

Arthur Burk

Germany

Perspective on Social DNA



Passionate for Excellence

Sapphire Leadership Group, Inc.

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Perspective on Social DNA

Effects are easy to see.

Germany is a major force in the world today politically, economically and scientifically.

That is an effect.

It is easy to see.

The causes of each effect are less easy to determine.

In spite of the fact that hundreds of historians have offered their opinions on how Germany has rebounded from the devastation of WWII, I believe there is room for one more model – the social DNA model – which proposes some effects that perhaps other historians have overlooked.

The Science of Social DNA

The term “social DNA” is a loosely used term in the business community. It describes the culture of a company. Most business consultants who use the term see each company as a unique culture and seek to interpret it intuitively through observation.

We at *Sapphire Leadership Group* have been studying the concept for 30 years. We have developed a model that has been tested heavily worldwide and found to be dependable.

In our model, there are actually only seven different kinds of social DNA. We have chosen arbitrarily to name these seven profiles after gemstones in order to create a universal language. Thus we speak of a Sapphire, Topaz, Onyx, Diamond, Emerald, Garnet or Amethyst DNA.

There are immense diversities within each kind, but they still can be accurately studied as individual classes. I use the illustration of horses. There are dozens of different breeds of horses in the equine world, and the differences between a Shetland pony and an Arabian stallion are immense. However, they can still be classified and studied as a group, since we can always tell the difference between a horse and a fish.

In our social DNA model, the behavioral characteristics apply equally to any social grouping, be it a business, a university, a sports team, a city or a nation. Every human social structure carries one of the seven kinds of DNA, and the DNA of the organization can be identified by their visible behavior.

The Sapphire DNA is God's primary tool for catalytic change on a massive scale.

The power of our model is that once the external characteristics tell us which of the seven kinds of social DNA a community has, we can identify accurately the invisible, internal dynamics that control the development of that community.

Finally, the social DNA of an organization is inherent and unchanging. It is this last factor that accounts for the inability to achieve projected profits in 80% of mergers and acquisitions. Although the acquired company seems to provide a vital product for the new company, the culture of the acquired company is not as malleable as corporate leaders would like to think. The clash of cultures between the social DNA of the parent company and that of the acquired company usually devours the theoretical potential for profit.

Personal Objective

While for many the primary focus of the science of social DNA is for companies to become more effective and hence more profitable, I find

it fascinating to look at nations from the perspective of what God is trying to accomplish globally through their DNA.

This paper has no profit motive, but it is designed to inspire Germans to see their nation from a much larger perspective and to act accordingly.

The Social DNA of Germany

Germany is a Sapphire nation. Some of the cultural characteristics that are strongest in the Sapphire DNA are as follows:

1. Highly innovative
2. Industrious
3. Ideologically driven
4. Passionate for excellence
5. Less than optimally relational
6. Keen memory of past wounds
7. A preference for strong leadership
8. A tendency to rebel against laws deemed inappropriate

These are just a few of the driving “genes” in Germany’s genome that God has used over the centuries to position you for ideological leadership in the Western world. Join me on a tour of German history from this perspective.

The Protestant Reformation

The Sapphire DNA is God’s primary tool for catalytic change on a massive scale. So when God wanted to birth the Protestant Reformation, He turned to Germany as the natural choice.

Clearly such things as the selling of indulgences and other abuses of the Roman Catholic Church were widely known among the clergy and

the common man. Martin Luther was not primarily a complex theologian who saw what others could not see. He was merely a man who articulated publicly what others talked about privately.

Over the years, various men had resisted the control of Rome only to be crushed. Whether we speak of the imprisonment of Savonarola, the posthumous excommunication of John Wycliffe or the burning at the stake of John Hus, those who dared to correct the church found themselves overwhelmed by the church's resistance to correction.

So what made this situation different?

Very simply, Martin Luther attracted a large following quite quickly. The German people are ideologically driven, prone to risk largely to live what they believe. They were not opposed to innovation and were relatively comfortable being “rebellious” in pursuit of this new ideology.

In the modern sanitized versions of the Protestant Reformation, it is not often made clear that Martin Luther's new movement almost caused a civil war in Germany because those who “rebelled” against the abuses of the church began to openly challenge the abuses of the civil government as well.

For many centuries, the Roman Catholic Church was the primary expression of the message Jesus Christ came to earth to bring. The time came when God desired to bring a course correction to that message.

He had vast options. As God surveyed the different nations and different leaders available to Him, He opted to use Germany as the catalytic nation for what would become a global move that lasted for centuries, because you were the best available nation. The immensity and intensity of your social DNA is incomparable in Europe and God valued it.

