



# German History Review

## Geography

<p>800-1806</p>	<p><b>Holy Roman Empire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- loose union of ~300 German states</li> <li>- supposed to represent the revival of the old Roman Empire (which fell in 476), but w/ a connection to the CC</li> <li>- founded w/ crowning of Charlemagne by the pope</li> <li>- governed by Habsburgs from mid-15<sup>th</sup> c. on</li> <li>- dissolved by Napoleon</li> <li>- Voltaire: “neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire”</li> <li>- “First Reich” (1<sup>st</sup> Empire)</li> </ul>	 <p style="text-align: center;">HRE in 1500</p>
<p>1806-1813</p>	<p><b>Confederation of the Rhine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rump state under Napoleonic rule</li> </ul>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Napoleon's Empire, 1810</p>

1815-1866

**German Confederation**

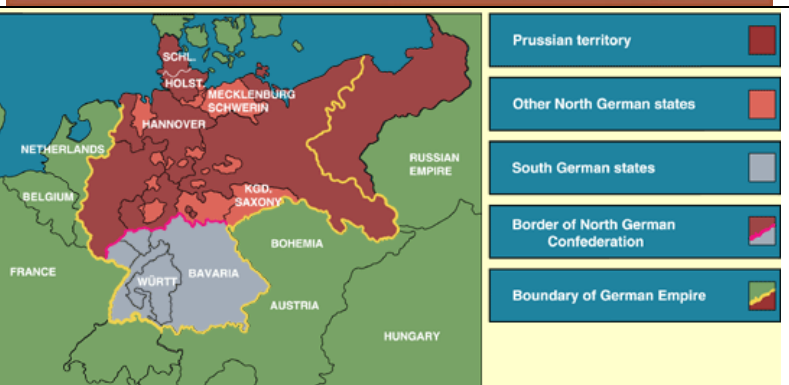
- 39 states
- Austria and Prussia most powerful – partially inside, partially outside the borders



1867-1871

**North German Confederation**

- union of N German states (preceded unification of all German states)
- formed after Prussian victory over Austria (Austro-Prussian War)



1871-1918

**German Empire (“Second Reich”)**

- product of German unification in 1871
- parliamentary monarchy – Kaiser + bicameral parliament (Reichstag most important)



<p>1919-1933</p>	<p><b>Weimar Republic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- result of the German Revolution Nov. 9. 1918 (2 days before WWI armistice)</li> <li>- democratic republic – elected President, bicameral parliament (Reichstag most important)</li> <li>- headed by the SPD until Nazis ascended in the late 1920s</li> </ul>	<p>Same territory as Second Reich, minus lands lost in T of V (lost lands denoted with flags of new owners)</p>
<p>1933-1945</p>	<p><b>Third Reich</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hitler's regime</li> </ul>	<p>Legend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Germany in 1933</li> <li>Germany in 1939</li> <li>Germany in 1943</li> <li>Present eastern border</li> </ul>

<p>1949-1990</p>	<p><b>East and West Germany</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cold War context</li> <li>- West = Federal Republic of Germany; democratic, capitalist</li> <li>- East = German Democratic Republic; communist</li> </ul>	
<p>1990-present</p>	<p><b>Federal Republic of Germany</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- product of 1990 reunification</li> </ul>	

## History

15<sup>th</sup> c.

Habsburgs (an Austrian dynasty) gain the throne of the HRE (1452 ... keep it until 1806)

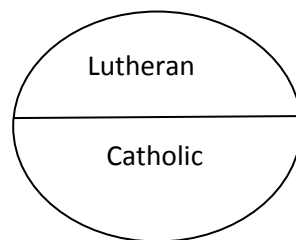
Northern Renaissance

- most famous German artist: **Albrecht Dürer**
- **Johannes Gutenberg** / printing press (1456 – Gutenberg Bible)

16<sup>th</sup> c.

Protestant Reformation (begins in Germany)

- 1517 – **Martin Luther's 95 Theses**
- 1525 – **German Peasants' War**
- **Charles V (r. 1519-1556)** – HRE emperor during Luther's era, high point of Habsburg power (governed HRE, Austrian lands, Spanish lands)
- 1546-1555 – civil war b/t Catholics and Protestants (Catholic princes + Catholic emperor vs. Protestant princes, who converted either for sincere reasons or for \$ gain and to exert independence)
- 1555 – **Peace of Augsburg** – ended civil war + solidified HRE's religious division:



- HRE = roughly 300 states
- some states adopted Calvinism illegally

17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> c.

### **Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)**

- fought in HRE – Catholic League (south) vs. Protestant Union (north) → Prot. victory
- Germany left devastated – disease, famine, war (up to 1/3 pop. died in many parts); economy ruined
- **Peace of Westphalia (1648)** – affirmed ind. of HRE's 300 states, United Provinces + Swiss cantons; France gained Alsace-Lorraine area and prestige; Sweden gained \$ + some German lands; papacy ousted from German religious affairs; affirmed Peace of Augsburg + added Calvinism
- Germany no longer a big player in Euro affairs until 19<sup>th</sup> c. (Prussia + Austria were important)

Development of Prussian absolutism (mid-17<sup>th</sup> to mid-18<sup>th</sup> c.)

