Germany Dealt With Its Symbols of Hate," *McClatchy DC*, 30 July 2015, http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/world/article29557972.html.

393 Dirk Kurbjuweit, "What Today's Germany Owes to Its Once-Communist East," Spiegel Online, 2 October 2014, http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/how-east-germany-influences-modern-day-german-politics-a-994410.html.

394 Elizabeth Grenier, "10 Very German Passions," Deutsche Welle, 31 May 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/10-very-german-passions/a-38483550.

395 Kim Ann Zimmermann, "German Culture: Facts, Customs and Traditions," Live Science, 23 January 2015, https://www.livescience.com/44007-german-culture.html.

396 Melissa Eddy, "Germany Gleefully Leads List of World's Top Recyclers," *New York Times*, 28 November 2016, https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/28/world/what-in-the-world/germany-gleefully-leads-list-of-worlds-top-recyclers.html?mtrref=www.google.com&gwh=56801E73FA08B9CA7983534C7DE5D75F&gwt=pay.

397 How to Germany, "All About Recycling in Germany," accessed 31 January 2018, https://www.howtogermany.com/pages/recycling.html.

398 Roger Hopkins Burke, ed., "Policing Incivilities in Germany," in *Hard Cop, Soft Cop* (Portland, OR: Willan Publishing: 2004), 51.

399 MiniLex, "What Is the Function of the Public Order Office in Germany?" accessed/translated 27 August 2018, https://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=y&prev=_t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.minilex.de%2Fa%2Fwelche-funktion-hat-das-ordnungsamt-deutschland&edit-text=.

400 David A Groneberg, "Use of Dr Is Perhaps Even More Confusing in Germany Than UK," *BMJ* 322, no 7301 (23 June 2001), https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1120588/.

401 Brian Melican, "Trust Him He's a Doctor . . . and a Professor . . . and An Engineer," *Telegraph*, 30 April 2013, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/expat/contributors/brianmelican/10024859/Trust-him-hes-a-doctor...-and-a-professor...-and-an-engineer.html.

402 InterNations, "German Customs and Etiquette," accessed 4 December 2017, https://www.internations.org/germany-expats/guide/16030-culture-shopping-recreation/german-customs-and-etiquette-16011.

403 Tamsin Walker, "In Germany, the Importance of Being Formal," Deutsche Welle, 2 November 2011, http://www.dw.com/en/in-germany-the-importance-of-being-formal/a-2860068.

404 Local, "7 German Habits that Foreigners Really Struggle to Cope With," 22 November 2016, https://www.thelocal.de/20161122/seven-things-about-germans-that-make-us-brits-uncomfortable.

405 Michael Schmitz, "Small Talk: Why Germans Won't Tell You How They Feel," ThoughtCo., 16 March 2017, https://www.thoughtco.com/small-talk-and-germans-1444339.

406 German Way and More, "American Small Talk vs German No Talk," 21 December 2009, https://www.german-way.com/american-small-talk-vs-german-no-talk.

407 Courtney Tenz, "International Kissing Day: French Greeting Makes Headway in Germany," Deutsche Welle, 6 July 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/international-kissing-day-french-greeting-makes-headway-in-germany/a-39548459.

Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions

408 Local, "Five Sure-Fire Ways to Impress Germans With Your Manners," 24 May 2016, https://www.thelocal.de/20160524/five-sure-fire-ways-to-master-german-manners-etiquette-customs.

409 European Institute for Gender Equality, "Gender Equality Index 2015: Germany," accessed 4 December 2017, http://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications/gender-equality-index-2015-germany.

410 Local, "Women Earn Less, are More Likely to Face Sexism at German Startups: Study," 1 November 2017, https://www.thelocal.de/20171101/women-get-paid-less-are-more-likely-to-face-sexism-at-german-startups-study.

411 Deutsche Welle, "Study: German Wage Gap Between Men and Women Among Europe's Biggest," 2 March 2016, http://www.dw.com/en/study-german-wage-gap-between-men-and-women-among-europes-biggest/a-19086382.

412 Deutsche Welle, "Gender Pay Gap in Germany Decreasing Very Slowly," 14 March 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/gender-pay-gap-in-germany-decreasing-very-slowly/a-37934144.

413 Elke Holst and Katharina Wrohlich, "Women Executives Barometer 2018," *DIW Weekly* 3 (DIW Berlin, 2018): 17–43, https://www.diw.de/documents/publikationen/73/diw_01.c.575403.de/dwr-18-03.pdf.

414 Renuka Rayasam, "Why Germany's New Quota for Women on Boards Looks Like a Bust," *Fortune*, 11 March 2016, http://fortune.com/2016/03/11/germany-board-quota-women/.

415 Katrin Bennhold, "In Angela Merkel, German Women Find Symbol, but Not Savior," *New York Times*, 13 September 2017, https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/13/world/europe/angela-merkel-germany-election.html.

416 Deutsche Welle, "Percentage of Women in German Parliament Drops," 10 November 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/percentage-of-women-in-german-parliament-drops/av-40907851.

417 Carys Roberts, "Gender Balance of Power: Women's Representation in Regional and Local Government in the UK and Germany," Progressive Politics Think Tank, 3 May 2017, https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/gender-balance-of-power.

418 Deutsche Welle, "German Managerial Women's Quota 'Working,' Says Minister Schwesig," 8 March 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/german-managerial-womens-quota-working-says-minister-schwesig/a-37858552.

419 Global Legal Monitor, Library of Congress, "Germany: Gender Quotas for Large Companies and for Federal Bodies," 17 March 2015, http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/germany-gender-quotas-for-large-companies-and-for-federal-bodies/.

420 Kim Ann Zimmermann, "German Culture: Facts, Customs and Traditions," LiveScience, 23 January 2015, https://www.livescience.com/44007-german-culture.html.

421 Grimmstories.com, "Grimms' Fairy Tales: The Complete Tales of the Brothers Grimm," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.grimmstories.com/en/grimm_fairy-tales/index.

422 Eckhard Bernstein, "Chapter 7: Literature," in *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 101.

423 Nobelprize.org, "Hermann Hesse—Biographical," accessed 4 December 2017, https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1946/hesse-bio.html.

424 Eckhard Bernstein, "Chapter 7: Literature," in *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 112–113.

425 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Günter Grass," updated 3 April 2015, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/242123/Gunter-Grass.

426 Grimmstories.com, "Grimms' Fairy Tales: The Complete Tales of the Brothers Grimm," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.grimmstories.com/en/grimm_fairy-tales/index.

427 Albrecht Durer: The Complete Works, "Albrecht Durer (1471–1528)," accessed 27 August 2018, https://www.albrecht-durer.org/.

428 Widewalls, "Famous German Painters of the 20th Century," accessed 4 December 2017, http://www.widewalls.ch/famous-german-painters-20th-century/.

429 Local, "Ten Astounding German Paintings You Have to See Before You Die," 19 December 2016, https://www.thelocal.de/20161219/ten-german-paintings-you-need-to-see-durer-holbein-cranach-richter.

430 German Expressionism, "Important Contributors to German Expressionism," accessed 4 December 2017, http://germanexpressionism.net/.

431 Brücke Museum, "The Artists' Association 'Brücke'," accessed 4 December 2017, http://www.bruecke-museum.de/bridge.htm.

432 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Expressionism," updated 19 August 2009, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/198740/Expressionism.

433 Eckhard Bernstein, "Chapter 10: Painting," *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 164–167.

434 Eckhard Bernstein, "Chapter 8: The Media and Cinema," *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 123–126.

Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions

435 Alissa Darsa, "Art House: An Introduction to German Expressionist Films," ArtNet News, 26 December 2013, https://news.artnet.com/market/art-house-an-introduction-to-german-expressionist-films-32845.

436 Facts about Germany, "Culture and the Media: Successful Film Nation," accessed 5 September 2018, https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/successful-film-nation.

437 Askwith Collection, University of Michigan Library, "Best Foreign Films 2015–1980," updated 31 July 2018, https://guides.lib.umich.edu/c.php?g=283244&p=1888435.

438 Empire Online, "Movie Movements that Defined Cinema: New German Cinema," 10 August 2016, http://www.empireonline.com/movies/features/new-german-cinema-movie-era/.

439 Eckhard Bernstein, "Chapter 9: Performing Arts," *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 145–149.

440 Virtual Museum of Protestantism, "Martin Luther and Music," accessed 4 December 2017, https://www.museeprotestant.org/en/notice/martin-luther-and-music/.

441 Andrea Valentino, "Martin Luther: Father of Protest," BBC News, 24 May 2017, http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20170522-martin-luther-father-of-protest-songs.

442 European Union, "The European Anthem," accessed 4 December 2017, https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/anthem_en.

443 Lance Looper, "How German Traditions Work: Traditional German Music," How Stuff Works, accessed 12 December 2017, http://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/national-traditions/german-tradition3.htm.

444 Eckhard Bernstein, "Chapter 9: Performing Arts," *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 145.

445 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Cultural Life: Music and Dance," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Music-and-dance.

446 Eckhard Bernstein, "Chapter 9: Performing Arts," *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 154–155.

447 Eckhard Bernstein, "Chapter 9: Performing Arts," *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 152.

448 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Cultural Life: Music and Dance," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Music-and-dance.

449 Gabriele Malik, "History of German Folk Dance," eHow, accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.ehow.com/about_6692445_history-german-folk-dance.html.

450 Rough Guides, "Germany: Sports and Outdoor Activities," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.roughguides.com/destinations/europe/germany/sports-and-outdoor-activities/.

451 Erik Kirschbaum, "Germany Takes Title for Hosting World Championships," Reuters, 4 February 2007, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-championships/germany-takes-title-for-hosting-world-championships-idUSL0444878420070205.

452 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Munich 1972 Olympic Games," updated 9 June 2015, https://www.britannica.com/event/Munich-1972-Olympic-Games.

453 Olympic Games, "Olympic Medals," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.olympic.it/english/medal.

454 Jacob Davidson, "Why Germany is So Good at Soccer (and the U.S. Is So Mediocre) in 2 Charts," *Time*, 10 July 2014, http://time.com/money/2973787/why-germany-is-so-good-at-soccer-and-the-u-s-is-so-mediocre-in-2-charts/.

455 Soccer Box, "Why Does the Bundesliga Have the Top Stadium Attendance in Europe?" accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.soccerbox.com/blog/top-stadium-attendance-europe/.

456 FIFA, "Men's Ranking," 23 November 2017, http://www.fifa.com/fifa-world-ranking/ranking-table/men/index.html.

457 Top End Sports, "World Cup Previous Winners," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.topendsports.com/events/worldcupsoccer/winners.htm.

458 Eckhard Bernstein, "Chapter 4: Food, Wine, Beer, and Fashion," *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 49–52.

459 Matthias von Heir and Volker Wagener, "Germany From A to Z," Deutsche Welle, 28 October 2015, http://www.dw.com/en/germany-from-a-to-z/a-18812923.

460 German Food Guide, "Bread," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.germanfoodguide.com/bread.cfm.

461 German Food Guide, "German Bread Categories," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.germanfoodguide.com/breadcat.cfm.

462 Eckhard Bernstein, "Chapter 4: Food, Wine, Beer, and Fashion," *Culture and Customs of Germany* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004), 50.

463 Jennifer McGavin, "12 German Sausages, from Brilliant to Wonderful," Spruce, 17 February 2017, http://germanfood.about.com/od/regionalspecialties/tp/12Germansausages.htm.

Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions

464 German Food Guide, "Wurst (Sausages and Cold Cuts)," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.germanfoodguide.com/wurst.cfm.

465 Kathryn Parry, "German Cuisine: Traditional German Food," Health Guidance, accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.healthguidance.org/entry/14856/1/German-Cuisine--Traditional-German-Food.html.

466 Rough Guides, "Germany: Food and Drink," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.roughguides.com/destinations/europe/germany/food-and-drink/.

467 Kathryn Parry, "German Cuisine: Traditional German Food," Health Guidance, accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.healthguidance.org/entry/14856/1/German-Cuisine--Traditional-German-Food.html.

468 German Foods, "Recipes for Authentic German Cakes and Desserts," accessed 12 December 2017, http://germanfoods.org/recipes/recipes-authentic-german-cakes-desserts/.

469 Elizabeth Grenier, "10 Very German Passions," Deutsche Welle, 31 May 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/10-very-german-passions/a-38483550.

470 Rachel Ryan, "The Highs and Lows of Germany's Drinking Culture," Deutsche Welle, 18 November 2006, http://www.dw.com/en/the-highs-and-lows-of-germanys-drinking-culture/a-2226609.

471 German Way and More, "Beer and Wine," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/germany-for-tourists/dining-out-in-germany/beer-and-wine/.

472 Bryce Eddings, "Get to Know These 10 Great German Beers," Spruce, 4 April 2017, https://www.thespruce.com/great-german-beers-353201.

473 Goethe Institute, "The Top 40 German Inventions," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/stg/ger/inv/enindex.htm.

474 Kim Ann Zimmermann, "German Culture: Facts, Customs and Traditions," Live Science, 23 January 2015, https://www.livescience.com/44007-german-culture.html.

475 Philip Oltermann, "Germans Lose their Taste for Beer as Drinkers Increasingly Switch to Wine," *Guardian*, 31 January 2014, http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/31/germans-losing-taste-beer-drinkers-choose-wine.

476 Facts about Germany, "Leisurely Enjoyment," accessed 6 September 2018, https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/chapter/way-life/leisurely-enjoyment.

477 Erin Porter, "Non-Alcoholic Drinks in Germany," TripSavvy, 27 March 2018, https://www.tripsavvy.com/non-alcoholic-summer-drinks-germany-1520155

478 Anne-Sophie Brändlin, "10 Faux Pas to Avoid in Germany," Deutsche Welle, 18 January 2017, https://www.dw.com/en/10-faux-pas-to-avoid-in-germany/a-36150124.

479 Passport to Trade, "Business Etiquette," accessed 12 December 2017, http://businessculture.org/western-europe/business-culture-in-germany/business-etiquette-in-germany/.

480 Local, "Five Sure-Fire Ways to Impress Germans With Your Manners," 24 May 2016, https://www.thelocal.de/20160524/five-sure-fire-ways-to-master-german-manners-etiquette-customs.

481 German Way and More, "Dining Etiquette in Germany," accessed 11 January 2018, https://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/germany-for-tourists/dining-out-in-germany/dining-etiquette-in-germany/.

482 InterNations, "German Business Culture: Dress Code," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.internations.org/germany-expats/guide/15987-jobs-business/german-business-culture-15990.

483 World Business Culture, "German Dress Code," accessed 26 January 2018, https://www.worldbusinessculture.com/country-profiles/germany/culture/german-dress-code/.

484 Will Heilpern, "Ranked: The 21 Brands Europeans Love Best," Business Insider, 20 May 2016, http://www.businessinsider.com/the-top-21-most-loved-brands-in-europe-2016-5/#5-adidas--129241-17.

485 Omar Akhtar, "The Hatred and Bitterness Behind Two of the World's Most Popular Brands," *Fortune*, 22 March 2013, http://fortune.com/2013/03/22/the-hatred-and-bitterness-behind-two-of-the-worlds-most-popular-brands/.

486 Birkenstock Express, "Birkenstock History," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.birkenstockexpress.com/Who-we-are/birkenstock-history.cfm.

487 Lance Looper, "How German Traditions Work: Traditional German Clothing," How Stuff Works, accessed 12 December 2017, http://people.howstuffworks.com/culture-traditions/national-traditions/german-tradition2.htm.

488 Marion Kummerow, "Dirndl Dresses and Lederhose Traditional Bavarian Tracht," Inside Munich, accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.inside-munich.com/dirndl-and-lederhose.html.

489 About Germany, "German Traditional Clothing," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.about-germany.org/culture/tradfashion.php.

490 Marion Kummerow, "Dirndl Dresses and Lederhose Traditional Bavarian Tracht," Inside Munich, accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.inside-munich.com/dirndl-and-lederhose.html.

Endnotes for Chapter 3: Traditions

491 Marion Kummerow, "Dirndl Dresses and Lederhose Traditional Bavarian Tracht," Inside Munich, accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.inside-munich.com/dirndl-and-lederhose.html.

492 Oktoberfest-dirndl-shop, "Mountain Boots and Haferi Shoes from Bavaria," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.oktoberfest-dirndl-shop.co.uk/shoes/mens.

493 Lily Cichanowicz, "How to Celebrate New Year's Eve in Germany," Culture Trip, 29 November 2016, https://theculturetrip.com/europe/germany/articles/how-to-celebrate-new-years-eve-in-germany/.

494 Carl Nasmen, "Downright Chaos in Berlin on New Year's Eve," Deutsche Welle, 31 December 2013, http://www.dw.com/en/downright-chaos-in-berlin-on-new-years-eve/a-17335265.

495 Michele Carloni, "Celebrating New Year's Eve in Germany," Expatica, accessed 12 December 2017, https://www.expatica.com/de/insider-views/Celebrating-New-Years-Eve-in-Germany_105321.html.

496 Bayern, "'Sylvester' and New Year Customs and Tradition in Bavaria," accessed 12 December 2017, https://www.bavaria.by/germany-bavaria-tradition-new-year-in-bavaria-sylvester-new-year.