The Moravians

In time, the intensity of zeal associated with the Protestant Reformation faded. While the national fervor cooled, Germany continued to produce a bumper crop of small movements that were more known for their zeal than for the depth of their theology. These were generally lumped together under the heading of “pietists.”

During the 1700s God used the Sapphire DNA of Germany again as a catalyst to produce a massive course correction for the new Protestant church. The story actually begins outside of Germany with the formation of a group called Moravians. While the movement was birthed elsewhere, God had them migrate to Germany in order to become the change agents He intended in the context of Germany’s DNA.

It was persecution that caused a significant number of Moravians in Bohemia and Moravia to migrate to Saxony in the early 1700s. They clustered on the estate of Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf, who himself was already pietistic in his theology.

When they first began to develop the community of Herrnhut, their theology did not include sending missionaries to other countries for evangelism. When that radical new concept was introduced to the adherents, there was significant debate over a few years time. Eventually the community as a whole embraced the Biblical mandate and began to send missionaries to the West Indies with immense fervor.

This is the Sapphire DNA in action again. They debated the new idea intensely. Then they embraced it. When they embraced it, they brought their lives into line with the ideology with great intensity because this is what Germans do! And God knew that which is why He sowed this new idea into Germany and not any other nation in Europe.

Unlike modern missionaries, they were sent under extreme conditions reflective of extreme ideology. There was no financial support from the home church. Each missionary was expected to go to their assigned country, find a job, work to support themselves and stay there until they died.

One historian suggests that this small congregation sent more missionaries in the first 20 years after embracing the concept than the whole of the Christian faith had sent in the previous 500 years.

After years of sending out their best, word eventually came back to the congregation that there was a small island in the Caribbean completely owned by one plantation owner who joyously bragged that there was not (and would not be) a single Christian among all his slaves.

Two young single (Aryan) men from that congregation choose to sell themselves into slavery to that plantation owner in order to get the gospel into that “unreachable place.” They were never heard from again. Even though no one knows the end of the story, the point is that they were driven to extreme actions in part because of the Sapphire DNA of your nation.

The Great Century of Missions

While their accepting such a massive ideological shift was immense in itself, God went farther and used the Moravians catalytically to bring missions into the main stream of the Protestant faith – even though they had no idea they were doing that.

Consider their famous prayer meeting. When some frictions in Herrnhut proved serious (because they were more ideologically driven than relationally connected!) Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf challenged them to make their focus more vertical than horizontal.

Out of that came the decision to have 24 men and 24 women from the group pray around the clock. They rotated people in and out of that group, so that the prayer meeting continued unbroken day and night for over 100 years.

This is yet another example of how the Sapphire gift responds to strong leadership, is incredibly industrious and is willing to sacrificially invest in an abstract ideology.

Germany is not the only Sapphire nation in the world, but God so believed in the deposit He placed in your nation that He chose you above all the nations of the world to be the catalyst for the Great Century of Missions.

The Moravians were sacrificial to the extreme in their missions focus, but their labor pool was small if you compare the community of Herrnhut to the population of a nation. So God used their cutting edge theology and their incredible passion for praying about missions to set the stage in the heavenlies for His next great move.

God reached to one of the most impressive Garnet nations in the world, England, to actually provide the people for the modern missions movement.

God tapped a shoemaker by trade who had become a Baptist pastor. William Carey became convicted (through solitary study) that foreign missions was a Biblical mandate. When he tried to share his conviction at a meeting of pastors, he was shouted down by Dr. Ryland who said, “Young man, sit down: when God pleases to convert the heathen, He will do it without your aid or mine.”

Undeterred, he pressed on with his convictions and went to India as a missionary in 1793. By the time of his death, he had not only established many churches in India but he had also caused the

Indian government to change a number of laws including their custom of burning all their widows to death as part of their husband's funeral.

He oversaw the translation of Scripture into 40 languages. One man wrote of him, "Taking his life as a whole, it is not too much to say that he was the greatest and most versatile Christian missionary sent out in modern times."

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Not only was the poor
cobbler from Moulton
an immense man, but he
unleashed a torrent of
missionaries who went to
the ends of the earth in the
next 100 year.

How did it happen? How
could a man without formal
education, without insti-
tutional backing, without
funds make such a massive

shift in church history without the violence that normally accom-
panies religious transitions?

I believe that the way had been prepared for him by the prayers
of the Moravians. I believe God used the "extremism" of those
German believers to prepare the way in heaven so that He could
reach into the Garnet nation and execute a cultural shift of immense
proportions.