- dynasty: **Hohenzollerns**
- Prussian monarchs gained power after 30 Years' War (1618-1648), which weakened the Estates
- **Frederick William, the "Great Elector" (r. 1640-1688)** – unified the Prussian territories (Brandenburg, Prussia, lands along the Rhine); forced Estates to accept taxation; created permanent army
- Frederick III, "the Ostentatious" (r. 1688-1713) – not important, weak, copied Louis XIV's style
- **Frederick William I, "the Soldiers' King" (r. 1713-1740)** – est. best military in Europe ... but fought few wars; even civil society became militarized (rigid, disciplined); strengthened gov't bureaucracy; eliminated Junker threat (made them army officers)

**Pietism** (early 18<sup>th</sup> c.)

- Protestant revival (also in Scandinavia) ... emphasized warm and emotional religion, priesthood of all believers, Xtian rebirth

Enlightened absolutism (2<sup>nd</sup> half of 18<sup>th</sup> c.)

- **Frederick the Great (r. 1740-1786)**
  - o *Enlightened policies*: religious toleration; built schools, permitted scholars to publish; simplified law code, abolished torture, made judges decide cases quickly and impartially; justified monarch in terms of practical results vs. divine right; econ reconstruction after years of war
  - o *Limits to reform*: kept serfdom, extended Junker privileges, Jews lacked civil rights
  - o *Wars*:
    - **War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748)** – took **Silesia** from MT → Prussia became strongest German state and Euro Great Power
    - **Seven Years' War (1756-1763)** – Austria, France, and Russia vs. Prussia (MT wanted Silesia back, all wanted to divide Prussia up) → Russia backed out in 1762 b/c Peter III admired Fred, so Prussia remained safe

Long 19<sup>th</sup> c. Prussia involved in Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815)

- 1806 – Napoleon dissolves the HRE and est. the **Confederation of the Rhine**

Congress of Vienna (1815) ends Napoleonic wars and produces an era of conservatism

- Prussia = Great Power participating in the Congress of Vienna
- **German Confederation** (1815-1866) est.
- 1815 – **Holy Alliance** (Austria, Prussia, Russia) est. – conservative alliance that crushed liberal revolutionary movements
- 1819 – **Carlsbad Decrees** – est. by Metternich, laws suppressing spread of liberal ideas/orgs in German Confederation

1834 – **Zollverein** (German customs union) est. (early step to German unification)

**Revolution of 1848** in Prussia

- 2 goals: liberal reform of Prussia + German national unification
- uprising of workers + middle class in Berlin → **Frederick William IV (r. 1840-1861)** promised liberal constitution + German unification
- 2 assemblies formed to tackle each goal:
  - o Constituent Assembly (Berlin) – liberal constitution for Prussia
  - o National Assembly (Frankfurt) – constitution for unified Germany ... though issue over **Schleswig-Holstein** (ruled by Denmark but large German pop.) → Germans in S-H revolted unsuccessfully
- 1849 – NA finished liberal constitution, elected Fred Will IV emperor of unified Germany (minus Austria & S-H)
- revolution failed: (a) liberal reform – Fred Will IV disbanded CA & granted conservative constitution, (b) national unification – Austrian opposition

**German unification** (1860s-1871)

- led by Prussia ... **Wilhelm I (r. 1861-1888)** and chief minister **Bismarck**
- key events:
  - o 1864 – **2nd Schleswig War** – Austro-Prussian victory takes S-H from Denmark
  - o 1866 – **Austro-Prussian War** – Prussian victory boots Austria from German affairs → **North German Confederation** est.
  - o 1866 – Bismarck's indemnity bill = Parli retroactively approves previous 4 years' spending, which Bismarck had done w/o Parli consent (Parli signed b/c they wanted German unif)
  - o 1870-1871 – **Franco-Prussian War** – patriotic war to unite S w/ N → Germany united

## **Second Reich (1871-1918)** / Era of the “responsive national state”

- mass politics: Reichstag elected by universal male suffrage; multiple parties in Reichstag (National Liberals, Catholic Center Party, SPD)
- **Kaiser Wilhelm I (r. 1871-1888) / Chancellor Bismarck (1871-1890):**
  - o **Kulturkampf (1873-1878)** – Bismarck’s attack on CC
  - o protective tariff (1879) in wake of 1873 crash (econ nationalism)
  - o SPD outlawed (1878-90) for fear of socialism
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> national social security system (1880s) to appease workers after banning SPD
  - o **Berlin Conference (1884-85)** – set rules for division of Africa (Bismarck/Germany finally interested in colonies)
- **Kaiser Wilhelm II (r. 1888-1918)** – fired Bismarck, est. laws to help workers, legalized SPD ... but socialism wouldn’t go away ... became evolutionary rather than revolutionary (Bernstein) → 1912 – SPD largest party in Reichstag