497 Deutsches Haus, "What is Fasching?" accessed 12 December 2017, http://people.ucls.uchicago.edu/~mzemil/4thgerman/Fasching_intro_english.pdf.

498 Deutsche Welle, "Karneval Kicks Off the German Party Season," 11 November 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/karneval-kicks-off-the-german-party-season/a-673594.

499 Deutsche Welle, "Carnival Costumes in 2017," 25 February 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/carnival-costumes-in-2017/av-37709613.

500 Local, "German Carnival Floats Show Trump No Mercy," 27 February 2017, https://www.thelocal.de/20170227/in-pics-german-carnival-floats-show-trump-no-mercy.

501 Kaeli Conforti, "15 Things You Didn't Know About Oktoberfest," Today, 26 September 2012, https://www.today.com/food/15-things-you-didnt-know-about-oktoberfest-1B6112878.

502 Ullrich Fichtner, "Oktoberfest and Bavaria's Recipe for Success," Spiegel Online, 1 October 2103, http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/oktoberfest-microcosm-of-successful-bavarian-culture-a-925372.html.

503 Julia Stanek, "Expert Tips for a Rollicking Oktoberfest," Spiegel Online, 18 September 2013, http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/expert-tips-how-to-get-the-most-out-of-oktoberfest-a-922991.html.

504 Adrian Bridge, "Everything You Need to Know about Visiting Oktoberfest," *Telegraph*, 16 September 2017, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/germany/munich/articles/Oktoberfest-Munich-guide/.

505 Meunchen.de, "The History of the Oktoberfest," accessed 12 December 2017, http://www.muenchen.de/int/en/events/oktoberfest/history.html.

506 Dirk Kurbjuweit, "What Today's Germany Owes to Its Once-Communist East," Spiegel Online, 2 October 2014, http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/how-east-germany-influences-modern-day-german-politics-a-994410.html.

507 Berlin.de, "Day of German Unity Celebrations," 3 October 2017, https://www.berlin.de/en/events/2716319-2842498-day-of-german-unity.en.html.

508 Carla Christ, "How Germans Celebrate Their National Holiday," Deutsche Welle, 3 October 2014, http://www.dw.com/en/how-germans-celebrate-their-national-holiday/a-17973087.

509 Ingrid Bauer, "German Easter Traditions," ThoughtCo, 17 June 2017, https://www.thoughtco.com/german-easter-traditions-1444511.

510 Kate Müser, "How to Celebrate Easter in Germany," Deutsche Welle, 13 April 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/how-to-celebrate-easter-in-germany/a-19133159.

511 Stephen Wagner, "Walpurgis Night: The Other Halloween," ThoughtCo, 15 May 2017, https://www.thoughtco.com/walpurgis-night-the-other-halloween-2595375.

512 *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "Walpurgis Night," updated 28 May 2015, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Walpurgis-Night.

German Cultural Orientation

Chapter 3 | Traditions

Assessment

1. It is difficult to find vegetarian food in German cities.

2. Swastikas are not banned in Germany.

3. In Germany, hugging is not common between close friends.

4. German society is patriarchal.

5. *Tracht* is the traditional national costume in Germany.

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

Central Station, Berlin Wikimedia / Ansgar Koreng

Urban Life

Introduction

Many cities in Germany today are old in name only. A considerable heritage of historic buildings was lost during WWII. During the second half of the 20th century, nearly all western German towns and cities restored historic buildings from a variety of eras and architectural styles. The same process occurred much more slowly in the East, but preservation efforts increased after reunification.[513]

The typical German cityscape has a large vertical profile with numerous multistory buildings (though few skyscrapers) and set boundaries. There are no sprawling suburbs. Most cities are densely populated, growing up instead of out. New York, the densest

city in the United States, has roughly one-third the number of residents per square mile as Frankfurt, for example.[514]

Germans have a high degree of environmental awareness, and sustainable urban development policies have a long history. As a result, German cities are among the greenest in Europe, according to a survey ranking urban centers around the world.[515] Although German cities have extensive networks of public transport and cycle paths, nearly half the inhabitants still drive to work.[516]

Over three-quarters of all Germans now live in cities. Cities such as Berlin and Frankfurt have experienced continuous growth in the 2000s.[517, 518] There are many draws: good jobs, a clean environment, low crime rates, an abundance of leisure-time and cultural attractions, and excellent public transport facilities. But German cities face major challenges in coming years, including adjusting to climate change, an ageing population, and an increasing number of diverse ethnic groups fueled by heavy immigration.[519]

Rheinturm telecommunications tower, Düsseldorf
Pixabay / nokidoc

Urban Life

Urbanization

Germany's great urban explosion came late in the 19th century. Because industrialization was linked to the development of the railways, urban expansion was distributed among its many cities. Typically, the new urban workers were sent to impersonal five-story apartment blocks built on a monotonous grid of straight-line streets. In eastern Berlin and cities such as Dresden, Halle, and Leipzig, these current-day blocks present an urgent need for urban renewal.[520]

Germans, especially younger ones, are moving to cities where it is easier to reconcile having a family and a career. In cities, the distances are short and career opportunities are greater and more varied.[521] The demand for urban living space has led to a sharp rise in rents, especially for first-time renters. This holds true for real estate prices as well. Fewer Germans own their own home than almost anywhere

else in Europe—only 43%. The majority rent, which has been preferred by Germans since the end of WWII. Then, the shortage of housing and high unemployment led to a boom in construction of affordable rental housing.[522]

Dresden tram station
Flickr / Serge Bystro

Currently, there are few available rental spaces in Germany's large cities, especially compared to rural areas. An exception is the Ruhr area and eastern German cities, where the population is shrinking.[523] Almost 20% of Germans view the cost of living as a "heavy financial burden." On average, such costs absorb 35% of monthly incomes. Between 2004 and 2014, rental prices in 6 of the 14 largest German cities increased, with Berlin leading the list with a 45% rise. For this reason, the federal government has paved the way for rent caps in regions where the housing market is under pressure.[524]

Immigration

St. Demetrius Romanian Orthodox Church, Nuremberg
Flickr / Ștefan Jurcă

Most foreign nationals, immigrants, and refugees live in cities; Germany is the second-most favored destination in the world for immigrants after the United States.[525] Since the end of WWII, Germany has been shaped by three major periods of migration. The first occurred during the post-war manufacturing boom era, when approximately 2.6 million guest workers and their families from Turkey, Italy, Greece, and Spain arrived.[526, 527] With the fall of the Iron Curtain and the lifting of travel restrictions in the late 1980s, the waves of ethnic Germans who resettled from former Soviet states totaled 1.9 million. These immigration pressures came at times when Germany was tackling the economic and social challenges of reunification, some of which are ongoing today.[528, 529]

Makeshift housing for refugees in a suburb of Bremen
Wikimedia / Jan Pesula

Since 2015, more than one million migrants arrived in Germany, and many remain undocumented. The 2016 Integration Law is intended to regulate the rights and responsibilities of legitimate asylum seekers.[530, 531] 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.[532] This figure is second only to the United States.[533] The city-states of Berlin, Bremen, and Hamburg received more refugees per square kilometer than the other German states or the nation as a whole.[534]

Berlin, Bremen, and Hamburg are shouldering the responsibilities of housing, educating, training, and integrating individuals from different cultures and education levels. Moreover, many of the refugees need emergency health care and special services. All of this takes place during a period of social unease, given the recent terrorist attacks in Berlin and other areas around the country.[535] As a result, there is rising tension in everyday life around religious and cultural differences, and growing volatility in politics at every level.[536]

Affordable Housing

Berlin's Charité Hospital
Pixabay / jensjunge

With skyrocketing rents, privatization, and the growing number of working poor in Germany, affordable and social housing is increasingly in short supply in major cities.[537, 538] As a result, the country's homeless population grew significantly from 2010 to 2016, when an estimated 860,000 people across the country were without permanent shelter.[539, 540]

While cities have been quick to build temporary housing, there are more people seeking help than there is space in homeless and emergency shelters.[541] An estimated 52,000 people—both migrants and German poor—live on the streets.[542] The

homeless have set up camping spots in major city centers.[543, 544] Berlin, which has the highest number of homeless in Germany, has become a refuge for many people from Eastern Europe.[545]

Health Care

The German health care system is extensive and among the best in the world; infant mortality rates are much lower than in the United States and life expectancy is higher (81 years of age).[546] Health insurance is a legal requirement, and employers often pay part of employees' coverage. A broad range of hospitals, clinics, and doctor's offices throughout the country provide medical care. In German medical research, there is an emphasis on heart disease and cancer, both leading causes of death in Germany (though lower than in the United States).[547, 548] Combined, these diseases are responsible for 40–45% of all deaths in the country.[549, 550]

Corner pharmacy, Baden-Baden
Flickr / dierk schaefer

Is there a hospital nearby?		
Visitor:	geept es aayn krank-en-haaws in der naeya?	Is there a hospital nearby?
Local:	yaa, im shtatt-tsent-room	Yes, in the center of town.

Exchange 15

In addition to having advanced medical technology, Germany also has a large number of physicians per capita. In 2014, there was one medical doctor (*Arzt*) for every 250 people.[551] Moreover, access to care is easy and convenient. For example, pharmacists (*Apotheker*) can prescribe medication for simple ailments, removing the need for a trip to the doctor.[552]

Is Dr. Müller in?		
Visitor:	ist doKhtar muler daa?	Is Dr. Müller in?
Local:	naayn	No.

Exchange 16

Do you know what is wrong?		
Visitor:	vissen zee, vaas daas prohblEm ist?	Do you know what is wrong?
Local:	naayn	No.

Exchange 17

I am having pain, Doctor. Can you help me?		
Visitor:	iKh haaba shmer-tsen, her/fraaw doKhtar. koernen zee meer helfen?	I am having pain, Doctor. Can you help me?
Local:	yaa, iKh kan eenen helfen	Yes, I can help you.

Exchange 18

Germans were leaders in developing Western medicine and national health insurance. Germany has the world's oldest national health insurance system, dating back to the late 1880s. Chancellor Otto von Bismarck passed the Health Insurance Act of 1883, which provided health insurance to workers; these social insurance legislations were the first in the world and became the model for other countries.[553, 554]

Education

Students from Realschule Rheinau, Baden-Württemberg
Flickr / Chemi-Verbande Baden-Wurttemberg

Public education has long been a cultural priority. In Germans' minds, education contributes to a well-educated populace and a sense of common purpose. The education system is in the hands of the different federal states, with the central government playing only a minor role. German law requires school attendance (*Schulpflicht)* from age 6–15, and homeschooling is illegal. Children younger than 6 may attend kindergarten, but it is optional.[555]

There are as many as five different kinds of secondary schools and different educational paths. Students are divided into three different tracks: *Gymnasium* for students headed for college, *Realschule f*or students headed for white-collar positions, and *Hauptschule* aimed at blue-collar jobs. By the age of 10, students in Germany are typically on one of these three tracks. Most schools are public; there

Kindergarten sign, Bengel, Rhineland-Palatinate
Flickr / sporst

are private schools, but far fewer than in the United States.[556]

While kindergarten is optional, it has a long history in Germany. The German educational reformer Friedrich Fröbel introduced the idea of early education almost 200 years ago. He was convinced that the minds of young children should be nurtured and that play is essential to a child's education. This was the basis for his concept of the *Kindergarten*, which means "children's garden." At the beginning of Germany's industrialization, child labor was a part of life.[557] In 1837, Fröbel opened the first kindergarten, making it a sanctuary for children from the misery of the Industrial Revolution. His kindergartens included pleasant surroundings, self-motivated activity, playtime accompanied by songs and music, and exercise.[558, 559]

Vocational Schools

German vehicle maintenance apprentice, Ramstein Air Base
U.S. Air Force / Sara Keller

In Germany, there is a strong tradition of manual trades (*Handwerk*), such as electricians, car mechanics, carpenters, housepainters, metalworkers, plumbers, and bakers.[560] Training and qualification for these trades occur through vocational schools and apprenticeship programs, which are an integral part of the modern German education system. About 52% of German students follow this path. As a result, Germany has the fewest low-skilled workers of nearly any European country and the lowest youth unemployment of any advanced economy.[561] Germany's vocational track includes nine years of school followed by part-time vocational training together with an apprenticeship. Around age 16, German students can choose to study in *duale Berufsausbildung* (dual vocational training), meaning they receive both classroom instruction and on-site training in a company.[562] After completing the program, students have the option to take on further part-time vocational training or go on to college. Eventually, many apprentices are employed by the training firm.

In recent years, the numbers of students following the vocational track has declined while the number going on to college has risen. Analysts attribute this to low birth rates in the country and the changing aspirations of young Germans.[563, 564]

Higher Education

Germany has many universities and technical colleges, almost all of which fall under the authority of the individual federal states. Germany's most prestigious university is Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich, rated the 30th-most reputable university in the world. Heidelberg University and the Technical University of Munich also placed high in international rankings.[565]

The college preparatory track requires German students to attend *Gymnasium* beginning in the fifth year of school and successfully complete the *Abitur*, a university entrance examination. College students have a great deal of independence. Grades, for example, are largely independent of class attendance. They are given for end-of-semester oral and written examinations. Students are admitted to competitive major fields of study based on their *Abitur* scores.[566]

Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich
Wikimedia / dustpuppy

As of 2014, all German public universities were free to German and EU nationals. German students pay only administrative costs, and they and are supported with monthly grants or loans from the state. As of late 2017, most universities were also free to international students, but some states, such as Baden-Württemberg, had introduced fees for non-EU students, and more were expected to follow.[567] Exceptions are made for foreign students with permanent resident status in Europe and refugees with a right to stay.[568, 569]

Traffic and Transportation

City Streets and Cars

German cities, like most major European cities, are congested. Driving is generally more of a hassle than a necessity, as the country offers excellent public transportation.

Despite this, Germany has the highest number of registered passenger cars in Europe—45 million in 2015. Cars clog and line the narrow and often one-way streets of the central parts of most towns and cities, and it is generally difficult to find a place to park during working hours. According to a recent survey, German drivers spend, on average, 41 hours a year searching for parking; nearly 45% of those polled had missed an appointment because of parking problems.[570]

Street signs, Passau
Wikimedia / Bernd Sluka

Germans, for the most part, rely on order. There is an abundance of traffic signs and signals in towns and cities, in fact, many Germans describe the streetscape as a "sign forest" (*Schilderwald*). It is important to observe the rules of the road—fines can be hefty. Within cities and towns, the speed limit (*Tempolimit*) is 50 km/h. Some residential areas have a "30-Zone" (18 mph) speed limit to protect children and pedestrians. Outside built-up areas, the limit is 100 km/h (62 mph).[571, 572]

Is there a good auto mechanic nearby?		
Visitor:	geept es in dernay-ha aaynen gooten aawto-mechaaneeka?	Is there a good auto mechanic nearby?
Local:	naayn	No.

Exchange 19

Is there a gas station nearby?		
Visitor:	geept es aayna tank-shtele in dernaeya?	Is there a gas station nearby?
Local:	naayn	No.

Exchange 20

German drivers are generally adept and take driving safety seriously, though by American standards they may seem aggressive. Because the average German spends 65 hours a year stuck in traffic or waiting at traffic lights, drivers can be impatient and begin entering an intersection before the signal turns green. Slow responders are honked at, but gestures of frustration are uncommon. In fact, gestures of any kind while driving, including waving someone on out of politeness, are prohibited.[573]

City streets are shared with bicycles and pedestrians, and most German cities have well-planned, pedestrian-only areas and numerous bicycle lanes. Bike lanes are only ever used by cyclists; walking in a bike lane not only annoys locals, it can be dangerous. Most are clearly marked by short, orange posts or other barriers. Pedestrians should also avoid crossing against a red light even if there are no cars.[574]

Where can I rent a car?		
Visitor:	vo kaan iKh aayn aawto meeten?	Where can I rent a car?
Local:	am maarkt-plaats	By the market square.

Exchange 21

Public Transportation

Trams in Dresden
Pixabay / AndyLeungHK

Even medium-sized German cities have good public transportation networks that use buses, streetcars, and urban rail lines. Many have commuter rail systems known as the S-Bahn (short for *Strassenbahn*, or "street train"). In larger German cities, the S-Bahn is also part of a rail network that includes underground U-Bahn (subway) lines. Berlin's S-Bahn, Germany's largest system, has 15 lines with a 330-km (205-mi) network that mostly runs above ground. Germany's first U-Bahn started in Berlin in 1902, and today Berlin's is the country's largest, featuring 10 lines covering 146.2 km (91 mi) and 173 stations. Only four German cities have U-Bahn lines: Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, and Nuremberg.[575] Buses and streetcars also operate throughout most cities; bus and trolley stops (*Haltestellen*) can be identified by a round sign with a green H in a yellow circle.[576]

Will the bus be here soon?		
Visitor:	veert der boos baalt heer zaayn?	Will the bus be here soon?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 22

Is this (seat) available?		
Visitor:	ist heer noKh fraay?	Is this (seat) available?
Local:	aaber, seeKher	Sure.