The Nazis

The Nazi movement is seen by some as an aberration created by a unique set of circumstances. I take a different view. Just as God knows about the social DNA of Germany and your ability to be catalytic agents in spiritual things, the devil also knows.

I see little difference between the previous movements and Nazism. There was a strong leader, a radical new ideology and people who were willing to invest their lives into that ideology with sacrifice and an invitation to pursue “excellence” at a higher level than ever before – in the area of genetic “cleansing.”

While this invitation came from below, not from above, it struck a cord with the German people because it fit the DNA of the nation. It was new, it was immense and it promised excellence.

It is important to note that in that same time period you had an equal level of ideologically driven activity on the other side of both the religious and the political spectrum.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is the best known of the religious zealots who poured their lives out for a cause they believed in. There were countless heroics on the political side as well.

In all of WWII there was more espionage and counterinsurgency than in any previous war, but the ingenuity and sacrificial daring coming out of Germany surpassed them all. This is because of the social DNA of your nation. When you married ideological passion with an unparalleled work ethic, innovation and a drive for excellence, the result was a war that was fought on dozens of levels with incredible zeal and brilliance.

This is Germany.

And this is God's design.

And when it is in the hands of God, it is a wonderful thing that has made the world a better place.

The Current Problem

When Germany awoke from their brief season of being mesmerized by Hitler and Nazism, they were genuinely horrified at what they had done. Ideological zeal is the essence of the Sapphire DNA. Genocide is not. The demonic control of the nation for a brief window of time resulted in something quite alien to the land and the culture. **It was an aberration.**

HOWEVER, to a degree, the German nation has taken the Holocaust on themselves as though it was characteristic of them. It is true that Germans did that. It is absolutely not true that this was a German thing to do. I repeat with force: **it was an aberration.** It was the result of demonic control of the social DNA of the nation for a short period of time and for every Hitler who walked out the perversion of the DNA at a high level, you produced an Oskar Schindler who walked in the true essence of the German DNA.

For every Hitler who walked out the perversion of the DNA at a high level, you produced an Oskar Schindler who walked in the true essence of the German DNA.

The post war generation did not make that distinction. Many Germans saw themselves as evil, rather than seeing the nation as having done something utterly un-German while their DNA was controlled by the devil. The German people also broadly do not give themselves credit for the times when God used their innate excellence in the past

to change the course of religious belief for the good in the entire world.

Germany's time
is not over.

This distinction has enormous implications. Because Germans believe that the Holocaust sprang out of who they are, there is today a deep fear of ideological intensity. There is a pervasive fear that “it” could reappear and the nation could once again do something unspeakable.

In theory, that is true. Anything immense can become corrupted. However, the conclusion is unwarranted. It is equivalent to someone being in a car accident one time in 50 years and repudiating cars as utterly evil in their essence.

Germany today has little religious intensity and when intensity does break out, there is immediate concern and a distancing by all “proper” folks. The political scene is not quite as tepid, but there are not the broad strokes of genius that have marked the vibrant, energetic German political scene in the past. And tragically, the river of philosophical innovation that so defined Germany in the past is barely even a trickling stream today.

At present, you have poured your innovative energies and your industriousness into manufacturing and building a world class economy.

All this is because of the world's casual fear of a repetition of dangerous extremism and Germany's visceral horror of ever walking that way again.

I believe this is a tragedy of epic proportions.

You were designed to be God's catalyst in Europe and to effect change globally. Germany's ability to buy into an idea with their

entire passion and self-sacrifice is something God surely intends to use again.

To put it in other words, **Germany's time is not over.** In fact, the best is yet to come. While you are eager to avoid extremism, God is quietly planning His next deployment of Germany's social DNA sometime in the next century or two. He has no other nation like Germany with the proven ability to embrace an idea so tightly they will die for it, to model the viability of the idea and then to export it to the world at large.

You are a treasure in the hand of God. The devil cannot reduce the size of your nation's social DNA. He can only seek to blunt its usefulness in the hand of God by a mantle of misplaced guilt and a pervasive fear of the future.

But both of those are nothing more than skillfully crafted lies in the hand of the Father of Lies.

The truth is you have been completely forgiven by God for the Nazi atrocities and that you are a jewel in the hand of God with a future that is immense, now that you have learned the lessons of WWII.

Forgiveness

One of the central facets of God's model of forgiveness and reconciliation is that there is closure on the past.

