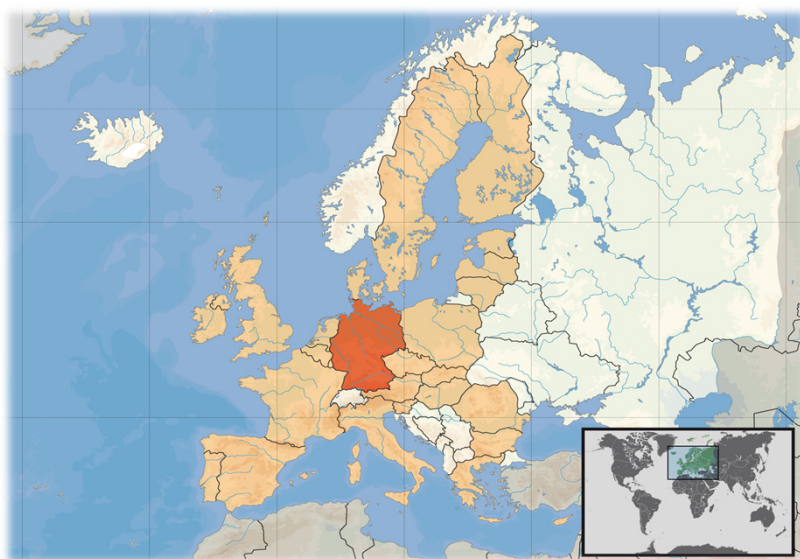




Germany – Introduction and Overview

Florian Lippold

Germany – An Introduction



Agenda

1. **Basic Facts**
 - 1.1 Background
 - 1.2 Geography
 - 1.3 Country and culture
 - 1.4 Sports
 - 1.5 Germany and the EU
2. **Economic Facts**
3. **Political System**

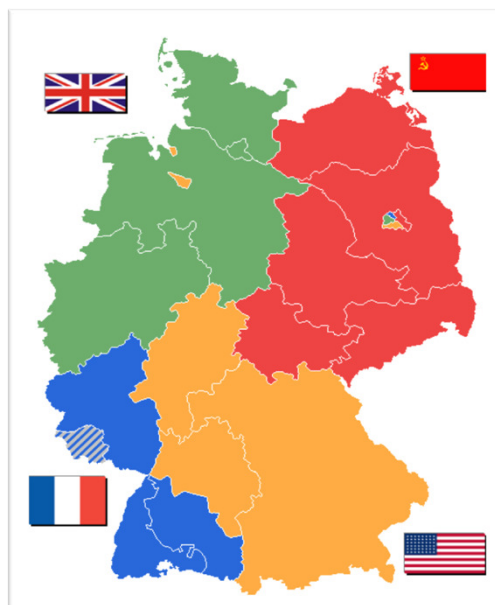
Map of Germany



Germany - Background

- Europe's largest economy and most populous nation.
- Key member of the continent's economic, political, and defense organizations.
- European power struggles immersed Germany in two devastating World Wars in the first half of the 20th century and left the country occupied by the victorious Allied powers of the US, UK, France, and the Soviet Union in 1945.

Occupation zones in 1946



Germany - Background

- With the advent of the Cold War, two German states were formed in 1949: the western Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) and the eastern German Democratic Republic (GDR).
- The democratic FRG embedded itself in key Western economic and security organizations, the EC, which became the EU, and NATO, while the Communist GDR was on the front line of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.

Cold War Alliances



Germany - Background

- The decline of the USSR and the end of the Cold War allowed the German reunification in 1990.
- Since reunification, Germany has expended considerable funds to bring Eastern productivity and wages up to Western standards.
- Furthermore, Germany has taken a leading role in the European Union and NATO. Germany sent a peacekeeping force to secure stability in the Balkans and sent a force of German troops to Afghanistan as part of a NATO effort to provide security in that country after the ousting of the Taliban.