Exchange 23

Deutsche Bahn's ICE high-speed train
Pixabay / hpgruesen

Deutsche Bahn (DB), the German rail service, is reliable and fast. Its InterCity Express (ICE) high-speed trains are among Europe's fastest—nearly 320 km/h (199 mi/h). InterCity (IC) trains run between major cities, with schedules as frequent as every hour between popular destinations. Eurocity trains connect German cities with destinations in neighboring countries. Train and bus schedules are given in exact minutes and are generally true to their schedule, though repairs and modernization efforts over the last couple of years have caused frequent delays.[577, 578]

Is there a train station nearby?		
Visitor:	geept es aaynen ban-hof in der nay-ha?	Is there a train station nearby?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 24

Can you take me there?		
Visitor:	koernen see miKh dort-hin mit-neymen?	Can you take me there?
Local:	yaa, daas kaan iKh	Yes, I can.

Exchange 25

Taxis are available throughout German cities. Often a Mercedes or Audi, they are always cream colored with a yellow-and-black "Taxi" sign on the roof. Though you can flag down a taxi on the street, it is best to use one of the many taxi stands around the city or order one in advance. Taxi rates are reasonable but not inexpensive; the amount

always includes tax. It is common to tip the driver 10%—more if the driver helped you with luggage or packages. There may be an extra charge for credit card payments.[579]

The Autobahn

Autobahn A2 near Dortmund
Flickr / Dirk Vorderstrasse

Germany has an extensive and well-maintained freeway system—the Autobahn. Despite prevailing beliefs to the contrary, some sections of the Autobahn have speed limits of 100 km/h (62 mi/h), especially those near cities. Outside major centers there is only a suggested speed limit of 130 km/h (80 mi/h). Here, motorists can legally drive as fast as they like. The average speed along these stretches is 150 km/h (93 mi/h), though some drive much faster.[580]

German highway
Pixabay / Alexas_Fotos

There is plenty of police presence to enforce road rules on the Autobahn. Stopping or pulling off to the shoulder for any reason other than a car malfunction or breakdown is illegal, and that includes running out of fuel, which is considered preventable. Passing on the right is strictly prohibited and can lead to heavy fines. Drivers, especially those new to the Autobahn, should stay in the right lane as much as possible. The left lane is used for passing and for fast-traveling vehicles. Drivers who want to pass will flash their lights as a signal to the driver in front to move to the right.[581]

That said, traffic does back up even on Germany's Autobahn. Across Europe, Germany ranks second for freeway traffic jams and is the fourth most congested (after Russia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom).[582] The freeways just outside of Hamburg and Stuttgart, the A7 and A8, are particularly congested during rush hour.[583, 584]

Green Zones and Carless Cities

In line with Germans' strong sense of environmental responsibility, the government has devised innovative strategies to combat the air pollution caused by vehicle emissions. A 2006 law requires drivers in Germany to have a special environmental sticker (*Umweltplakette*) on their car to enter the "green zone" in most German cities. The sticker shows that the vehicle meets German/EU pollution standards. Almost any heavily populated area in Germany now has green zones.[585]

Umweltplakatte (environmental sticker)
Wikimedia / Jojo659

Cities like Stuttgart are banning diesel vehicles; others, like Berlin, will prohibit private vehicles in the heart of the city by 2019, and still others, like Hamburg, are planning to go completely car-free within the next 20 years. The move in Germany's capital is symbolic of a broader change for the country.[586, 587, 588] While there are only 150,000 hybrids and 25,000 all-electric vehicles on German roads, German carmakers have been investing heavily in electric and hybrid car development. In 2015, Germany joined the International Zero-Emission Vehicle Alliance, which aims at making all passenger vehicles emission free by 2050. The German government is also considering a ban on all gas-powered cars.[589, 590]

Low-emission zone traffic sign
Wikimedia / Abtrix

Restaurants

Every German city of any size has a wide variety of restaurants, from open-air food stalls (*Imbisse*) to exclusive gourmet restaurants. In larger cities, the cuisine of almost any country can be found. Portions are always generous. For a quick snack, cafés serve soup, sandwiches, and salads. An *Imbiss* serves *Bratwurst*, *Currywurst* (a favorite in northern German cities), or other fast foods. Vendors selling *Döner Kebab*, first introduced in Germany by Turkish immigrants, are on virtually every street corner. A *Gasthaus* usually offers regional specialties. Pubs (*Kneipen*, *Bierstuben*)

are popular with locals who want a snack or a simple meal with their beer, but drinking is the main activity.[591, 592]

I'd like some hot soup.		
Visitor:	iKh haete gerna aayna haaySa zoopa	I'd like some hot soup.
Local:	zofort	Right away.

Exchange 26

What type of meat is this?		
Visitor:	vaas fuer flaaysh ist daas?	What type of meat is this?
Local:	es ist shwaayna-flaaysh	It is pork.

Exchange 27

The German restaurant scene is vibrant and evolving. Alongside fusion cuisine, where a new generation of chefs are reinterpreting classic dishes and spicing them up with global influences, chefs are increasingly catering to vegetarians and vegans. Standard German vegetable varieties, such as parsnips and turnips, are enjoying a renaissance—becoming pillars of the current boom in all things healthy, both seasonal and regional.[593]

Street-side café, Frankfurt
Flickr / Javier Lastras

Dining Out

In sit-down restaurants or cafés, it is rare for customers to be seated by a host; Germans typically seat themselves. In crowded restaurants and less formal establishments, sharing a table is common. But Germans will not typically strike up a conversation with unfamiliar tablemates, and diners usually order each item separately. Germans make less use of napkins than Americans, but eat everything with a fork, including pizza and fries (*Pommes frites*), which is held in the left hand. Most Germans begin a meal with *Guten Appetit!* (Let's eat!). More informally, at lunch or when walking into a bar (*Kneipe*) Germans say *Mahlzeit!*[594, 595]

Are you still serving breakfast?		
Visitor:	zer-vee-rehn zee noKh froo-shtook?	Are you still serving breakfast?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 28

I'd like some coffee.		
Visitor:	iKh haete gehrna kaafee	I'd like some coffee.
Local:	zofort	Right away.

Exchange 29

Water must be ordered and the server will almost always bring bottled *Mineralwasser* (sparkling mineral water) if the customer has not requested *stilles Wasser* (bottled noncarbonated water). While water usually costs as much if not more than a glass of beer or wine, requesting tap water is considered tacky.[596]

May I have a glass of water?		
Visitor:	koente iKh aayn glaas vaaser haaben?	May I have a glass of water?
Local:	yaa, zofort!	Yes, right away!

Exchange 30

German breakfast of eggs, bread, and cheese
Flickr / Tim Fuller

It is standard to request the check at the end of the meal (*Die Rechnung, bitte)* as it is not common for the server to deliver it without asking. When splitting the bill, Germans each contribute their portion of the bill plus tip and then give the full amount to the server. Typically, diners tip by telling the server the total amount they want to pay, adding the tip to the bill (not leaving it on the table). The tip (*Trinkgeld*)—no more than 10%—is usually calculated by rounding to a whole euro amount; leaving just a one- or two-euro tip is not insulting. Credit cards are not usually accepted. Tax (value-added tax, typically 19%) is included in the check.[597, 598]

Do you have dessert?		
Visitor:	haaben zee naKh-tish?	Do you have dessert?
Local:	yaa, veer haaben aapfelkoo-chen	Yes, we have apple cake.

Exchange 31

Where is the restroom?		
Visitor:	vo ist daas veh-tsay?	Where is the restroom?
Local:	dee tuer leenks, dort drueben	That door to your left, over there.

Exchange 32

Please bring me the bill.		
Visitor:	bringen zee meer bita dee rech-nung	Please bring me the bill.
Local:	okay	Okay.

Exchange 33

Shopping

Grocery shopping in Germany is usually a modern affair, though there are traditional German farmers markets on the weekends. Shopping at all hours is not common. Some Germans are wary of consumerism, preferring to remain with their families or spend time outdoors on the weekends. Grocery stores close by 8 p.m. during the week and on holidays. Moreover, almost all German shops are closed on Sundays, except bakeries, gas station minimarkets, or grocery stores in train stations.[599, 600]

The Markthalle indoor market, Stuttgart
Flickr / Ulises Estrada

German grocery stores typically sell only food products and have a smaller selection than in the United States. Shopping bags can be purchased, and shopping carts require a deposit of one euro, which is returned when the cart is returned. In general, the checkout process moves at a fast pace and shoppers are expected to bag their own items. The standard tax rate for groceries (and books, magazines, and flowers) is 7%; otherwise, the tax is 19% for most everything else.[601]

For fresher items and a broader selection, Germans enjoy shopping at farmers markets and in smaller specialty stores (*Fachgeschäfte*). Butcher shops (*Metzgereien*), bakeries (*Bäckereien*), and pastry shops (*Konditoreien*) are located throughout any city. Organic (*bio*) food is also extremely popular, and there is a good selection of organically grown food in German supermarkets and in *Bioläden* (organic food shops). Very few German grocery stores accept credit cards, and then only in tourist areas or at department stores (*Kaufhäuser*), so it is best to bring cash.[602]

Outdoor market in Ludwigsburg
Pixabay / maxmann

Do you have any more of these?		
Visitor:	haaben zee noKh mer daafon?	Do you have any more of these?
Local:	naayn	No.

Exchange 34

Germans flock to farmers' markets on weekends to purchase farm-raised meat and seafood, seasonal produce, homemade cheeses and sausages, spices, bread, fresh-cut flowers, and local specialties; artisans sell hand-crafted wares.

Is the market nearby?		
Visitor:	ist der maarkt in der naeya?	Is the market nearby?
Local:	yaa, dort drueben rechts	Yes, over there on the right.

Exchange 35

May I examine this close up?		
Visitor:	daarf iKh meer daas aaws der nay-ha aanshaaw-ehn?	May I examine this close up?
Local:	gehrna	Sure.

Exchange 36

Haggling is not the German cultural norm; if shoppers want a lower price, they simply look to other stalls. These regular markets are a social event for many, a meeting place for locals to catch up with friends while shopping at a relaxing pace.[603]

Do you sell wood carvings?		
Visitor:	verkaawfen zee holts-shnits-eraayen?	Do you sell wood carvings?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 37

Can I buy a wood carving with this much money?		
Visitor:	kaan iKh fuer so feel gelt aayna holts-shnits-eraay kaawfen?	Can I buy a wood carving with this much money?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 38

How much longer will you be here?		
Visitor:	vee laanga verden zee noKh zaayn?	How much longer will you be here?
Local:	noKh dray shtoon-den	Three more hours.

Exchange 39

Currency, Banking, and ATMs

In 2002, Germany moved away from the Deutschmark and, along with 11 other EU countries, put a brand-new currency into circulation: the euro. The euro symbol (€) was designed by German Arthur Eisenmenger, who later became the chief graphic designer for the European Economic Community.[604, 605]

ATM, Cologne
Flickr / Marco Verch

The easiest way to exchange money is to use an ATM (*Geldautomat*). They are located throughout cities, can be accessed 24/7, and often have a language option. Many banks in Germany are almost fully automated, with a bank of ATMs and a few service counters where customers can speak with a bank teller. In some cases, there are no teller windows. and you can only withdraw

cash from the ATM. Banks are usually open during the week from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and in small towns, they may close earlier or at lunch.[606]

Street Crime and Solicitation

Bundespolizei demonstrate an arrest, Hannover
Wikimedia / Axel Hindemoth

Overall, Germany is a very safe country. Crimes rates are far lower than in the United States, and the law is strictly enforced.[607] Terrorism threat levels remain elevated since the 2016 Berlin Christmas market attack by a Tunisian national; the attack resulted in 12 fatalities and 55 injured.[608] Germany has become a target for extremists with links to the Islamic State terrorist group, though the German authorities have thwarted some activities.[609, 610] German police presence has greatly increased in large cities to deter further attacks. Occasional demonstrations have resulted in violence, but such instances have been sporadic and quickly contained.[611] Security is tighter, and German police carry out ID checks more often, so visitors should carry a driver's license or passport.[612]

In terms of petty crime, pickpockets may sometimes be a problem in larger cities, especially at crowded events, such as soccer games, near train stations, or in busy pedestrian zones. Therefore, it is best to take the usual precautions, such as avoiding walking in parks alone at night, attending to bikes and phones/cameras, and keeping a wallet safely in a front pocket.[613]

Begging is not illegal in Germany, and it is not uncommon to see someone with a sign asking for a hand-out in larger cities, particularly in subways. But beggars are rarely aggressive and are closely watched by the police. Sometimes children, mostly Roma, will accompany a parent. This is less common since cities enacted laws prohibiting adults from taking their children begging.[614, 615]

Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life

513 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: People: Urban Settlement," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Settlement-patterns#ref233614.

514 Pietro S. Nivola, "Are Europe's Cities Better?" Brookings, 1 September 1999, https://www.brookings.edu/articles/are-europes-cities-better/.

515 Economist Intelligence Unit, "The Green City Index," accessed 29 January 2018, 6, 38, https://www.siemens.com/entry/cc/features/greencityindex_international/all/en/pdf/gci_report_summary.pdf.

516 Local, "German Cities Among Europe's Greenest," 22 June 2011, https://www.thelocal.de/20110622/35829.

517 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: People and Society," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html.

518 Von Christian Bangel et al., "Diving into Urban-Rural Prejudice," Zeit Online, accessed 21 December 2017, http://www.zeit.de/feature/germany-urban-rural-population-division-prejudice.

519 Manfred Ronzheimer, "The Reinvention of Cities," How Germany Ticks—Deutschland, 30 September 2016, https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/life/society-integration/the-reinvention-of-cities.

520 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: People: Urban Settlement," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Settlement-patterns#ref233614.

521 Manfred Ronzheimer, "The Reinvention of Cities," How Germany Ticks—Deutschland, 30 September 2016, https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/life/society-integration/the-reinvention-of-cities.

522 Matt Phillips, "Most Germans Don't Buy Their Homes, They Rent. Here's Why," Quartz, 23 January 2014, https://qz.com/167887/germany-has-one-of-the-worlds-lowest-homeownership-rates/.

523 Bruce Katz et al., "Cities and Refugees: The German Experience," Brookings, 18 September 2016, https://www.brookings.edu/research/cities-and-refugees-the-german-experience/.

524 Facts about Germany, "Urban Quality of Life," accessed 6 September 2018, https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/chapter/way-life/urban-quality-life.

525 Facts about Germany, "Modern Immigration Society," accessed 6 September 2018, https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/node/210.

526 Bruce Katz et al., "Cities and Refugees: The German Experience," Brookings, 18 September 2016, https://www.brookings.edu/research/cities-and-refugees-the-german-experience/.

527 Mehreen Khan, "Seven Charts that Show Why Germany is still Not a Unified Country," *Telegraph*, 9 November 2015, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/germany/11215784/The-seven-charts-that-show-why-Germany-is-still-not-a-unified-country.html.

528 Rick Noack, "The Berlin Wall Fell 25 Years Ago, but Germany is still Divided," *Washington Post*, 31 October 2014, http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2014/10/31/the-berlin-wall-fell-25-years-ago-but-germany-is-still-divided/.

529 Rainer Münz and Ralf E. Ulrich, "Changing Patterns of Immigration to Germany, 1945–1997," Migration Dialog, accessed 21 December 2017, https://migration.ucdavis.edu/rs/more.php?id=69.

530 Soeren Kern, "Germany's New 'Integration Law,'" Gatestone Institute International Policy Council, 29 May 2016, https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/8145/germany-integration-law.

531 Ben Knight, "Merkel Presents New Refugee Integration Law as Milestone,'" Deutsche Welle, 25 May 2016, http://www.dw.com/en/merkel-presents-new-refugee-integration-law-as-milestone/a-19281722.

532 Aamna Mohdin, "One in Five German Residents Are Now First or Second Generation Immigrants," Quartz, 2 August 2017, https://qz.com/1044367/one-fifth-of-the-german-population-now-has-an-immigrant-background/.

533 Associated Press, "Germany's Immigrant Population Hits a New High in 2016," Bloomberg, 1 August 2017, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-08-01/germany-s-immigrant-population-hits-new-high-in-2016.

534 Berlin Business Location Center, "The Population of the Capital Region," accessed 21 December 2017, http://www.businesslocationcenter.de/en/business-location/business-location/economic-data/demographic-data.

535 BBC News, "Germany Attacks: What's Going On?" 20 December 2016, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36882445.

536 Bruce Katz et al., "Cities and Refugees: The German Experience," Brookings, 18 September 2016, https://www.brookings.edu/research/cities-and-refugees-the-german-experience/.

537 Sumi Somaskanda, "Rich Germany Has a Poverty Problem," *Foreign Policy*, 5 May 2015, http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/05/05/rich-germany-has-a-poverty-problem-inequality-europe/.

Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life

538 Marcel Fratzscher, "Germany Is No Poster Child for Economic Growth," *Washington Post*, 27 November 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/theworldpost/wp/2017/11/27/germany-economy/?utm_term=.eb1363eb4812.

539 Deutsche Welle, "Germany: 150 Percent Rise in Number of Homeless Since 2014," 14 November 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/germany-150-percent-rise-in-number-of-homeless-since-2014/a-41376766.