In the Hebrew theology, the most exquisite picture is leprosy. The physical disease is a picture of sin and its consequences. Leprosy caused a person to be alienated from the culture. They were driven out of the town and had to live in isolation. To further exacerbate the pain, they were required to enforce their own isolation by warning anyone who came near them that they were unclean.

As ghastly as their exclusion from the circles of society was, when they were healed they could go to the priest and walk through the purification ceremony. It was complex and took eight days. However, at the end of those eight days, the priest pronounced the incredible words, “You are clean.”

So God’s standard of forgiveness is that there is closure to the past. Anything less than that is man’s unforgiveness and does not represent the One True God.

There was closure. No matter how ill he had been, when it was over, it was over. He was free to touch anyone, eat with anyone, marry, hold a baby or come into the Temple to worship God. There were no restrictions. The past did not follow him.

This is an Old Testament picture of God’s standard of reconciliation. On the one hand, the sin had to be over and exterminated from the person’s life. But on the other hand, when it was, the restoration was complete and limitless.

In the New Testament the picture is even more drastic. It is a picture of our dying and being born anew. Again, there is finality to death and there is an unblemished future in the new life.

So God’s standard of forgiveness is that there is closure to the past. Anything less than that is man’s unforgiveness and does not represent the One True God.

The Price

God does not grant forgiveness just because there is something to forgive. He requires three things: repentance, confession and often restitution. Where these three elements are present, God issues immediate, complete, permanent forgiveness with joy.

So let's look at a global cross section of cases of genocide.

- President Roca of Argentina made it his avowed objective to exterminate all Blacks and Native Americans from Argentina – and he nearly succeeded.
- America committed physical and cultural genocide against the Native Americans on hundreds of occasions.
- France committed genocide against their own people in the French revolution.
- Turkey committed genocide against Armenia in WWI.
- Germany committed genocide against the Jews in WWII.
- The U.S. committed genocide against Japan in WWII.
- Russia committed untold atrocities in the Gulag Archipelago.
- Uganda and Rwanda committed genocide against rival tribal groups.
- The Hamas and Hezbollah are currently attempting genocide against the Jews.

There are dozens of lesser cases of wanton mass murder, but these will serve as a test group.

Q: How many of these nations have repented of their genocide on a grass roots level as well as on a governmental level?

A: One. Germany.

Q: How many of these nations have institutionalized their repentance by passing laws and building monuments to guarantee that there will never be any denial of the sin that was committed?

A: One. Germany.

Q: How many of these nations have publicly confessed their sin, not just in a governmental statement, but by honest reporting in their school books and the history books of their nation?

A: One. Germany.

Q: How many of these nations have made it a crime to deny the fact that the sin had at one time existed?

A: One. Germany.

Q: How many of these nations have made substantial financial restitution to the survivors of the genocide?

A: One. Germany.

This, again, is the distillation of the excellence of the Sapphire DNA. As a Sapphire nation, you have brought your commitment to excellence, your ideological drive and your keen memory of past sin together, to right the wrongs of the Nazi regime.

Let me be absolutely blunt. **Germany has set the highest standard in world history for repentance, confession and restitution after a national sin of any sort. It would be hard to imagine how you**

could do more to fulfill the Biblical pre-requisites for full divine forgiveness.

I am well aware that Israel desires that this issue remain open for all of time. That, however, is a human issue and says much more about the Jews than it does about Germany. According to both the Jewish Scriptures and Christian dogma, you have absolutely, completely, extravagantly fulfilled all the criteria necessary to receive **divine** forgiveness and the total remitting of your sin.

The Future

The fact that a nation is forgiven does not mean that they yet have a destiny. My reason for believing that Germany has a significant role to play in the future comes from the core concept in Acts 17:26-27 which says that God has an exact time for every nation to begin and end.

A casual look at history shows God's purposes and selectivity. At the time of Israel's first possession of the land, you had powerful nations like the Canaanites, Moabites, Ammonites and Egyptians on the world scene. God has preserved only one of those nations and He has decreed longevity for the Egyptian culture even though governmental structures have come and gone.

In Mexico you look at the Olmec culture that existed at the same time as David reigned in Israel. They had sufficient technology to move 35 ton stones across a swamp, yet their appointed time came and went and they ceased to exist as a nation.

Europe itself is an ever changing political landscape. A look at the last 2000 years shows massive, repeated reconfiguration of political boundaries. Germany as a nation is a quite young coalition of a few political entities.

At the end of WWII Germany was carved up into four sectors and ceased to exist as a nation. There was no requirement in the “peace” agreement that you would ever be restored to sovereignty. And there was pressure from Henry Morgenthau and other like-minded people to strangle the nation economically so that it could never rise above survival.