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Basic Facts - Geography



Basic Facts - Geography

- Area: 357,021 km², slightly smaller than Montana
- Neighboring countries:
Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France,
Luxemburg, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland
- Time zone: Central European Time (CET)
- Average annual temperature: 9 °C
- Longest rivers (navigable): Rhine 865 km,
Elbe 700 km, Danube 647 km, Main 524 km
- Raw materials: Rock salt, potassium, brown coal,
hard coal

Highest mountain: Zugspitze 2962 m



Largest lake: Lake Constance 572 km²



Basic Facts - Geography

- Population: 82,400,996 (July 2007 est.)
- Population growth rate: -0.033% (2007 est.)
- Total fertility rate: 1.4 children born/woman (2007 est.)
one of the lowest in the world
- Labor force: 43 million
- Ethnic groups: German 91.5%, Turkish 2.4%, other 6.1% (made up largely of Greek, Italian, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish)
- Religions: Protestant 34%, Roman Catholic 34%, Muslim 3.7%, unaffiliated or other 28.3%

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Country and Culture

- Capital city: Berlin (formerly divided)
- Administration: **16 federal states** (5 former eastern, 10 former western and Berlin)
- National holiday: October 3 (1990 reunification)
- Cultural life in Germany:
about 400 theaters, 140 professional orchestras, 600 art museums
- Major book nation: 80 000 new books and re-editions each year, 350 dailies and thousands of magazines

Brandenburg Gate, Berlin



Reichstag Building, Berlin



Chalk Cliffs, Rügen



Cologne Cathedral



Neuschwanstein Castle



Semperoper, Dresden

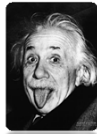


Country and Culture

- Germany is often called „the land of poets and thinkers“.
- Various German authors and poets have won great renown, including Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller.
- Germany's influence on philosophy is historically significant and many notable German philosophers have helped shape western philosophy since the Middle Ages. (like Immanuel Kant, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche and Gottfried Leibniz)

Country and Culture

- Germany claims some of the world's most renowned classical music composers, including Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach and Richard Wagner.
- Germany has been the home of some of the most prominent researchers in various scientific fields:



- Albert Einstein, Max Planck, Werner Heisenberg and Erwin Schrödinger (whose work was crucial to the foundation of modern physics),
- Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discovered X-rays,
- Heinrich Rudolf Hertz (work in the domain of electromagnetic radiation was pivotal to the development of modern telecommunication).

Country and Culture

- Inventors and engineers, such as Johannes Gutenberg, who is credited with the invention of movable type printing in Europe; Hans Geiger, the creator of the Geiger counter; and Konrad Zuse, who built the first fully automatic digital computer.
- German inventors, engineers and industrialists such as Ferdinand von Zeppelin, Gottlieb Daimler, Rudolf Diesel, Hugo Junkers and Karl Benz helped shape modern automotive and air transportation technology.



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Basic Facts - Sports

- Sports: favorite leisure-time activity
- 27 million people are members of sports clubs
- Another 12 million partake in sports independently
- National sport:
The most popular sport in Germany is football (soccer), called "Fussball".
- The German Football Association has the largest membership of any sports federation in the world (about 26,000 football clubs, over 2 million active players and 6 million members in total).