540 Stefan Wagstyl, "Germany: The Hidden Divide in Europe's Richest Country," *Financial Times*, 17 August 2017, https://www.ft.com/content/db8e0b28-7ec3-11e7-9108-edda0bcbc928.

541 Andrea Bistrich, "Homelessness in Germany: The Visible Form of True Poverty," Share International, accessed 21 December 2017, http://www.share-international.org/archives/homelessness/hl-abGermany.htm.

542 Fidelius Schmid, "Cities Struggle to Handle Rise in Homeless," Spiegel Online, 28 February 2013, http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/german-cities-struggle-to-accommodate-rise-in-homeless-a-885484.html.

543 Local, "How Berlin Is Struggling to Deal with Growing Homelessness in Its Parks," 25 October 2017, https://www.thelocal.de/20171025/how-berlin-politics-is-struggling-to-find-solutions-to-growing-homelessness.

544 Feargus O'Sullivan, "Berlin Has Been Paying Homeless Migrants to Leave the Country," CityLab, 31 October 2017, https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/10/berlin-has-been-paying-migrants-to-go-away/544484/.

545 Gero Schliess, "Berlin 24/7: How Meeting Berlin's Homeless Changed Me," Deutsche Welle, 25 December 2016, http://www.dw.com/en/berlin-24-7-how-meeting-berlins-homeless-changed-me/a-36831328.

546 Will Martin, "The 16 Countries with the World's Best Healthcare Systems," Business Insider, 13 January 2017, https://nordic.businessinsider.com/the-16-countries-with-the-worlds-best-healthcare-systems-2017-1/.

547 World Cancer Research Fund International, "Data for Cancer Frequency by Country," accessed 21 December 2017, http://www.wcrf.org/int/cancer-facts-figures/data-cancer-frequency-country.

548 Anne S. Quante et al., "Projections of Cancer Incidence and Cancer-Related Deaths in Germany by 2020 and 2030," *Cancer Medicine* 5, no. 9 (19 June 2016), http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cam4.767/full.

549 World Health Rankings, "Germany: Coronary Heart Disease," accessed 21 December 2017, http://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/germany-coronary-heart-disease.

550 Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, "Germany," 2017, http://www.healthdata.org/germany.

551 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: People and Society," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2226.html.

552 German Way and More, "Health Care in Germany," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.german-way.com/for-expats/living-in-germany/health-care-in-germany/.

553 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: People and Society," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2102rank.html.

554 Word Bank, "Mortality Rate: Infant per 1,000 Live Births," accessed 21 December 2017, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN.

555 German Way and More, "The German School System," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.german-way.com/history-and-culture/education/the-german-school-system/.

556 How to Germany, "German School System," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.howtogermany.com/pages/germanschools.html.

557 Michael E. O'Sullivan, "Child Labour in Germany," Social History Portal, accessed 21 December 2017, https://socialhistoryportal.org/news/articles/110056.

558 Stanley James Curtis, "Friedrich Froebel," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 9 June 2006, https://www.britannica.com/biography/Friedrich-Froebel.

559 StateUniversity.com, "Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852)," accessed 21 December 2017, http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/1999/Froebel-Friedrich-1782-1852.html.

560 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html.

561 *Forbes*, "Germany's Workforce Development Can Be a Lesson to the United States," 7 June 2017, https://www.forbes.com/sites/jpmorganchase/2017/06/07/jobs-for-americans-a-lesson-from-germany/#d5a2e7021cfe.

562 Nils Zimmermann, "Germany Exports a Secret of its Success: Vocational Education," Deutsche Welle, 27 March 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/germany-exports-a-secret-of-its-success-vocational-education/a-38114840.

563 Andrea Thomas, "German Students Snub Vocational Schools," *Wall Street Journal*, 13 June 2014, https://www.wsj.com/articles/german-students-snub-vocational-schools-for-universities-1402690785.

564 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html#ixzz4saI6MJ9H.

Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life

565 Times Higher Education, "World University Rankings 2016-2017," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2017/world-ranking#!/page/1/length/25/sort_by/rank/sort_order/asc/cols/stats.

566 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Government and Society: Education: Preschool, Elementary, and Secondary," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Education#ref296931.

567 Rick Noack, "Want to Study for free in Germany? You Might Need to Hurry Up," *Washington Post*, 5 October 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/10/05/want-to-study-for-free-in-germany-you-might-need-to-hurry-up/?utm_term=.ee60ccb53df8.

568 Helena Kaschel, "Free Tuition in Germany Not Attractive for All Foreigners," Deutsche Welle, 24 February 2015, http://www.dw.com/en/free-tuition-in-germany-not-attractive-for-all-foreigners/a-37711964.

569 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html#ixzz4saIESAd5.

570 Parking Network, "Germans Waste 41 Hours a Year Searching for Parking," 28 July 2017, http://www.parking-net.com/parking-news/inrix/germans-41-hours-searching-parking.

571 Brian's Guide to Getting Around Germany, "Speed Limits," 30 December 2016, http://www.gettingaroundgermany.info/regeln.shtml#speed.

572 Bussgeldkatalog 2017, "German Traffic Laws for Foreigners," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.bussgeldkatalog.org/german-driving-laws/.

573 Brian's Guide to Getting Around Germany, "City Driving and Parking," 19 February 2013, http://www.gettingaroundgermany.info/parken.shtml.

574 Elizabeth Grenier, "10 Very German Passions," Deutsche Welle, 31 May 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/10-very-german-passions/a-38483550.

575 German Way and More, "Public Transport in Germany," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/public-transport-in-germany/.

576 Lonely Planet, "Local Transport," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.lonelyplanet.com/germany/transport/getting-around/local-transport.

577 Bahn.de, "Discover Germany and Neighbouring European Countries at High Speed!" accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.bahn.com/en/view/trains/long-distance/ice-ice-sprinter.shtml.

578 Kate Connolly, "Why German Trains Don't Run on Time Any More," *Guardian*, 11 June 2016, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/11/why-german-trains-dont-run-on-time-any-more.

579 German Way and More, "Public Transport in Germany," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/public-transport-in-germany/.

580 German Way and More, "Driving in Europe," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/driving-in-europe/driving/.

581 AutoEurope, "Driving on the Autobahn, Germany," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.autoeurope.com/travel-guides/germany/driving-the-autobahn-in-germany/.

582 Victor Reklitis, "The Country with The Worst Traffic in the World—And It's Not the U.S.," MarketWatch, 8 March 2017, https://www.marketwatch.com/story/the-country-with-the-worst-traffic-in-the-world-and-its-not-the-us-2017-02-20.

583 INRIX, "Recovering Economy Drives Traffic Congestion Up in Over Three Quarters of German Cities," accessed 21 December 2017, http://inrix.com/press-releases/scorecard-report-germany-english/.

584 Graham Cookson, "Europe's Traffic Hotspots: Measuring the Impact of Congestion in Europe," INRIX Research, 30 November 2016, 12-13, 14-15, http://inrix.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/INRIX-Europes-Traffic-Hotspots-Research-FINAL-hi-res-1.pdf.

585 German Way and More, "Driving in Germany: Green Zones," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/driving-in-europe/driving/driving-in-germany-green-zones/.

586 Jack Stewart, "Can a City Really Ban Cars from Its Streets?" BBC News, 4 February 2014, http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20140204-can-a-city-really-go-car-free.

587 Reuters, "Germany's Stuttgart Set to Ban Some Diesel Cars from City Center," 21 February 2017, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-autos-diesel/germanys-stuttgart-set-to-ban-some-diesel-cars-from-city-center-idUSKBN16028H.

588 Feargus O'Sullivan, "Berlin's Most Famous Street Will Go Car-Free," CityLab, 7 November 2016, https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2016/11/unter-den-linden-germany-bans-private-cars/506795/.

589 Fred Lambert, "All New Cars Mandated to Be Electric in Germany by 2030," Electrek, 14 June 2016, https://electrek.co/2016/06/14/all-new-cars-mandated-electric-germany-2030/.

590 Mark Thompson, "Angela Merkel: Germany Could Ban Gas and Diesel Cars," CNN, 21 August 2017, http://money.cnn.com/2017/08/21/news/economy/germany-diesel-gas-cars-ban-angela-merkel/index.html.

Endnotes for Chapter 4: Urban Life

591 David Farley, "A Strangely Addictive Street Food," BBC Travel, 13 July 2016, http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20160615-the-ultimate-berlin-street-food.

592 Deutsche Welle, "Street Food with Flair: To-Go Cuisine in Germany," 9 March 2015, https://p.dw.com/p/1GQMV.

593 Chris Dwyer, "Three Trending Berlin Restaurants Give Dining in the German Capital a Contemporary Spin," *South China Morning Post*, 31 May 2018, https://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/food-drink/article/2148602/three-trending-berlin-restaurants-give-dining-german-capital.

594 How to Germany, "Cuisine and Dining Out in Germany," date accessed 22 August 2018, https://www.howtogermany.com/pages/dining.html.

595 Etiquette Scholar, "German Etiquette," accessed 27 August 2018, https://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining_etiquette/table-etiquette/europe-w_table_manners/german.html.

596 Local, "The Right to Tap Water," 28 July 2010, https://www.thelocal.de/20100728/28795.

597 Birge Amondson, "German For Travelers: Useful German for Dining Out," TripSavvy, 12 April 2017, https://www.tripsavvy.com/useful-german-for-dining-out-1520015.

598 German Way and More, "Dining Out in Germany," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/germany-for-tourists/dining-out-in-germany/.

599 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 21 December 2017, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html#ixzz4salc91d3.

600 Local, "Why Are Shops in Germany Closed on Sundays?" 27 October 2017, https://www.thelocal.de/20171027/why-does-germany-have-such-strict-opening-hours-on-sundays.

601 Erin Porter, "Grocery Shopping in Germany," German Way and More, accessed 6 September 2018, https://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/germany-for-tourists/shopping-in-germany/grocery-shopping-in-germany/.

602 Erin Porter, "Grocery Shopping in Germany," German Way and More, accessed 6 September 2018, https://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/germany-for-tourists/shopping-in-germany/grocery-shopping-in-germany/.

603 German Way and More, "Grocery Shopping in Germany," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/germany-for-tourists/shopping-in-germany/grocery-shopping-in-germany/.

604 German Way and More, "The Euro," accessed 21 December 2017, https://www.german-way.com/travel-and-tourism/banks-money/the-euro/.

605 Kate Connolly, "Inventor Who Coined Euro Sign Fights for Recognition," *Guardian*, 22 December 2001, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2001/dec/23/euro.eu1.

606 Birge Amondson, "Money in Germany: ATMs, Credit Cards, and German Banks," TripSavvy, 31 July 2017, https://www.tripsavvy.com/money-in-germany-1520151.

607 Leonid Bershidsky, "Germans' Fears Don't Match the Crime Statistics," Bloomberg: Politics and Policy, 8 May 2018, https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2018-05-09/german-crime-fears-don-t-match-statistics.

608 Ben Knight, "Anis Amri Case: Berlin Launches Probe into Christmas Market Attack," Deutsche Welle, 17 July 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/anis-amri-case-berlin-launches-probe-into-christmas-market-attack/a-39698045.

609 Deutsche Welle, "Berlin Criminalizes Islamic State-Linked 'Fussilet' Mosque Activity," 28 February 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/berlin-criminalizes-islamic-state-linked-fussilet-mosque-activity/a-37741725.

610 Riccardo Dugulin, "Europe Beware! Islamic State to Switch Tactics in Europe in 2017," Global Security Insights, 19 January 2017, http://globalriskinsights.com/2017/01/europe-faces-evolving-terrorist-threat/.

611 Jane's Information Group, "Security, Germany," *Jane's Sentinel Security Assessment—Western Europe*, 5 November 2014.

612 Best's Country Risk report, "Country Risk Report: Germany," 22 August 2017, http://www3.ambest.com/ratings/cr/reports/germany.pdf.

613 Safe Around, "Germany," accessed 21 December 2017, https://safearound.com/europe/germany/.

614 Carla Bleiker, "Banning Children from Begging in Berlin," Deutsche Welle, 27 July 2015, http://www.dw.com/en/banning-children-from-begging-in-berlin/a-18610505.

615 Katrin Kuntz, "Romanians Duped into Panhandling in Germany," Spiegel Online, 28 March 2014, http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/a-hamburg-romanian-family-makes-begging-a-dubious-business-a-960866.html.

German Cultural Orientation

Chapter 4 | Urban Life

Assessment

1. Environmental sustainability is not part of urban planning in Germany.

2. There is a shortage of affordable housing in major cities.

3. Only large cities in Germany have good public transportation networks.

4. Germany has the world's oldest national health insurance system.

5. By the age of 10, German students are on one of three different educational tracks.

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

Historic Fachwerk (half-timbered) buildings, Dinkelsbühl, northern Bavaria
Flickr / Kimba Reimer

Rural Life

Introduction

While carpet-bombing destroyed major German cities in WWII, Germany's rural areas were generally left intact. As a result, the greatest part of traditional architecture surviving in modern Germany is outside major cities. The small towns and villages across the country are some of Europe's most picturesque, famous for their medieval architecture, beautiful churches, and quiet charm. Well-known tourist destinations such as Quedlinburg, Cochem, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Dinkelsbühl, Monschau, Rüdesheim am Rhein, and Mittenwald, derive much of their income from vacationers; others rural economies are based on a combination of tourism, farming, and family-owned businesses, but this varies regionally.[616, 617, 618]

Rural areas comprise around 90% of Germany's surface area: this includes forested areas, agricultural land, and rural municipalities (*Gemeinde*). These municipalities consist of approximately 12,000 people distributed roughly across 50 villages and smaller towns.[619] Around 15% of all Germans live in communities with fewer than 5,000 residents. Around 27% live in communities with a population of between 5,000 and 20,000.[620, 621]

Farmer at work, Bavaria
Pixabay / 12019

Outlying rural areas are faced with difficulties such as lack of well-paying jobs, population flight (especially among young people), a growing aging population, loss of tax revenues, and decreasing access to basic services such as health care and education. In nonurban areas of eastern Germany and the Rhineland-Palatinate State, doctors are in short supply and 28% of the population does not have a supermarket within 1 km. In certain remote areas of eastern Germany, right-wing extremist tendencies have recently been increasing. In part, this is attributed to high unemployment, poverty, and a lack of social integration.[622]

Rural Exodus (Landflucht)

Vineyards in Franconia, Bavaria
Flickr / Axel

Overall, rural areas in Germany are not densely populated, and some are struggling. Germany's population is shrinking—by 2050 it will have fallen another 12 million people—and its population is steadily aging. With fewer opportunities for education and jobs, and less access to public services, transportation, and social venues in outlying areas, young people are migrating to urban centers. This out-migration, which began in the late 19th century, is most severe in eastern Germany, where unemployment is the highest.[623] The exodus is linked to falling incomes, and young people are looking to thriving urban areas in western Germany for a better life. Although the trend varies, rural districts in West

Germany generally have lower unemployment relative to urban areas. In countryside areas within an hour of a metropolitan area, or those where there are plenty of local jobs, there is virtually no out-migration.[624, 625]

In many rural areas, schools and shops have closed and housing has emptied. An older population (the average age is 60) is left with fewer health, transportation, and other services. In some remote areas, there is poor cell phone reception and no internet. Tax revenues have dropped, and roads remain unrepaired. In eastern Germany, the need for social services is expected to become more acute. In the meantime, politicians place their hopes in high-speed broadband to counter rural life challenges. Better internet access could create a basis for service industries beyond the urban centers.[626, 627, 628]

New Arrivals

Building set aside for asylum seekers, after an arson attack, Usedom
Wikimedia / Schneffe himself

The more than 1 million refugees who arrived in Germany between 2015 and 2016 were resettled in its major cities, and also its small towns and villages, many of which have been struggling to stay vital.[629, 630] Initial tensions over resettlement plans gave way to the business of integrating the newcomers. They were given housing and volunteers offered clothing, stationery, kitchen utensils, and services like rides and free language lessons. Many rural residents view the arrival of the migrants—the majority of whom are under the age of 30—as opportunity to revitalize their towns. It is hoped that the reopening of schools and the filling of vacant jobs will eventually bring much-need tax revenues, thereby saving local economies. Still, in rural eastern Germany, where standards of living are lower and unemployment is higher, resistance remains. There have been numerous acts of violence against refugee housing; some German residents complain that refugees receive a larger share of the limited resources than the local population [631, 632, 633]

Local Government

Within Germany's federal system, state and local governments are involved in many important economic functions: social services; industry, development, and energy

policy; education (including vocational training); public housing; and environmental protection. They also share some centrally collected taxes. After reunification, the ratios of tax revenues were changed slightly to the advantage of the new eastern states.[634]

Baden-Württemberg parliament building, Stuttgart
Wikimedia / Julian Herzog

The states have followed different economic policies since the early years of the Federal Republic. For example, Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg have stressed industrial development policies that are very different from those of other states, moving these regions into the forefront of German technological development. North Rhine-Westphalia and Saarland states concentrated their resources on subsidizing coal and steel production for many years, thus entering the competition for new industries much later than other states. The ability to create separate state policies has encouraged some new states to set their own development policies, including encouraging foreign investment and promoting exports.[635]