I believe with all my heart
that you will once again lead
Europe, if not the world,
with a radical new paradigm of
truth that will break open new
levels of excellence for the
cultures of the world.

Regardless of global anger
against Germany for the
Holocaust and the incredible
cost in deaths and debt
of WWII to an entire generation,
your nation did not cease to exist.
In fact, you have rebounded in a
short 60 years at a level that could
not even have been imagined in 1945.

Why?

If ever a nation was ripe for obliteration, it was Germany. If ever a nation was crushed economically, industrially, socially, politically and spiritually it was Germany. How did you recover?

What made nations like the U.S., England and France, who suffered horribly at the hand of the Nazis restore sovereignty to your nation at an early date? The U.S. especially poured massive amounts of OUR tax dollars into the Berlin airlift and the restoration of your nation’s infrastructure.

There are sundry political, social and economic explanations. I submit that according to Acts. 17:26-27, there is an exact time and exact place for every nation. God determines that, not your enemies. Even though you had just sinned against heaven and earth, God was not and still is

not done with Germany. God decreed in heaven that you would not only survive, but thrive BECAUSE He is not even remotely done with you in world history.

I believe with all my heart that you will once again lead Europe, if not the world, with a radical new paradigm of truth that will break open new levels of excellence for the cultures of the world.

I believe that once again God will look the world over for a Sapphire nation that can embrace immensity with the intensity of ideological passion necessary to be catalytic on a global level, and He will find none that will serve His purposes as well as Germany, a nation which He designed and knit together for His purposes – purposes that are not yet complete.

Your finest hour is yet ahead, and it will not be precision engineering. It will be innovative ideology, embraced with the passion for excellence that Germany has exemplified consistently in their history.

The Risk

So can you trust yourselves to be ideologically driven again?

What about Nazism?

There are still occasional embers of Nazism that flare up briefly here and there. How can you be sure that if you permit yourself to walk in that portion of your identity and birthright that you will not shipwreck again?

With all the foreign ideologies that have flooded the nation recently, how can you prevent some brilliant thinker with a compelling personality from leading the people into destructive ideology?

Is it not better to emasculate yourselves and repudiate ideological intensity as the more prudent pathway? You have a magnificent

industrial engine. Should you not embrace that as your identity and continue to hone your position as the premier engineers of the world?

No, no, no! A thousand times no!

This is not your calling: it is simply a season you find yourselves in. You are called to be catalytic with extreme ideology and God has already put in place an excellent insurance policy.

How can you prevent some brilliant thinker with a compelling personality from leading the people into destructive ideology?

I believe that Nazism was the equivalent to a vaccination where a person is intentionally given a small dose of a disease. They react to it and develop antibodies that make them immune to future exposure to that germ.

Some look back at Nazism and see it as characteristic of the nation. They feel something like that could break out again. I absolutely disagree. I believe that the season of Nazism is in fact your greatest security against it ever happening again.

Your nation has been vaccinated for all of time against that kind of disease. No outsider can truly understand the horror in the German people who lived through WWII when they realized the enormity of what they had allowed to be done in their midst.

God has vaccinated the nation against a dozen different virulent viruses through that horror.

Now He can trust you. Sometime in the next century or two you can step up once again to your rightful place in the community of nations and incarnate the heart of God with the reckless abandon that only a Sapphire nation of the finest caliber could possibly do.

My Appeal

Germany, you have a treasure God has not entrusted to other nations. If you do not walk in it, we will all be impoverished.

I do not know when the hour of your next visitation will be. I have no idea where God will invite you to partner with Him, but it will be immense, new, radical, extreme and infinitely life changing for dozens of nations when He does use your Sapphire gift again.

So I invite you – no, I implore you – to come into agreement with reality.

The international conspiracy to brand you as evil and dangerous and thereby strip you of your ideological calling is vastly more dangerous than Henry Morgenthau's scheme to reduce you to economic serfdom.

Reality is that you have walked more nobly than any of the other nations of the world. You have repented and confessed and made reparations at a level 100 times more profound than your nearest competitor.

You are forgiven and restored by God.

Step into that restoration.

Accept the reality that you are prized by Almighty God and that He has a future for you and it is good, immense and ideological in nature!

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About the Author

Over many decades, Arthur Burk has studied the social DNA of hundreds of cities and nations. The model he developed has shown to be accurate and dependable around the globe. He has collected an immense treasure of experiences and insights, combined with his huge biblical as well as historical knowledge. His research work results regularly in insights shedding new light on the past, allowing a lifestyle of hope in the present, and it empowers people to invest in the future.