Allianz Arena, Munich

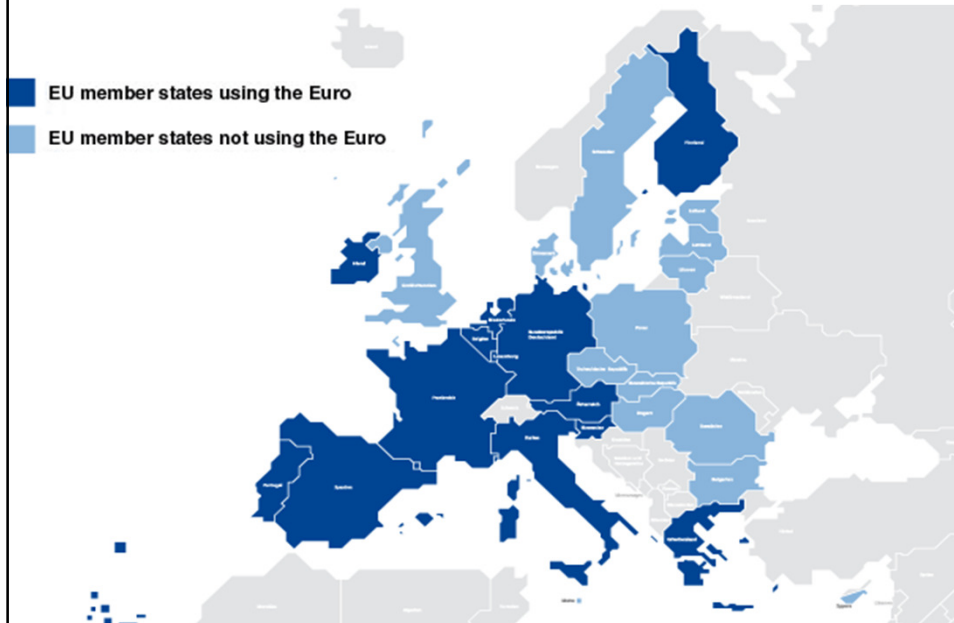


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Basic Facts – Map of Europe



Germany and the EU

- Germany is at the forefront of European states seeking to advance the creation of a more unified and capable European political, defence and security apparatus.
- In January 1999, Germany and 10 other EU countries introduced a common European exchange currency, the euro:



Germany and the EU

THE EURO BANKNOTES



BANKNOTES AND COINS



Germany and the EU

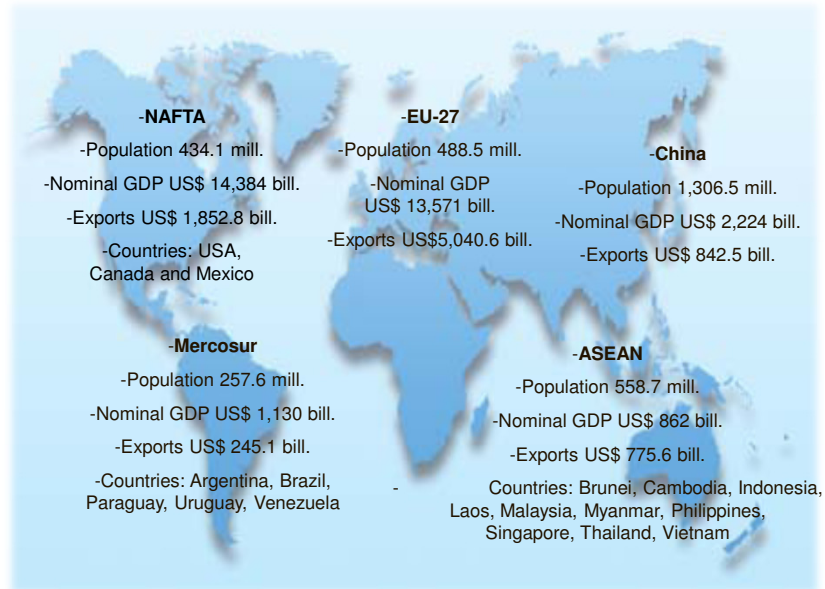
THE EURO COINS



BANKNOTES AND COINS



Largest Economic Areas



Germany and the EU

- Founding member of the European Union.
- Largest country in the EU in terms of income
- At the eastern border of the old EU (15) and at the center of the new EU (27).
- Germany has played a leading role in the EU since its inception and has maintained a strong alliance with France since the end of World War II.
- The alliance was especially close in the late 1980s and early 1990s under the leadership of Christian Democrat Helmut Kohl and Socialist François Mitterand.