Land Distribution

Village of Schwarzenfels, Hessen
Wikimedia / Rainer Lippert

Haufendörfer, the most common type of traditional village in western Germany, is the concentration of farmyards into very large, irregular villages. Unenclosed fields divided into multiple strip-like units, surround these villages. This arrangement is the result of a historical tradition of portioning out lands among heirs. During periods of population boom, land, farmhouses, and farmyards were repeatedly divided. As a result, villages became denser and less organized. In areas where families shared inheritance, such as in Bavaria and Lower Saxony, land holdings remained larger.[636]

In eastern Germany, isolated farms and hamlets were the norm. The population boom between the 11th and 13th centuries caused local lords to organize peasant settlements

farther out in the forested areas. The haphazard structure of the western *Haufendörf* was streamlined into well-planned settlements. Farmhouses were arranged in several ways, most often along a single village street (*Strassendorf*), or around a central grassed area on which stood the church (*Angerdorf*).[637]

The organization of agricultural settlements in eastern and western Germany diverged after WWII. In western Germany, federal subsidies led to land consolidation and larger holdings; in some places, farmers were moved to new farmsteads outside the villages. The larger size of farmsteads streamlined farming, leading to a massive movement out of agriculture. Instead of moving to urban areas, as occurred in the 19th century, many people stayed in their existing homes and commuted to work.[638]

Town of Klütz, northern Germany
Flickr / Thomas Kohler

After WWII, the communist government of East Germany began the process of collectivization. Its first step was to confiscate the large landholdings owned by Prussian nobility. These were either divided among peasants or turned into state farms. In the late 1950s, private landholdings were reorganized into vast "cooperative" farms, and mechanized cultivation and large-scale animal husbandry were introduced. In an attempt to create a new concept of rural life, multistory apartments and community centers were built around the cooperative farms. After German reunification, eastern Germany saw a decline of nearly 75% in agricultural employment, and large farming areas were left uncultivated.[639, 640]

Abandoned farmstead in Kraase, Lower Saxony
Flickr / Thomas Kohler

Land Ownership

Though subject to restrictions, Germany guarantees the right to private property. State powers limit private property rights when it concerns public utilities, mining

Rural estate, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
Flickr / Thomas Kohler

rights, public construction projects, public safety, cultural preservation, and issues of national security, among others.[641] Following reunification, property rights in the former East Germany became complicated. The reunification treaty called for the return of private property confiscated during the Third Reich. But farmland taken from landowners between 1945 and 1949 was excluded.[642] Though farmland ownership was usually clear because the land used by cooperatives had remained in private hands, multiple claims on single holdings caused restitution problems. In addition, the roads and buildings constructed by the cooperatives complicated matters further.[643]

Do you own this land?		
Visitor:	gehoert deezes laand eenen?	Do you own this land?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 40

Rural Economy

Agriculture

Germany's fertile soil is ideal for agriculture. For hundreds of years farmers and agricultural workers in villages grew mainly potatoes and grain. Today, agriculture is a small sector of the German economy. During the 20th century, farming declined in importance—by 2016 it amounted to less than 1% of German GDP and employed less than 2% of the workforce.[644] This was, in part, due to technological changes that resulted in fewer, larger farms that required less workers.[645, 646]

Despite the decline in in the number of agricultural workers, production increased through more efficient methods, and the industry remains politically important. Supported in part by significant subsidies and aid programs, over 80% of Germany's land is used for agriculture and forestry, meeting 85% of Germany's domestic food needs.[647, 648, 649] Germany is among the four largest agricultural producers in the EU. It leads Europe in dairy production, potatoes, and pork. In fact, it is the third-largest

Dairy farm on a large estate, western Rhineland-Palatinate
Pixabay / Didgeman

pork producer in the world after China and the United States.[650, 651] Just over half the country's arable land is dedicated to growing cereals (including maize, an important source of animal feed). Other crops include rapeseed, sugar beets, and sunflowers. Bavaria is the most important agricultural state and the largest producer of food in Germany.[652]

Agricultural products vary from region to region. In the flat terrain of northern and eastern Germany, cereals and sugar beets are primary crops. In hilly and mountainous terrain, farmers produce vegetables, pork, milk, and beef. Most river valleys in southern and western Germany, especially along the Rhine, Moselle, Saar, Main, and Neckar, have vineyards. Wine grapes are also planted on the slopes of the Elbe Valley near Dresden. In the areas surrounding German cities, crops such as flowers, fruits, and vegetables are grown.[653, 654]

Organic Farming and Winegrowers

Vineyard, Germany
Pixabay / Neva79

For many reasons, including falling market prices, lower incomes have affected most kinds of German farms in recent years. The exceptions are wine-grape growers and organic farmers. On average, wine-grape farmers and organic farmers earned more than traditional farmers—6% and 10% more, respectively. Germany is the fourth-largest wine producer in Europe after France, Italy, and Spain, and its sweet wines are famous throughout the world. As one of the most northern wine growing countries in the world, its climate limits production to 13 wine regions in the south and around river valleys. Two-thirds of German wine production is white varieties, predominantly Riesling and Mueller-Thurgau, though Germans tend to buy more red wine than white. The top two red varieties are Pinot Noir and Dornfelder.[655, 656, 657]

Organic farming took root in Germany earlier than in most countries. The *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Naturlicher Landbau und Siedlung* (Natural Farming and Back-to-the-Land Association) was founded in 1927.[658] The movement sought science-based solutions to Germany's soil degradation, poor food quality, and what was viewed at the time as a "decay of rural social life and traditions." Considerable public support of small-scale and organic farming continues today. As many as 80% of Germans oppose opening up the German market to cheaper foods produced in North America or allowing genetically modified foods into the country.[659, 660] Increasingly, farmers are relying on organic production. In 2016, nearly 1 in 10 German farms were organic. The area used by organically cultivated farms rose 14.9% that year, and *bio* (organic) farms now cover more than 1.25 million hectares (3.1 million acres) of farmland, or 7.5% of the nation's total agricultural land, making Germany the largest organic market in Europe. The government plans to increase this to 20%. There are about 23,300 organic farms in the country, accounting for 8.5% of all German farms.[661, 662]

Organic sweet potatoes, Cologne
Flickr / Marco Verch

What crops do you grow?		
Visitor:	velKhe noots-flaan-tsen baawehn zee an?	What crops do you grow?
Local:	iKh baawa kart-off-eln, vaaytsen unt ger-ste an	I grow potatoes, wheat, and barley.

Exchange 41

Forestry and Fishing

Germany ranks among the most densely wooded countries in Europe. Almost one-third of Germany's total land area, especially in the south, is forested. (The states of Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse are the most thickly wooded; 42% of the area is covered in forest.) As a result, Germany produces a significant amount of lumber, ranking third in lumber production in Europe, after Sweden and Finland.[663]

Forest industries play a major role in rural employment, though there has been growing concern for decades about environmental damage to Germany's forests. The Forest Preservation and Forestry Promotion Act was passed in 1975 to prevent destructive and wasteful timber policies. Under the act, forest owners must return cut areas

to their original condition, converting forests into timber farms in which the cut trees are replaced by seedlings. Despite this legislation and the great care given to forest preservation, many German forests, including the highland Black Forest in the southwest, are badly depleted. In 2016, the German timber industry reported 2.4% growth, while the total worth of goods reached EUR 35 billion.[664]

Crab fishing off Borkum Island, North Sea
Pixabay / BabaMu

The German fishing industry also suffers from depletion. In the last few decades, the size of the German ocean-fishing fleet has shrunk because its principal fishing grounds have been overfished by the numerous modern fishing fleets in northern European waters. German vessels have fished the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean off the British Isles for centuries. These are all areas where many competing fishing fleets also operate. Germany has worked to establish rules that would prevent overfishing through the EU, but they have proved difficult to enforce.[665, 666]

Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship

Germany has a long history of apprenticeship in many skilled trades, such as carpentry, blacksmithing, or bricklaying. The tradition of the traveling journeyman (*Wandergeselle*) traces its roots to the Craftsmen Guilds of Europe during the Middle Ages. Following his apprenticeship, every young man who wanted to be a *Meister* (master) had to leave home and not return for three years and a day (the journeyman's *Walz*). The purpose of the journey was not to seek fortune, but to improve knowledge and skills, preparing the young journeyman to become a masters of his craft.[667]

Some apprentices still practice the *Walz*, which entails honing their craft while hitchhiking or traveling for a year and a day. The *Walz* is the conclusion of an apprenticeship in one of 35 trades, providing journeymen the opportunity to learn variations in their crafts and to enter a guild.[668] Prospective journeymen, which today also includes women, must be unmarried, childless, and debt free; they are recognizable by their wide-brimmed black hats and six-button coats. During the *Walz*, journeymen live by exchanging work for room and board.[669, 670]

Transportation and Roads

Most German villages are well-connected to cities by buses and trains, but there are areas where the nearest station is 10 km (6 mi) away and the nearest 24-hour hospital is even further. Railways are half as dense as in urban areas. In rural eastern Germany especially, many people must drive long distances to work. Additionally, there has been an increase in the number of long-haul trucks coming from Poland, Czechia, and Romania on both highways and rural roads, so extra caution should be observed.[671, 672]

There are approximately 650,000 km (404,000 mi) of roads in Germany, making the road system among the densest and longest in Europe. Road conditions in general are excellent, though smaller towns and villages still have narrow roads built for horse-drawn carts.[673]

Winter traffic outside Hamburg
Wikimedia / Mirkofon

Bad weather conditions and unfamiliar road markings can pose significant hazards. Motorists without adequate winter tires are held responsible by authorities when involved in an accident, even if they are not at fault. Right-of-way rules are different from the United States and vehicles coming from the right have the right-of-way. In general, it is illegal to pass vehicles on the right. Driver error is a leading cause of accidents involving U.S. citizen motorists in Germany.[674] Bicycles are another cause of accidents. Many German streets and sidewalks have dedicated bike lanes, and bicyclists have priority use of these lanes over drivers in any situation, such as turning onto side streets.[675]

Is there lodging nearby?		
Visitor:	geept es aayn gast-haaws in der naeya?	Is there lodging nearby?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 42

May I use your phone?		
Visitor:	daarf iKh eer telefon be-nootsen?	May I use your phone?
Local:	klaar	Sure.

Exchange 43

Health Care and Education

Along with the decreasing population, the availability of hospitals and doctors has become a problem in rural areas, especially in eastern Germany. The number of hospital beds per 1,000 inhabitants is much lower in rural areas than in urban areas, and the time it takes to drive to the hospital is half an hour longer. The availability of long-term care services is better, but access for the poor is worse because elderly care insurance only covers a portion of the costs, which is not always sufficient.[676, 677]

Bad Schandau, Elbe River, Saxony
Flickr / Max Stolbinsky

Besides standard Western medicine, there is a strong tradition of naturopathic medicine in Germany, including health resorts of various kinds across rural Germany. A *Kurort* is a resort for preventative medicine, recovery, or cure. It can be a spa (*Kurbad*) or a resort known for its fresh air and climate (*Luftkurort*).[678, 679]

Education also suffers in rural regions, especially in the former East Germany. In Saxony-Anhalt, 50% more students leave school without an educational certificate than in other areas of the country. This is partly because there are not enough schools, and the distances to high schools (*Gymnasien*) are longer in rural areas. Low birth rates have also led to decreasing numbers of students, particularly in rural areas.[680] Some federal states have merged elementary and secondary schools to solve

Niedersorbisches Gymnasium, Brandenburg
Wikimedia/Maximillian Hartig

this problem. Access to vocational training in eastern Germany is also more difficult. As a result, many young people must move to urban areas or westward to be trained.[681, 682]

Is there a medical clinic nearby?		
Visitor:	geept es aayna kleenik in der naeya?	Is there a medical clinic nearby?
Local:	yaa, daa drueben	Yes, over there.

Exchange 44

Is there a school nearby?		
Visitor:	geept es aayna shoola in der naeya?	Is there a school nearby?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 45

Village Life

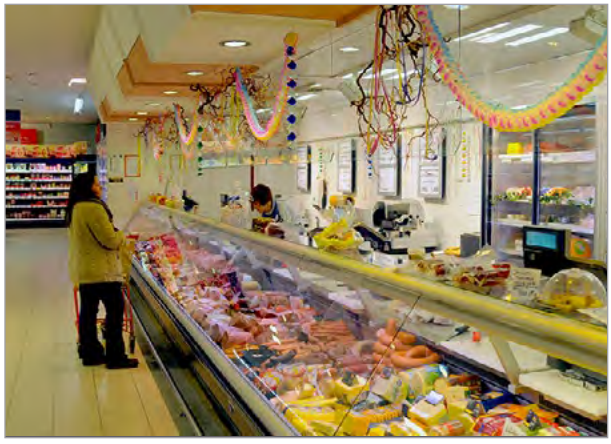
There is a wide range of housing in Germany, from mansions and country estates for the wealthy, to tents and social housing for the needy and homeless. Most Germans live in self-contained apartments or in single-family houses. Single-story and two-story townhouse dwellings characterize the tidy neighborhoods of villages and small towns. In many communities, merchants, tradespeople, and shopkeepers live above their stores, and clustered farmhouses still form the core of many villages.[683]

Adelshofen-Tauberzell village, Franconia
Wikimedia / RudolfSimon

Germans enjoy the quiet of life of the countryside (*Ruhe*). There are hardly any vehicles to be seen on holidays, and in the winter people mostly stay indoors. In small-town Germany, there is often no vacuuming on Sundays, and no loud music is allowed between noon and 3 p.m.; Saturdays are reserved for garden work, which may be simply plucking weeds from sidewalks in front of a house. Some apartment buildings, especially in more rural areas, have a house-cleaning schedule. Each unit in the building has a different chore each week: mopping the stairwell, sweeping the

walkway, moving the trash bins out onto the street, etc. The specific task is usually stated in the rental agreement.[684]

German villages are slowly dwindling and residents are suffering as they lose places to meet and shop within walking distance of their homes. Bigger supermarkets are often about 5–10 km (3–6 mi) away. Some villagers are trying to stabilize population loss by opening their own community-owned stores to keep village life alive. Even villagers with cars prefer to shop at a local store, which typically has a café in the back. The café is the most important element of the village store, which provides a social space.[685]



Supermarket in Speicher, Rhineland-Palatinate
U.S. Air Force / Iris Reiff

Half-Timbered Houses

The narrow cobblestone streets and winding alleys of German villages and small towns are lined with historic buildings and half-timbered houses (*Fachwerk*).[686] First built during the 11th century, *Fachwerk* houses are examples of the oldest architectural style in central Europe. Half-timbering became the most popular building style in Germany in the 14th century and remained so until the industrialization period of the 19th century. Most of the traditional houses in major German cities were destroyed by carpet bombings in WWII. Consequently, the greatest part of the *Fachwerk* architecture surviving today is in smaller towns and villages. There are approximately 2.5 million *Fachwerk* houses scattered throughout Germany, though styles and carpentry techniques vary from one region to another. During the late 70s and early 80s, landmark designations were given to a large number of *Fachwerk* buildings, and they are now being restored on a wide scale.[687]

Fachwerk buildings, Nuremberg
Flickr / Stefan Jurca

Do you know this area very well?		
Visitor:	kenen zee deezeh gegeynt goot?	Do you know this area very well?
Local:	yaa, iKh bin heer aawf-ge-vaksen	Yes, I grew up here.

Exchange 46

How many people live in this house?		
Visitor:	vee feela loyta vonen in deezem haaws?	How many people live in this house?
Local:	tsvaay	Two.

Exchange 47

Are these people family members?		
Visitor:	gehoeren deeza loyta tsoo eerer faameeleeya?	Are these people family members?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 48

Border Crossings and Checkpoints

Bundespolizei patrol car
Wikimedia / Mattes

The EU's Schengen Agreement of 1985 abolished passport checks and all other types of border control between most EU member states. As a result, Germany does not maintain traditional border checkpoints. In recent years, however, the refugee crisis, Islamist terrorism, and rising illegal immigration have prompted Germany and other EU countries to tighten border-crossing policies. Since 2014, the German Federal Police (*Bundespolizei*, or BPOL) have intensified identity checks in border regions and in airports, but they are still limited by the Schengen Agreement as well as restrictions that differ from state to state. In 2016, the BPOL reported more than 167,000 illegal entries into Germany.[688, 689]

Where is the nearest checkpoint?		
Visitor:	vo ist der nayKhst-eh kontrol-ponkt?	Where is the nearest checkpoint?
Local:	tsvaay kilometer fon heer	Two kilometers from here.

Exchange 49

Are you carrying any guns		
Visitor:	fue-ren zee vaafen baay siKh?	Are you carrying any guns?
Local:	naayn	No.

Exchange 50

Random ID checks are contentious in Germany. Critics say they are not effective and result in racial profiling. Those in favor want to see ID checks extended to include areas around airports and railway stations, and on autobahns that lead in and out of the country.[690] In 2017, the European Court of Justice ruled that the BPOL must ensure that random identity checks in border regions, on trains, and at transit centers are genuinely random.[691, 692]

Is this all the ID you have?		
Visitor:	ist dees aales vaas zee haaben um siKh aaws-tsoo-vaaysen?	Is this all the ID you have?
Local:	yaa	Yes.