1914-1919

WWI + Paris Peace Conference

- Germany part of Triple Alliance, then Central Powers
- big aggressor – backed Austria vs. Serbia, **Schlieffen Plan**, unrestricted submarine warfare
- led by Kaiser Wilhelm II until **German Revolution of Nov. 9, 1918** → est. **Weimar Republic**, which accepted armistice (11/11/18) and T of V
- T of V blamed Germany – war guilt clause, reparations, loss of land, reduction of military

1919-1933

Interwar period up to Hitler’s takeover

*1919-1923 ☹: Germany suffering from T of V’s reparations*

- 1923 – French occupation of the **Ruhr** b/c of German default; German hyperinflation

*1924-1929 ☺: Germany’s situation improves*

- 1923 – Hitler’s **Munich Hall Beer Putsch** fails ... moderate leaders (SPD) run gov’t, hold regular elections, stabilize the economy (Chancellor Stresemann key figure)
- 1924 – **Dawes Plan** – reduced reparations payments + US loans \$\$ to Germany
- 1925 – **Locarno Pact** – series of border agreements
- 1926 – Germany joins League of Nations

*1929 ☹: Great Depression*

- unstable coalition politics + poor economy = here comes Hitler....

*1919-1933: Hitler’s rise to power*

- 1919 – Hitler joins German Workers’ Party (later becomes Nazi Party)
- 1921 – Hitler is in control of German Workers’ Party
- 1923 – failed Munich Beer Hall Putsch → Hitler jailed, writes *Mein Kampf*
- 1924-1929 – Hitler released in 1924, Nazi Party grows
- 1932 – Reichstag election – Nazis win most votes

1933-1945

**Third Reich (Hitler in power + WWII)**

- 1933 – Hindenburg appoints Hitler chancellor → **Enabling Act** gives Hitler full dictatorial power
- 1934 – **Night of the Long Knives** (purge of SA); Hindenburg dies, Hitler becomes *Führer*

*1933-1939: Nazi expansion*

- 1933 – Hitler withdraws Germany from League of Nations
- 1935 – Hitler starts to build up military
- 1936 – Hitler moves army to into Rhineland (DMZ)
- 1936 – **Rome-Berlin Axis**
- 1938 – **Anschluss** – union with Austria
- 1938 – Hitler moves into Sudetenland → **Munich Conference**

- 1939 – (1) Hitler annexes Czechoslovakia; (2) Polish Corridor/Danzig problem; (3) **Nazi-Soviet nonaggression pact**

*1933-1945: Holocaust*

- 1933 – Dachau = 1<sup>st</sup> concentration camp
- 1935 – **Nuremberg Laws** – anti-Semitic laws, strip German Jews of citizenship
- 1938 – **Kristallnacht** – horrific attack on Jews & their property
- 1941-42 – **Final Solution** set up death camps

*1939-1945: World War II* (begins w/ Hitler's invasion of Poland)

1945-1990 Cold War Era

Nuremberg Trials (1945-46) to try Nazi war criminals

### **Berlin blockade and airlift (1948)**

Split into **West and East Germany (1949-1990)**

*West Germany* – capitalist, democratic

- new leaders post-WWII: **Christian Democrats** (center-right party ... like US Republicans but w/ more social welfare – anti-communist, pro-democracy, pro-free market, championing of traditional family values) – CDU chancellors, 1949-1969:
  - o **Konrad Adenauer (1949-1963)** – Marshall Plan aid; welfare state; Berlin Wall (1961)
  - o Ludwig Erhard (1963-1966)
  - o Kurt Georg Kiesinger (1966-1969)
- SPD leaders, 1969-1974
  - o **Willy Brandt (1969-1974)** – **Ostpolitik** (“eastern policy”) = W. Germany's reconciliation w/ E. Europe (laid wreaths at Polish monuments; treaties w/ USSR, CzSl, Poland to accept state boundaries and renounce force; entered into direct relations w/ E. Germany) – controversial policy in W. Germ. but Brandt won NPP in 1971
  - o Helmut Schmidt (1974-1982)
- CDU: **Helmut Kohl (W. German chancellor, 1982-1990, German chancellor 1990-1998)**
  - ↓ taxes & ↓ spending; oversaw solid econ. growth ... became one of the world's richest countries; oversaw fall of Berlin Wall (1989) & reunification of E. and W. Germany (1990)

*East Germany* – Soviet satellite

1990

### **German reunification**

- led by Helmut Kohl
- Gorbachev said ok in return for loans to USSR + promise that Germany would be peaceful
- Kohl granted a 1:1 exchange of E. German marks for W. German