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Germany - Economic Facts

- Germany has the largest economy in Europe and the third largest economy in the world, behind the United States and Japan.
- It is ranked fifth in the world in terms of purchasing power parity.
- The export of goods is an essential part of the German economy and one of the main factors of its wealth. According to the World Trade Organization, Germany is the world's top exporter with \$1.133 trillion exported, from the beginning of 2006 (Germany's exports to other Eurozone countries are included in this total).

Germany - Economic Facts

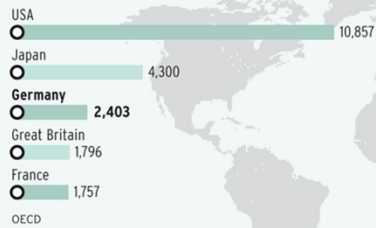


The economy in facts and figures

Germany ranks no. 3 in the world economy

USA, Japan and Germany are the three countries with the biggest national economies

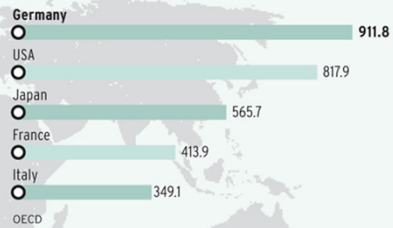
2004 gross domestic product (in US\$ billion)



World export champions

Foreign trade as the powerhouse: The volume of German exports makes the country the world's no. 1

2004 Export volume (in US\$ billion)



Germany - Economic Facts



Germany - Economic Facts

- Most of the country's exports are in engineering, especially in automobiles, machinery, metals, and chemical goods.
- In terms of total capacity to generate electricity from wind power, Germany is first in the world and it is also the main exporter of wind turbines.
- Although problems created by reunification in 1990 have begun to diminish, the standard of living remains higher in the western half of the country.

Germany - Economic Facts

- Annual economic growth: - 5% in 2009, about 3,5% in 2010
- Unemployment: about 6-7 %
- Inflation: about -1,1 % in 2010
- Trade balance: usually about 3-5 % of GDP
- Fiscal budget: deficit above 3 % of GDP
- Public debt: about 2/3 of GDP

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Germany - Economic Facts



- Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU — Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands)



- Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CSU – Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern) is a Christian democratic political party.



- Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD – Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands)

Germany - Economic Facts



- The Free Democratic Party (Freie Demokratische Partei - FDP) is a liberal political party.



- The Alliance '90/The Greens (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen), the German Green Party



- The Left Party (Die Linkspartei), formerly Party of Democratic Socialism (Partei des Demokratischen Sozialismus, PDS) is a socialist political party

Federal States



Political System

- Germany is a federal, parliamentary, representative democratic republic.
- The German political system operates under a framework laid out in the 1949 constitutional document known as the **Grundgesetz** (Basic Law).
- Amendments to the Grundgesetz require a two-thirds majority of both chambers of parliament; the articles guaranteeing fundamental rights, a democratic state, and the right to resist attempts to overthrow the constitution are valid in perpetuity and cannot be amended.



Political System

- The Grundgesetz remained in effect, with minor amendments, after German reunification in 1990, despite the intention of the Grundgesetz to be replaced by a proper constitution after the reunion. (Which was called Grundgesetz for precisely this reason.)
- The Chancellor is the head of government and exercises executive power, similar to the role of a Prime Minister. Federal legislative power is vested in the parliament consisting of the Bundestag (Federal Diet) and Bundesrat (Federal Council), which together form a unique type of legislative body.

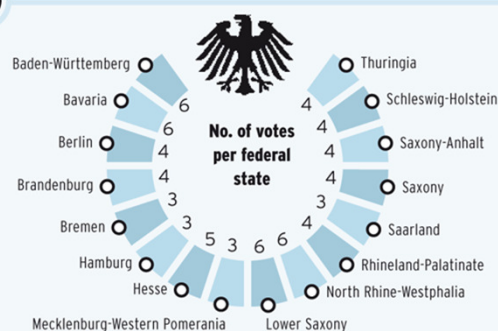
Political System

- The Bundestag is elected through direct elections; the members of the Bundesrat represent the governments of the sixteen federal states and are members of the state cabinets, which appoint them and can remove them at any time.
- The German head of state is the President of Germany, elected for a five-year term (eligible for a second term) by the Bundesversammlung (federal convention), an institution consisting of the members of the Bundestag and an equal number of state delegates.