Exchange 51

Please get out of the car.		
Visitor:	shtaaygen zee bita aaws deym aawto	Please get out of the car.
Local:	okay	Okay.

Exchange 52

Please show us the car registration.		
Visitor:	tsaay-gen zee uns bita eeren faar-tsoyk-shaayn	Please show us the car registration.
Local:	okay	Okay.

Exchange 53

Explosive Remnants of War

While Germany is a signatory to the international mine ban treaty, unexploded ordnance (UXO)—or explosive remnants of war—remain a problem. During WWII, Allied warplanes hit Germany with 1.5 million tons of bombs. Officials estimate that 15% of the bombs did not explode; some lie 6 m (20 ft) deep, others just below the surface. UXO can still detonate, even decades after they were used or discarded. In addition, many of the bombs were equipped with delayed-action detonators, and some have yet to go off.[693]

UXO removal, Hohenfels, Bavaria
Pixabay / Momentmal

Each year, over 2,000 tons of live bombs, unexploded mines, and other munitions are discovered in Germany. Most of these are found in areas that were heavily bombarded, such as the industrial Ruhr region, and the cities of Hamburg, Dresden, and Hanover. Bombs are often discovered during construction or analysis of historical areal images. Their disposal can require large evacuations.[694]

In 2017, about 60,000 people were evacuated from the northern city of Hanover when a 1,400-kg (15-ton) bomb was discovered at a construction site. In what was Germany's largest bomb-disposal operation since WWII, more than 1,000 emergency service workers helped clear a wide area, including two hospitals and the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, where $70 billion in gold reserves are stored.[695, 696]

Experts indicate there are tens of thousands of bombs still buried throughout the country, and that it could take decades to clear all the remaining UXO. There is also concern that the bombs are becoming more dangerous due to material fatigue. German bomb-disposal units are called to deactivate bombs about every two weeks; since 2000, 11 technicians have been killed in the course of their duties.[697]

Is this area mined?		
Visitor:	ist deezes gebeet fehr-meent?	Is this area mined?
Local:	naayn	No.

Exchange 54

Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life

616 Deutsche Welle, "Why More Tourists are Flocking to Germany," 11 February 2016, http://www.dw.com/en/why-more-tourists-are-flocking-to-germany/a-19041849.

617 Local, "Germany Draws Record Number of Tourists," 11 February 2015, https://www.thelocal.de/20150211/germany-draws-record-number-of-tourists.

618 Eric Solsten, ed., "Tourism," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/148.htm.

619 Trading Economics, "Germany—Agricultural Land (% of Land Area)," accessed 4 January 2018, https://tradingeconomics.com/germany/agricultural-land-percent-of-land-area-wb-data.html.

620 Zeit Online, "Diving into Urban-Rural Prejudice," accessed 4 January 2018, http://www.zeit.de/feature/germany-urban-rural-population-division-prejudice.

621 World Bank, "Rural Population (% of Total Population)," accessed 4 January 2018, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS.

622 Deutsche Welle, "It's a Tough Life for the Country Doctor," 23 September 2011, http://www.dw.com/en/its-a-tough-life-for-the-country-doctor/a-15410030.

623 *Economist*, "Germany's Reunification 25 Years On," 2 October 2015, https://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2015/10/daily-chart-comparing-eastern-and-western-germany.

624 Jefferson Chase, "The Dying Rural Communities in Eastern Germany," Deutsche Welle, 10 December 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/the-dying-rural-communities-in-eastern-germany/a-41733118.

625 *Economist*, "Germany's Reunification," 2 October 2015, https://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2015/10/daily-chart-comparing-eastern-and-western-germany.

626 Simon Tisdall, "Silent Blight in a Countryside of Empty Homes and Shut Shops," *Guardian*, 22 August 2015, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/23/europe-rural-urban-migration-threat-countryside.

627 Caritas Germany, "Life in Rural Germany—Changing Times," accessed 4 January 2018, http://www.caritas-germany.org/focus/campaignsandinitiatives/campaign-2015-demographic-change-in-rural-german-communities.

628 Daniel Delhaes, "Germany's Growing Urban-Rural Split," Handelsblatt Global, 4 October 2017, https://global.handelsblatt.com/politics/germanys-growing-urban-rural-divide-835401.

629 Reuters, "Immigrant Population Hits New High in Germany," 1 August 2017, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-immigration/immigrant-population-hits-new-high-in-germany-idUSKBN1AH3EP.

630 EuroStat, "Migration and Migrant Population Statistics," March 2017, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics.

631 Alison Smale, "Germany's Small Town Feels the Cost of Europe's Migrant Crisis," *New York Times*, 22 April 2015, https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/23/world/europe/germany-immigration-refugees-asylum-integration.html?mtrref=www.google.com.

632 Yardena Schwartz, "Welcome to Wimberg: Population 1,800 (+300 Refugees)," Foreign Policy, 22 March 2017, http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/03/22/welcome-to-wimberg-population-1800-300-refugees/.

633 Lam Thuy Vo, "One Small-Town German Mayor Thinks Refugees Can Save the Economy," Quartz, 15 October 2016, https://qz.com/800507/a-small-town-mayor-in-germany-bets-on-refugees-to-save-his-city/.

634 Dieter Haschke, "Local Government Administration in Germany," German Law Archive, accessed 27 August 2018, https://germanlawarchive.iuscomp.org/?p=380.

635 Eric Solsten, ed., "Land and Local Governments," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/141.htm.

636 M. M. Posten, ed., *The Agrarian Life of the Middle Ages*, vol 1, *Cambridge Economic History of Europe* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1966), 194.

637 Robert E. Dickinson, *The West European City: A Geographical Interpretation* (London: Routledge, 1951; UK: Biddles Short Run Books, 1962), 384, Biddles edition.

638 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Settlement Patterns: Rural Settlement," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Settlement-patterns#ref233613.

639 Alex Hoyt, "20 Years After Germany Reunified: The Ruins of a Soviet-Seized Family Home," *Atlantic*, 4 October 2010, https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2010/10/20-years-after-germany-reunified-the-ruins-of-a-soviet-seized-family-home/64000/.

640 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Settlement Patterns: Rural Settlement," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Settlement-patterns#ref233613.

641 Tim McDonnell, "This Town Was Almost Swallowed by a Coal Mine," Mother Jones, 24 April 2014, http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/04/germany-battle-coal-energiewende/.

642 Bernd Grässler, "Court Rejects East German Land Claims," Deutsche Welle, 30 March 2005, http://www.dw.com/en/court-rejects-east-german-land-claims/a-1534293.

Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life

643 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html.

644 Central Intelligence Agency, "Europe: Germany: People and Society," in *The World Factbook*, updated 20 August 2018, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2048.html.

645 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Economy: Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Agriculture-forestry-and-fishing.

646 EuroStat, "Agricultural Census in Germany," accessed 4 January 2018, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Agricultural_census_in_Germany.

647 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html.

648 Robert Skidelsky, "Germany's Hour," Project Syndicate, 18 September 2017, https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/german-european-union-leadership-by-robert-skidelsky-2017-09?utm_source=Project+Syndicate+Newsletter&utm_campaign=6760b1ab14-sunday_newsletter_24_9_2017&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_73bad5b7d8-6760b1ab14-104298733.

649 Pietro S. Nivola, "Are Europe's Cities Better?" Brookings, 1 September 1999, https://www.brookings.edu/articles/are-europes-cities-better/.

650 EuroStat, "The EU Potato Sector—Statistics on Production, Prices and Trade," February 2017, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/The_EU_potato_sector_-_statistics_on_production,_prices_and_trade.

651 EuroStat, "Milk and Milk Product Statistics," October 2017, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Milk_and_milk_product_statistics.

652 Molly Hayden, "Farmers' Markets Offer Healthy Alternatives," U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs, 3 September 2013, https://www.army.mil/article/110464/farmers_markets_offer_healthy_alternatives.

653 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Economy: Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Agriculture-forestry-and-fishing.

654 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html.

655 Sabine Lieberz, "Overview of the German Wine Sector," Global Agricultural Information Network, 24 February 2017, https://gain.fas.usda.gov/Recent%20GAIN%20Publications/Overview%20on%20the%20German%20Wine%20Sector_Berlin_Germany_2-24-2017.pdf.

656 Dieter Hoffmann, "The German Wine Market," Geisenheim University, 2014, http://academyofwinebusiness.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/German_Wine_Market_Hoffmann_Dieter3.pdf.

657 Per and Britt Karlsson, "A German Wine Revolution," *Forbes*, 6 July 2017, https://www.forbes.com/sites/karlsson/2017/07/06/a-german-wine-revolution/#2d7f3b2c29ed.

658 G. Vogt, *Organic Farming: An International History*, ed. William Lockeretz (Cambridge, MA: CAB International, 2007): 9–15.

659 Shane Thomas McMillan, "Meet the German Movement to Transform Agriculture," Deutsche Welle, 27 January 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/meet-the-german-movement-to-transform-agriculture/a-37289747.

660 Gero Rueter, "Why Germans are Demanding a Shift in Agriculture," Deutsche Welle, 15 January 2015, http://www.dw.com/en/why-germans-are-demanding-a-shift-in-agriculture/a-18982885.

661 Deutsche Welle, "Organic Farming Reaches Record Level in Germany," 16 July 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/organic-farming-reaches-record-level-in-germany/a-39713547.

662 Organic Market Info, "Germany: Big Rise in the Number of Farms and the Area of Organic Land," 2 February 2017, http://organic-market.info/news-in-brief-and-reports-article/germany-big-rise-in-the-number-of-farms-and-the-area-of-organic-land.html.

663 UN Climate Change Conference: Bonn, "Forestry in Germany," accessed 4 July 2018, https://www.forstwirtschaft-in-deutschland.de/en/german-forestry/forest-facts/.

664 Global Woods Markets, "The German Wood and Furniture Industry Keeps on Increasing in 2017," 22 May 2017, https://www.globalwoodmarketsinfo.com/the-german-wood-and-furniture-industry-keeps-on-increasing-in-2017/.

665 Eric Solsten, ed., "Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/144.htm.

666 Charles Calvert Bayley et al., "Germany: Economy: Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing," *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, updated 12 July 2018, https://www.britannica.com/place/Germany/Agriculture-forestry-and-fishing.

667 James Chastain, trans., "Journeymen (Germany)," 7 September 2004, https://www.ohio.edu/chastain/ip/journeym.htm.

668 David Charter, "The Journeyman Years Still Happen for 35 Traditional German Trades," *Sunday Times*, 25 January 2017, https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-journeyman-years-still-happen-for-35-traditional-german-trades-tjp3s3gbw.

Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life

669 Melissa Eddy, "Cleaving the Medieval, Journeymen Ply Their Trades in Europe," *New York Times*, 7 August 2017, https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/07/world/europe/europe-journeymen.html.

670 James Chastain, trans., "Journeymen (Germany)," 7 September 2004, https://www.ohio.edu/chastain/ip/journeym.htm.

671 Shelley Pascual, "How Trucks from Eastern Europe are Coming to Dominate German Roads," Local, 2 November 2017, https://www.thelocal.de/20171102/trucks-from-eastern-europe-are-dominating-german-roads.

672 Achim Vanselow, Claudia Weinkopf, and Thorsten Kalina, "Poverty and Social Exclusion in Rural Areas," European Commission, Final Report Annex I Country Studies (Germany, 2008), 70.

673 Just Landed, "Driving a Car in Germany: Driving Conditions and Driving Licences," accessed 4 January 2017, https://www.justlanded.com/english/Germany/Germany-Guide/Travel-Leisure/Driving-a-car-in-Germany.

674 Genevieve Northup, "Prepare for Winter Driving in Germany," Stripes Europe, 15 November 2017, http://europe.stripes.com/community-news/prepare-winter-driving-germany.

675 Country Reports: Travel Edition, "Traffic and Road Conditions in Germany," accessed 4 January 2017, http://www.countryreports.org/travel/Germany/traffic.htm.

676 Achim Vanselow, Claudia Weinkopf, and Thorsten Kalina, "Poverty and Social Exclusion in Rural Areas," European Commission, Final Report Annex I Country Studies (Germany, 2008), 70.

677 Deutsche Welle, "It's a Tough Life for the Country Doctor," 23 September 2011, http://www.dw.com/en/its-a-tough-life-for-the-country-doctor/a-15410030.

678 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html#ixzz4saK3zBmR.

679 German Way and More, "Health Care in Germany," accessed 4 January 2018, https://www.german-way.com/for-expats/living-in-germany/health-care-in-germany/.

680 *Economist*, "East Germany's Population is Shrinking," 15 April 2017, https://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21720578-rest-country-and-large-swathes-europe-will-face-similar-problems.

681 Simon Tisdall, "Silent Blight in a Countryside of Empty Homes and Shut Shops," *Guardian*, 22 August 2015, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/23/europe-rural-urban-migration-threat-countryside.

682 Daniel Delhaes, "Germany's Growing Urban-Rural Split," Handelsblatt Global, 4 October 2017, https://global.handelsblatt.com/politics/germanys-growing-urban-rural-divide-835401.

683 Eric Solsten, ed., "Housing," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/93.htm.

684 Local, "Why Are Shops in Germany Closed on Sundays?" 27 October 2017, https://www.thelocal.de/20171027/why-does-germany-have-such-strict-opening-hours-on-sundays.

685 Renuka Rayasam, "A New Wave of Stores Keep German Villages Alive," Spiegel Online, 25 October 2012, http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/village-stores-experience-a-renaissance-in-germany-a-861859.html.

686 German Way and More, "Half-Timbered Germany," 21 June 2017, https://www.german-way.com/half-timbered-germany/.

687 Stephanie Griffith, "Germany Rediscovers an Honored Style," *New York Times*, 3 November 1988, http://www.nytimes.com/1988/11/03/garden/germany-rediscovers-an-honored-style.html.

688 Cynthia Kroet, "9,000 Illegal Migrants Entered Germany in 2017: Report," Politico, 22 March 2017, https://www.politico.eu/article/9000-illegal-migrants-entered-germany-in-2017-report/.

689 Local, "German-Polish Border Checks to Start Again," 13 March 2014, https://www.thelocal.de/20140313/german-polish-border-checks-to-start-again.

690 Ben Knight, "Bavaria Demands Random Police Checks Across Germany," Deutsche Welle, 12 June 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/bavaria-demands-random-police-checks-across-germany/a-39214936.

691 Library of Congress, "Citizenship Pathways and Border Protection: Germany," 30 July 2015, https://www.loc.gov/law/help/citizenship-pathways/germany.php.

692 Raymond Johnston, "Border Checks to Start with Germany," Prague TV, 19 June 2017, https://prague.tv/en/s72/Directory/c207-Travel/n9905-Border-checks-to-start-with-Germany.

693 Aasim Saleem, "Unexploded Ordnance in Germany: A Legacy of the Allied Forces," Deutsche Welle, 7 May 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/unexploded-ordnance-in-germany-a-legacy-of-the-allied-forces/g-38741131.

694 Aasim Saleem, "Unexploded Ordnance in Germany: A Legacy of the Allied Forces," Deutsche Welle, 7 May 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/unexploded-ordnance-in-germany-a-legacy-of-the-allied-forces/g-38741131.

Endnotes for Chapter 5: Rural Life

695 *Guardian*, "Explosives Experts Defuse Second World War Bomb in Frankfurt," 3 September 2017, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/03/frankfurt-residents-evacuated-after-second-world-war-bomb-found.

696 Tom Sims, "Frankfurt Defuses Massive WWII Bomb after Evacuating 60,000," Reuters, 3 September 2017, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-frankfurt-evacuation/thousands-evacuate-in-frankfurt-before-wwii-bomb-defused-idUSKCN1BE0CF.

697 Marina Koren, "Germany Keeps Finding World War II-Era Bombs," *Atlantic*, 29 May 2016, https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/05/germany-unexploded-bombs/484799/.

German Cultural Orientation

Chapter 5 | Rural Life

Assessment

1. Agriculture is a major sector of the German economy, accounting for 20% of GDP.

2. There is strong support for organic and small-scale farming among Germans.

3. Some outlying areas in Germany are struggling to remain vital.

4. Germany, a signatory to the International Mine Ban treaty, has no in-country mines.

5. In recent years, Germany's federal police have intensified ID checks in border regions and airports.

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

Family theme park, Hesse Flickr / Reiner Kraft

Family Life

Introduction

Even in the individualized and mobile world of 21st-century Germany, family plays a central role in daily life for most Germans. Family is influential, often providing a person's main social outlet. Most German households are relatively small, consisting of the nuclear family: mother, father, and their children. The extended family—aunts, uncles, grandparents—generally lives separately.[698]

Marriages and family size are declining, and ideas about the typical family are changing, with many different family forms gaining popularity. Birth rates in Germany are lower than in most of Europe. Couples may choose not to have children, or when

Family, Königssee, Bavaria
Pixabay / EvaMospan

they do have children, may choose not to marry. Single-parent families are the fastest-growing type of family. Today, single parents make up a fifth of all families, though this is lower than the European average.[699] Nine out of ten of the 1.6 million single parents are women. The number of LGBTQ couples has increased by 30% over the last decade, and there is growing acceptance for these families. As of 2018, same sex couples can marry and adopt children. Despite the decline of traditional family structures, married couples with children make up the most common family form.[700, 701]

The rising number of children born to unmarried mothers, and the growth of alternative forms of partnership, have led to a broadening of the concept of family and a liberalization of family law and family policy. The parental leave policy introduced in 2007 allows couples to more easily start a family and still pursue professional development; it is among many benefits designed to assist parents in Germany.[702, 703]

Male and Female Interactions within the Family

German Air Force pilot 1st Lt. Nicola Baumann (right)
Wikimedia / U.S. Air Force

Until the early 20th century, women's roles within the family were largely restricted to taking care of the home and children. As Germany transitioned from an agricultural society to an industrial one, women began to gain access to a wider range of economic roles. Today, women are represented in all walks of life. Nevertheless, women are still more likely than men to be responsible for the lion's share of child care and household management. Urban women may be more likely to have full-time jobs, but they still take care of almost three-quarters of the child care responsibilities.[704]

While the German constitution, the Basic Law, provides men and women equal rights, women did not enjoy equality within marriage until 1977. Before

that, religious and conservative political parties, such as the Christian Democrats, influenced family law. Women could work outside the home only if it did not interfere with their household duties. In East Germany, women enjoyed equal rights in marriage, the family, and the workplace much earlier. But as in West Germany, they were still underrepresented in leading positions in the workplace and in government.[705]

German infant in father's arm
Flickr / Eselsmann

In modern-day Germany, parental leave, family allowance, and better daycares and preschools allow mothers more freedom to pursue work opportunities. More than 70% of women work part-time—especially those whose children are not yet at school—and the number of working mothers rose to 73% in 2014, the second-highest figure in the EU. Parental leave also contributes to more "active" fathers. Roughly 34% of German fathers take parental leave, with the average spending 3 months at home with their child.[706] After the birth of a child, fathers receive tax credits and lower tax rates, while women, usually the supplemental earner, lose about three-quarters of their income because they do not return to work.[707] This means that fathers work more following the birth of their children, while mothers become part-time workers since there is no incentive for them to continue their professional careers.[708] This situation has contributed to smaller families and more childless couples.[709]

Children and the Elderly

Germany has a strong social network system that supports families and the elderly. It includes a basic income for retirees and those permanently unable to work, as well as other financial benefits, such as the family allowance system.[710]

Parental Leave

The German parental leave system allows mothers and fathers to take maternity leave (*Mutterschutz*), which begins 6 weeks before the birth and ends 8 weeks after. By law, mothers are not allowed to work in the 6 weeks before the birth, and during the 8 weeks that follow, and both parents' jobs must be kept open for them.[711] Parents also have the option of suspending their jobs for up to 3 years. During this time, they receive

Children at a spray park, Friedrichshafen
Pixabay / estrella-ontour

a number of benefits and allowances from the government, including a family allowance (*Elterngeld*) for up to 14 months that amounts to 67% of their last net income.[712, 713] Parents also receive a child allowance (*Kindergeld*) for each child under the age of 18. In 2017, the monthly *Kindergeld* amounted to €192 ($231) each for the first and second child, and more for each consecutive child. The vast majority of Germans take advantage of the benefit, but four out of five fathers take only the minimum period of 2 months off. Mothers primarily stay at home for a longer period after having children.[714] Infant and child mortality in Germany remain among the lowest in the world.[715]

Child Rearing

Pages from Struwwelpeter: "The Story of Soup-Kaspar"
Flickr / Peter

For centuries, German child-rearing practices were strict and authoritarian. A classic of children's literature during the 19th and early 20th centuries was *Der Struwwelpeter*. A collection of morality tales with dire consequences, in one story a girl accidentally lights herself on fire and burns to death; in another, a boy has his thumbs cut off with scissors.[716] While the book is still a time-honored classic, Germans today view it as an example of attitudes long past. Practices began to change after WWI, when sociologists criticized strict discipline as encouraging mass thinking and submission to authority. They argued that such practices in Germany contributed to the success of National Socialism.[717]

Today, German parents place a high value on independence, freethinking, and responsibility in their children. Children are taught to speak their minds and question authority; spanking is against the law.[718] Whether it is a small town or large city, German children are given a lot of freedom. Most grade-schoolers, some as young as 8, walk to school and around their neighborhoods unattended. Some even take

the U-Bahn alone. It is common to see small children on playgrounds (*Spielplätze*) in subzero temperatures (demonstrating the German saying, "There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.")[719]

The Elderly

Older people in Germany are more active today than in the past. Increasingly they are working into their 60s, enrolling at universities or adult education centers, and doing more voluntary work. They also wield considerable influence. In recent German elections, more than one-third of those eligible to vote were 60 and over, more than twice the number of those under 30.[720] Grandparents also play an increasingly important role in multigenerational families, with over one-third of German families relying on grandparents for childcare support.[721, 722]

An older German couple
Pixabay / Huskyherz

The number of elderly in the country has been increasing for decades, and there are concerns about financing social security benefits. Since the end of the 19th century, life expectancy in Germany has more than doubled and it continues to increase: in 2017 it was 78 years for men and 83 years for women. This increase, and a low birth rate among German families, has contributed to the progressive aging of the country's population and fewer workers paying into the social security system.[723] In 1970, the elderly made up 14% of the population, and one retiree was financed by three employees; in 2016, around one-quarter of Germans were aged 60 or over. Germany's statistics office estimates that by 2030 as much as 28% of the country's population will be elderly, and there will one retiree for every worker.[724]

Between 2005 and 2015, the number of Germans over 55 living in poverty increased by 25% to 5.6 million, and it is expected to continue rising. While the rate of poverty among the elderly is under the EU average, it has been cause for concern in Germany. Elderly women are particularly at risk. In 2015, Germany had the widest retirement benefits gap between men and women in Europe and the United States, despite recent reforms.[725, 726]

Married Life and Divorce

In Germany, the basic kinship group is the nuclear family, consisting of a woman and a man, usually married, and their children; in fact, most households are made up of married couples with or without children. Between 1950 and 1997, the number of marriages declined. It is estimated that 35% of all marriages ended in divorce in the late 20th century. Despite the increase in the number of unmarried couples (with or without children), they make up only 5% of all households.[727]

Family at the Museum for Communication, Berlin
Flickr / Jean-Pierre Dalbera

The rising number of children born to unmarried mothers (currently 18%, which is lower than the EU average), and the growth of alternative forms of partnership have, since 1979, led to a broadening of the concept of family and a liberalization of family law and family policy.[728] The divorce rate, which had climbed until 2003, declined over the last decade. In most regions of the country, 70–80% of families include married couples.[729] Single-parent families account for 17% of all families with children, and 8% of all families consist of unmarried couples cohabiting.[730, 731]

Family Social Events

Birthdays

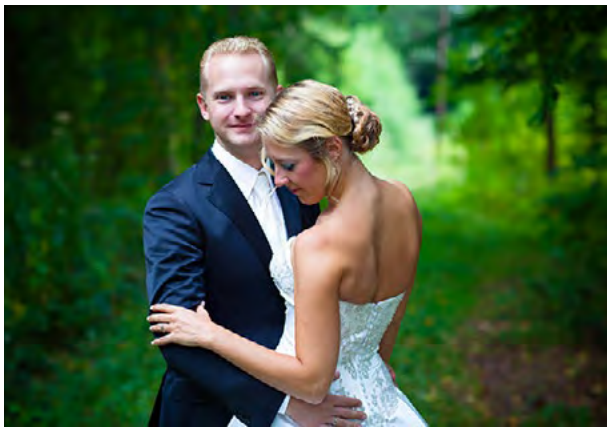
In general, birthday customs in Germany are similar to those in the United States, with a few exceptions. Most importantly, it is considered bad luck to wish a German Happy Birthday *(Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!*) or give cards or presents before the actual day. Germans celebrate "into" a person's birthday at midnight (*reinfeiern*), even during the week. Germans are also expected to organize and pay for their own birthday parties.[732]

Child's wooden birthday wreath
Pixabay / Efraimstochter

Celebrations for children often include a *Geburtstagskränze*, a decorated wooden wreath with a hole for each year of life as a child. Families may light candles in these wreaths or on a birthday cake. A larger candle, or *Lebenskerze* (life candle), is put in the center of these rings. In religious families, these candles are given at the time of the child's christening.[733]

Weddings

For 250 years, purely religious marriage ceremonies were illegal in Germany. Couples were allowed to marry in churches and synagogues, but only after first having a civil ceremony. As of 2009, couples can choose to have a church wedding without going to the local registry office (*Standesamt*). Still, secular weddings are preferred in Germany. The simple ceremony is usually held with only a few close relatives and friends. Witnesses (*Trauzeugen*) are not required at civil ceremonies, but couples often choose to have them. A witness can be of any gender.[734] In 2017, despite objections from church leaders and conservatives, Parliament granted same-sex couples the right to marry and to adopt children.[735]



Wedding couple, Saarbrücken
Flickr / Jakob Montrasio

While wedding traditions in Germany differ from region to region, some customs are widely practiced. Engagement rings—usually a simple gold band—are worn on the left hand; after the wedding, the same rings (usually identical) are then worn on the right hand. Bachelor and bachelorette parties are growing in popularity. The party may include a procession through town in which the bride- or groom-to-be, dressed in a silly costume, must sell schnapps, candy, or useless items carried on a small tray.[736]

The night before the wedding, friends and family traditionally gather for an informal party called the *Polterabend* (eve of making a racket). This typically involves food, drink, and breaking ceramic plates and other tableware. By cleaning up the broken plates together, the bride and groom demonstrate they get along well. This custom is believed to bring good luck to the soon-to-be-married couple. After the wedding, friends may play practical jokes on the newlyweds, such as filling up their apartment with balloons, hiding alarm clocks throughout the bedroom, or taking apart the bed. Male friends may also "kidnap" the new bride. This often involves taking her from bar

to bar while the groom tries to find her. The evening can become pricey, as the groom is expected to buy drinks for everyone in each bar.[737, 738]

Congratulations on your wedding!		
Visitor:	herts-leeKhen glook-woonsh tsoor hoKh-tsaayt!	Congratulations on your wedding!
Local:	veer froyen uns, daaS zee heer zint	We are happy to have you here.

Exchange 55

Funerals

Germany's funeral industry is extremely regulated, and in most states the dead must be buried in a cemetery. Roughly 50% of Germans choose cremation over burial, though in eastern Germany the rate is over 80%. Most cemeteries are public, and burial services are free—though non-Christians must pay for burials in church graveyards.[739]

Funeral in Kassel, Hesse
Flickr / Mario Behling

Funerals typically take place a few days after a person passes, and are traditionally solemn affairs at a chapel or church; occasionally there will be balloons, rock music, and videos of the deceased in life. Family gatherings often include *Zuckerkuchen* (sugar cake), which is remarkable because it is served at both weddings and funerals. For that reason, it is often called *Freude-und-Leid Kuchen* (Joy-and-Sorrow Cake).[740]

Germans do not usually have open-coffin ceremonies, and both coffins and gravesites tend to be simple. Gravestones may or may not have an inscription. If the family desires one, there are regulations that determine what detail may appear. Some Germans choose an anonymous grave with no headstone; for this purpose, cemeteries lay aside grassy areas with a single monument. The first such gravesites occurred in the 1930s in eastern Germany, where today over 40% are anonymous. There are far fewer, by comparison, in more devout and conservative areas such as Munich. Here, more people desire a gravestone with an inscription or a cross.[741, 742]

Because of space limitations in Germany, plots are usually rented for 20–30 years. Once the mourners themselves have passed away, the remains are put in a separate

container and buried deeper at the site, and the plot is used for another burial. The graves of famous Germans, however, are often left intact. Rental contracts require families to keep gravesites well-attended and attractive. For those who cannot keep up with the work, there are gardening services that can be hired.[743, 744]

Cemetery at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church (Elisabethkirche), Berlin
Flickr / Paul VanDerWerf

For generations, cremation and embalming were handled by the state, rather than by funeral homes. After legal restrictions were relaxed in 2000, private cemeteries began to appear and alternate arrangements became more common; these may include mourning rituals designed by families and friends, and scattering ashes in gardens, meadows, or woodland sites.[745] In the main cemetery in Saarbrücken, in southwest Germany, for example, there is an area named after the signs of the zodiac. In Hamburg's largest cemetery, there is a "Garden of Women," which includes the burial places of important Hamburg women.[746, 747]

I offer my condolences to you and your family.		
Visitor:	iKh shpreKha eenen unt eerer faameeleeya maayn baaylayd aaws	I offer my condolences to you and your family.
Local:	daanka	Thank you.

Exchange 56

Coming of Age in Eastern Germany

Some rites of passage for young Germans are religious in nature, such as baptism and first communion. Others are secular and include graduation parties and the *Jugenweihe* coming of age ceremony. In the 19th century, the *Jugenweihe* school ceremony became an accepted tradition for 14-year-olds among secular Germans. The ceremony provided an alternative to the Christian custom of confirmation by the church. Originally a ceremony to mark a student's leaving school, the *Jugenweihe* has remained largely unchanged since the 1890s. The *Jugenweihe* became especially widespread in East Germany, where state atheism was encouraged under the GDR. While it is still hugely popular in the predominantly atheist eastern part Germany, it is no longer practiced in the west.[748, 749]

Preparations begin months in advance; young teenagers attend specially arranged events and seminars on a variety of topics from history and multiculturalism, to civil rights and getting a job. The culminating ceremony is similar to a graduation, broken up by songs, recitals, and speeches of encouragement; students are given a commemorative book and a rose. The tradition is controversial: supporters see it as a nonreligious way to give teenagers a forum to expand their minds and horizons, while critics see it as a leftover from the communist GDR.[750, 751]

Naming Conventions

Germany has similar naming conventions to English-speaking countries, with names consisting of two first names (*Vornamen*) and a family name (*Nachname*, or *Familienname*). Women often adopt their husband's surname or use both (and a man may adopt his wife's surname), though some women choose to keep their maiden name. While the last name is typically passed down through the father's lineage, if a husband and wife each retain their surname after marriage, they may declare either as the family name.[752]

Family portrait with pet (and garden statue), Dorsten
Flickr / Eselsmann

Germans began to use last names during the Middle Ages; before that, people used only a given name. The first Germans to use family names were wealthy landowners and the nobility. Later, merchants and townspeople began using them. Last names are typically occupational, descriptive, or geographical. Common examples include Becker (baker), Braun (brown hair or a dark complexion), and Berger (someone who lives on a mountain). For centuries, only aristocratic families were allowed to use the prefix *von* (from) in their last name, which was typically a town name (e.g., Lukas von Essen, or Lukas from Essen). Sometimes *von* simply indicated that a person was from an area: Michael von Brandt (Michael "from the area cleared by fire").[753]

Parents must observe several rules when naming children in Germany. First, the gender of the child must be clear from at least one of the first names. The only exception is the name "Maria," which is sometimes used as a second name for boys. First names cannot be made-up and they should not have any negative associations; for example, Kevin, a popular name in the United States, is a term sometimes used for a small,

Father and son, Neustrelitz
Flickr / Thomas Kohler

overweight, and disobedient child in Germany. In addition, names that are also surnames, names of objects, cities, and product names are not allowed.[754]

Parents must submit a child's name to the local registry office for approval within two weeks of birth. When evaluating names, the *Standesamt* refers to an international manual of first names and consults foreign embassies for assistance with non-German names. Many parents opt for traditional names such as Maximilian, Alexander, and Marie to avoid the extensive paperwork.[755, 756] Many common traditional German names are biblical, such as Johann/Hans (John), Anna, and Maria. Other popular names have Germanic origins, such as Friedrich and Ludwig. In recent years, international names have become more popular. In 2015, Mia, Hannah, Ben, and Jonas were among the most popular.[757, 758]

Endnotes for Chapter 6: Family Life

698 Cultural Atlas, "German Culture: Family," accessed 7 January 2018, https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/german-culture/german-culture-family.

699 Local, "Germany Sees Highest Birthrate in Decades, Still Lags Behind in Europe," 15 May 2017, https://www.thelocal.de/20170515/germany-sees-highest-birthrate-since-reunification-still-lags-behind-in-europe.

700 GFK Verein, "The German Family Structure from a Geographical Perspective," April 2012, http://www.gfk-verein.org/en/compact/focustopics/german-family-structure-geographical-perspective.

701 Heribert Engstle and Sonja Nowossadeck, "Families in Germany: Facts and Figures" (Berlin: German Centre of Gerontology, December 2004), 5, https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Heribert_Engstler/publication/242690194_Families_in_Germany_-_Facts_and_Figures/links/53fd8c870cf2364ccc08cebb/Families-in-Germany-Facts-and-Figures.pdf.

702 Facts about Germany, "Society: Diverse Living Arrangements," accessed 6 September 2018, https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/chapter/society/diverse-living-arrangements.

703 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html.

704 Zeit Online, "Diving into Urban-Rural Prejudice," September 2017, http://www.zeit.de/feature/germany-urban-rural-population-division-prejudice.

705 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html#ixzz52bMg35Vj.