Political System

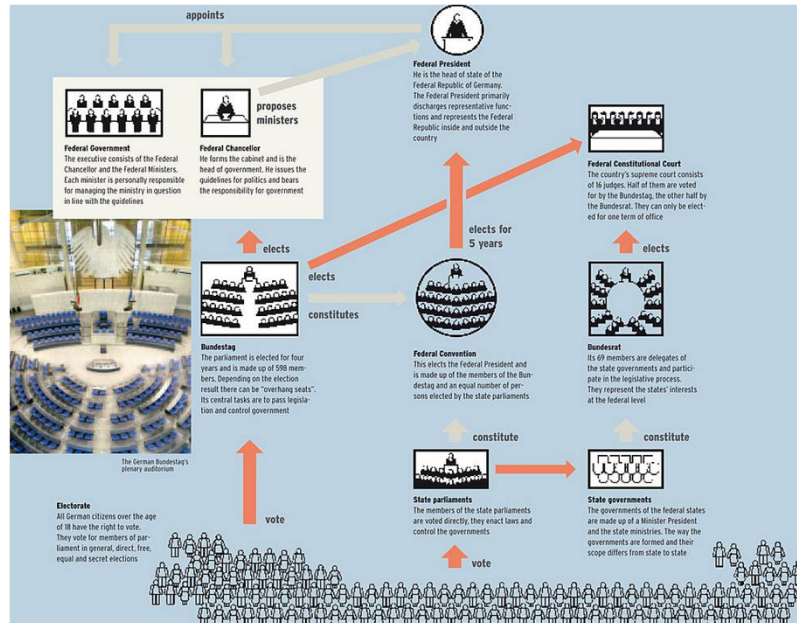


Distribution of seats in the Bundesrat



The Bundesrat is one of the five permanent constitutional bodies in the Federal Republic of Germany. It is involved in the legislative process and thus takes part in Federal decision-making and in European Union matters. Its 69 members are delegates of the 16 state governments. The votes each state has depends on the size of its respective population. Each state can only vote unanimously. The office of President of the Bundesrat is held for one year by the Minister President of each state; the sequence is determined by the size of the states' respective populations.

Political System



Political System



President of Germany
Christian Wulff, CDU



President of the German Bundestag:
Norbert Lammert, CDU



Chancellor of Germany:
Angela Merkel, CDU

Former Federal Chancellors



Konrad Adenauer 1949-1963



Ludwig Erhard 1963-1966



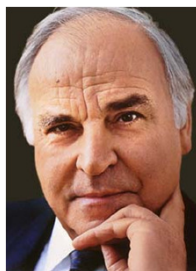
Kurt Georg Kiesinger 1966-1969



Willy Brandt 1969-1974



Helmut Schmidt 1974-1982



Helmut Kohl 1982-1998



Gerhard Schröder 1998-2005

Social Security

- Germany is a welfare state that considers the social protection of all citizens to be a priority.
- Principle of the welfare state enshrined in Article 20 of the Constitution.
- Constitution commits the state to protect the natural bases of life of its citizens.
- 27.4 % of the country's gross domestic product for public welfare spending (USA: 14.7 %, OECD: 20.4 %)
- All-embracing system of health, pension, accident, longterm care and unemployment insurance.

Social Security

- Unemployment insurance:
60 to 67 % of the last net income
- Additionally:
tax-financed services such as the family services
equalization scheme (child benefit, tax concessions)
- Basic provisions for pensioners and those unable to work

Thank you for your attention!