706 Birgit Kraemer, "Germany: Family Benefit Rule Changes Encourage Parents to Share Childcare Duties," European Observatory of Working Life, 19 February 2015, https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/it/observatories/eurwork/articles/quality-of-life/germany-family-benefit-rule-changes-encourage-parents-to-share-childcare-duties.

707 Deutsche Welle, "Report: Women in Germany Still Facing Gender Injustices," 21 June 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/report-women-in-germany-still-facing-gender-injustices/a-39341955.

708 *Economist*, "German Family Policy: Pay to Stay at Home," 5 May 2012, http://www.economist.com/node/21554245.

709 Statistisches Bundesamt, "Households and Families," accessed 7 January 2018, https://www.destatis.de/EN/FactsFigures/SocietyState/Population/HouseholdsFamilies/HouseholdsFamilies.html.

710 Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, "Welcome to Germany: Pregnancy and Maternity Leave," accessed 7 January 2018, http://www.bamf.de/EN/Willkommen/KinderFamilie/Mutterschutz/mutterschutz-node.html.

711 Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, "Welcome to Germany: Pregnancy and Maternity Leave," accessed 7 January 2018, http://www.bamf.de/EN/Willkommen/KinderFamilie/Mutterschutz/mutterschutz-node.html.

712 Birgit Kraemer, "Germany: Family Benefit Rule Changes Encourage Parents to Share Childcare Duties," EurWORK, 19 February 2015, https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/observatories/eurwork/articles/quality-of-life/germany-family-benefit-rule-changes-encourage-parents-to-share-childcare-duties.

713 Sonja Blum, Daniel Erler, and Thordis Reimer, "Country Notes on Leave Policies and Research: Germany," eds A. Koslowski S. Blum, and P. Moss, in International Review of Leave Policies and Related Research 2016 (August 2016), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282765993_Country_notes_on_leave_policies_and_research_Germany.

714 How to Germany, "Children's Allowance—Kindergeld in Germany," May 2017, https://www.howtogermany.com/pages/kindergeld.html.

715 World Bank, "Mortality Rate, Infant (Per 1,000 Live Births)," accessed 7 January 2018, https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.IMRT.IN?year_high_desc=false.

716 Jack Sherefkin, "The Influence of Struwwelpeter," New York Public Library,15 May 2013, https://www.nypl.org/blog/2013/05/15/influence-struwwelpeter.

717 Christian Spatscheck, "Theodor W. Adorno on Education,"' Encyclopaedia of Informal Education, 2010, http://infed.org/mobi/theodor-w-adorno-on-education/.

718 Franziska Scheven, "German Parents Go Off Corporal Punishment," Reuters, 8 April 2009, https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-children/german-parents-go-off-corporal-punishment-idUSTRE5377T620090408.

719 Sara Zaske, "How to Parent Like a German," *Time*, 24 February 2015, http://time.com/3720541/how-to-parent-like-a-german/.

720 Federal Statistical Office of Germany, "Older People in Germany and the EU" (Weisbaden: Statistisches Bundesamt, 2016), https://www.destatis.de/EN/Publications/Specialized/Population/BrochureOlderPeopleEU0010021169004.pdf?__blob=publicationFile.

721 Andreas Hoff, "Functional Solidarity between Grandparents and Grandchildren in Germany" (working paper 307, Oxford Institute of Aging, May 2007), https://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/download/90.

Endnotes for Chapter 6: Family Life

722 Kate Katharina, "Germany Considers Family Leave for Grandparents," Spiegel Online, 29 March 2012, http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/germany-considers-family-leave-for-grandparents-a-824060.html.

723 Richard A. Fuchs, "Germany is Not Shrinking," Deutsche Welle, 4 February 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/germany-is-not-shrinking/a-37415327.

724 Eric Solsten, ed., "Tourism," in *Germany: A Country Study* (Washington, DC: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1995), http://countrystudies.us/germany/86.htm.

725 Federal Statistical Office of Germany, "Older People in Germany and the EU" (Weisbaden: Statistisches Bundesamt, 2016), https://www.destatis.de/EN/Publications/Specialized/Population/BrochureOlderPeopleEU0010021169004.pdf?__blob=publicationFile.

726 Deutsche Welle, "Old-Age Poverty Risk in Germany on the Rise," 26 June 2017, http://www.dw.com/en/old-age-poverty-risk-in-germany-on-the-rise/a-39415675.

727 Deutsche Welle, "After Divorce Trend, More German Couples Stay Married," 29 August 2008, http://www.dw.com/en/after-divorce-trend-more-german-couples-stay-married/a-3602560.

728 Countries and Their Cultures, "Germany," accessed 27 August 2018, http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Germany.html#ixzz52bMg35Vj.

729 Feargus O'Sullivan, "Where Europeans Are Most Likely to Be Single vs. Married," CityLab, 14 October 2015, https://www.citylab.com/equity/2015/10/where-europeans-are-most-likely-to-be-single-vs-married/410527/.

730 Local, "Germans Staying Married Longer, Divorcing Less," 23 July 2015, https://www.thelocal.de/20150723/german-marriages-lasting-longer-fewer-divorces.

731 Heribert Engstle and Sonja Nowossadeck, "Families in Germany: Facts and Figures" (Berlin: German Centre of Gerontology, December 2004), 8, https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Heribert_Engstler/publication/242690194_Families_in_Germany_-_Facts_and_Figures/links/53fd8c870cf2364ccc08cebb/Families-in-Germany-Facts-and-Figures.pdf.

732 Ingrid Bauer, "Birthday Customs in Germany," ThoughtCo, 6 August 2017, https://www.thoughtco.com/birthday-customs-in-germany-1444499.

733 Ingrid Bauer, "Birthday Customs in Germany," ThoughtCo, 6 August 2017, https://www.thoughtco.com/birthday-customs-in-germany-1444499.

734 Deutsche Welle, "New German Marriage Law Causes Controversy," 7 July 2008, http://www.dw.com/en/new-german-marriage-law-causes-controversy/a-3466047.

735 Melissa Eddy, "Same Sex Couples Wed in Germany as Marriage Law Takes Effect," *New York Times*, 1 October 2017, https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/01/world/europe/gay-marriage-germany.html.

736 Emma Anderson, "10 Things You Need to Know before a German Wedding," Local, 13 June 2016, https://www.thelocal.de/20160613/10-things-you-need-to-know-before-attending-a-german-wedding.

737 How to Germany, "German Wedding Traditions and Customs," accessed 9 January 2018, https://www.howtogermany.com/pages/german-weddings.html.

738 Emma Anderson, "10 Things You Need to Know before a German Wedding," Local, 13 June 2016, https://www.thelocal.de/20160613/10-things-you-need-to-know-before-attending-a-german-wedding.

739 Hyde Flippo, "Social Issues and Attitudes," in *When in Germany, Do as the Germans Do* (New York: McGraw Hill, 2002), 107.

740 German Foods.org, "Bremen, Hamburg and Luebeck: Culinary Treasures from the Hanseatic Cities," accessed 9 January 2018, https://germanfoods.org/german-food-facts/bremen-hamburg-and-luebeck-culinary-treasures-from-the-hanseatic-cities/.

741 Felix Robin Schulz, "The Communal Burial of Ashes: 'New' Spaces for Disposal," in Death in East Germany, 1945–1990 (New York: Berghan Books, 2013), 161–163.

742 Eric Venbrux et al, eds., *Changing European Death Ways* (Zürich: Lit Verlag, 2013), 16.

743 German Culture, "German Wedding Traditions," accessed 9 January 2018, http://germanculture.com.ua/german-traditions/german-wedding-traditions/.

744 Dan Blottenberger, "Final Resting Place Isn't Always Final in Germany," *Stars and Stripes*, 29 June 2010, https://www.stripes.com/news/europe/germany/final-resting-place-isn-t-always-final-in-germany-1.109232.

745 Natalie Muller, "Germans Opt for Alternative Burials for Individual Touch," Deutsche Welle, 31 October 2013, http://www.dw.com/en/germans-opt-for-alternative-burials-for-individual-touch/a-17188952.

746 Volker Thomas, "From Cemetery to Tree Burial," Goethe Institute, November 2015, https://www.goethe.de/en/kul/mol/20649729.html.

747 German Way and More, "The German Way of Death and Funerals," accessed 9 January 2018, https://www.german-way.com/history-and-culture/germany/the-german-way-of-death-funerals/.

748 Tamsin Walker, "A Secular Right of Passage," Deutsche Welle, 14 March 2005, http://www.dw.com/en/a-secular-rite-of-passage/a-1516020.

Endnotes for Chapter 6: Family Life

749 Grit Wesser, "Kinship, State, and Ritual: Jugendweihe—A Secular Coming-of-Age Ritual in Socialist and Post-Socialist Eastern Germany" (thesis, Edinburgh Research Archive, 28 November 2016), https://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/25669.

750 Tony Paterson, "East Germans Revive Red Rite of Passage," *Guardian*, 31 March 2000, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2000/apr/01/1.

751 Stephen Kinzer, "Berlin Journal: Coming of Age, Without the Old Ideology," *New York Times*, 11 June 1994, http://www.nytimes.com/1994/06/11/world/berlin-journal-coming-of-age-without-the-old-ideology.html.

752 Carrie Shearer, "Cultural Identity and Your Name," CultureWizard, 16 January 2017, https://www.rw-3.com/blog/cultural-identity-and-your-name.

753 Behind the Name, "German Surnames," accessed 9 January 2018, https://surnames.behindthename.com/names/usage/german/3.

754 Mkenya Ujerumani, "Rules Governing Naming of Children in Germany," 28 April 2016, http://mkenyaujerumani.de/2016/04/28/rules-governing-naming-of-children-in-germany/.

755 David K. Israel, "8 Countries with Fascinating Baby Naming Laws," Mental Floss, 28 June 2010, http://mentalfloss.com/article/25034/8-countries-fascinating-baby-naming-laws.

756 First Names Germany, "German Law on First Names," accessed 9 January 2018, http://www.firstnamesgermany.com/the-german-law-on-first-names/.

757 Cultural Atlas, "German Culture: Naming," accessed 7 January 2018, https://culturalatlas.sbs.com.au/german-culture/german-culture-naming.

758 Mkenya Ujerumani, "Kenyan-Nigerian Couple Fights to Name Their Child," 2 December 2012, http://mkenyaujerumani.de/2012/12/02/kenyan-nigerian-couple-fights-to-name-their-child/.

German Cultural Orientation

Chapter 6 | Family Life

Assessment

1. Owing to its large Muslim population, Germany has one of the highest birth rates in the EU.

2. Germany's progressive family policy helps new mothers by awarding them with a high supplemental income.

3. Wedding bands are worn on the right hand in Germany.

4. Most gravesites in Germany are temporary.

5. German parents are very creative when it comes to naming children.

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

Further Reading and Resources

Nonfiction

Clark, Christopher. *Iron Kingdom: The Rise and Downfall of Prussia*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2009.

Corliss, Richard. "Top 10 Berlin Wall Movies." *Time*. 9 August 2011. http://entertainment.time.com/2011/08/11/top-10-berlin-wall-movies/slide/the-tunnel-2001/.

Dalrymple, Theodore. "The Specters Haunting Dresden." *City Journal*. Winter 2005. https://www.city-journal.org/html/specters-haunting-dresden-12852.html.

Deutsche Welle. "Culture: Meet the Germans." Accessed 9 January 2018. http://www.dw.com/en/top-stories/meet-the-germans/s-32641.

Deutsche Welle. "Exploring the Heartland of AfD Support." 26 September 2017. http://www.dw.com/en/exploring-the-heartland-of-afd-support/av-40684670.

Facts about Germany. "More Knowledge about Germany 2010/2010." Accessed 5 January 2018. http://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/index.php?L=1.

Feldman, Lily Gardner. *Germany's Foreign Policy of Reconciliation: From Enmity to Amity*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2012.

Funder, Anna. *Stasiland: Stories from Behind the Berlin Wall*. London: Granta, 2003.

Harris, Chase. "The Economic and Political Impact of the Reunified Germany." Paper, Illinois State University, 2012. http://pol.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/conferences/2012/3D%20HarrisFinalPaper.rtf.

Kuzmany, Stefan. "A New Germany." Spiegel Online. 25 September 2017. http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/opinion-a-new-germany-a-1169634.html.

MacLean, Rory. *Berlin: Imagine a City*. Great Britain, Croydon: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2014.

Nonfiction - continued

Mounk, Yascha. *Stranger in My Own Country*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Girous, 2014.

Müller, Peter. "Uncertainty Dogs Europe after German Election." Spiegel Online. 26 September 2017.
http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/macron-s-eurozone-proposals-uncertain-after-german-election-a-1169927.html.

Nünlist, Christian. "Taking Stock for Germany: On Foreign Policy Fiascoes, Blind Spots, and Future Action Outlines." IP Journal. 18 December 2014.

Packer, George. "The Quiet German." *New Yorker*. 1 December 2014.
http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/12/01/quiet-german.

Rittenmeyer, Nicole, and Seth Skundrick, executive producers. "Third Reich (Nazi Germany)—The Rise [Full Documentary]. YouTube Video, 1:26:09. New Animal Productions for the History Channel. Uploaded 4 October 2014.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QJYf0mzVUU.

Roth, Terence. "After Fall of Berlin Wall, German Reunification Came with a Big Price Tag." *Wall Street Journal*. 7 November 2014.
http://www.wsj.com/articles/after-fall-of-berlin-wall-german-reunification-came-with-a-big-price-tag-1415362635.

Showalter, Dennis. *The Wars of German Unification*. New York: Bloomsbury Academic Publishing, 2015.

Winnail, Douglas S. "Why is Germany Rising?" Tomorrow's World. May–June 2014.
http://www.tomorrowsworld.org/magazines/2014/may-june/why-is-germany-rising.

Wolfgang, Dick. "Germans Still Have 'Walls in Heads'." Deutsche Welle. 10 March 2013. http://www.dw.de/germans-still-have-walls-in-heads/a-17131880.

Zawilska-Florczuk, Marta, and Artur Ciechanowicz. "One Country, Two Societies? Germany Twenty Years after Reunification." *PRACE OSW* 35 (February 2011).
http://www.osw.waw.pl/sites/default/files/prace_35_en_0.pdf.

Fiction

Döblin, Alfred. *Berlin Alexanderplatz*. Translated by Eugene Jolas. New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., 1929.

Fallada, Hans. *Every Man Dies Alone*. Translated by Michael Hofmann. Brooklyn: Melville House Publishing, 2009.

Fontane, Theodor. *Effi Briest*. Translated by Mike Mitchell. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. First published 1895–1895 in installments in *Deutsche Rundschau*.

Isherwood, Christopher. *Goodbye to Berlin*. New York: New Directions, 2012. First published in 1939 by Hogarth Press.

Schlink, Bernhard. *Der Vorleser (The Reader)*. Translated by Carol Brown Janeway. New York: Vintage Books: 1995.

Final Assessment

1. The “virtues” of efficiency, discipline, and work ethic, which are associated with Germans today, were inherited from Austrian culture.

2. Flooding is common along Germany’s rivers.

3. Germany shares borders with four nations and a landlocked sea in the north.

4. The German economy operates on a free market system in which prices for goods and services fluctuate without government intervention.

5. Deutsche Bundesbank is the central bank of Germany.

6. Due to Germany’s broad social safety net, poverty is nearly nonexistent.

7. Berlin was the capital of East and West Germany during the years that the two were divided.

8. Otto von Bismarck was Emperor of Prussia from 1871 to 1888.

9. 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 West Berlin.

10. Hamburg is home to Germany’s largest seaport.

11. The Kiel Canal is a narrow passageway that connects the Danube River with the Rhine River in southern Germany.

12. The Nazis murdered an estimated 6 million people in concentration camps throughout Europe between 1941 and 1945.

13. At the end of WWII, Germany was divided among the four Allied Powers.

14. Terrorism threat levels have been elevated in Germany since the 2016 attack at a Berlin Christmas market.

15. Germany is one of the largest energy consumers in the world.

16. Germany's unemployment rate has climbed since the beginning of the European debt crisis in 2011.

17. There is broad support in Germany for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party.

18. Most Muslims in Germany are refugees from war-torn Syria.

19. Forests cover almost one-third of Germany.

20. Approximately 85% of the German population is either Roman Catholic or Protestant.

21. Germans always make eye contact when toasting.

22. Romani is the second-most spoken language in Germany.

23. Child-rearing in Germany is a matter of strict discipline.

24. It is considered bad luck to wish a German "Happy Birthday" before the actual day.

25. The number of Germans over age 55 living in poverty has increased over the last decade.

26. Single parents make up one-fifth of families in Germany.

27. Some rural Germans view the arrival of young immigrants as important to the continued existence of small towns.

28. Germany places strict limits on speech and expression when it comes to right-wing extremism.

29. Federal states in Germany have a great deal of autonomy.

30. Germany is a constitutional monarchy.

Assessment Answers: 1. False; 2. True; 3. False; 4. False; 5. True; 6. False; 7. False; 8. False; 9. False; 10. True; 11. False; 12. False; 13. True; 14. True; 15. True; 16. False; 17. False; 18. False; 19. True; 20. False; 21. True; 22. False; 23. False; 24. True; 25. True; 26. True; 27. True; 28. True; 29. True; 30. False