

# Germany

**Germany** (German: *Deutschland*, German pronunciation: [ˈdɔʏtʃlant]), officially the **Federal Republic of Germany** (German: *Bundesrepublik Deutschland*, listen<sup>ⓘ</sup><sup>[ɡ]</sup>) is a country in Central and Western Europe, lying between the Baltic and North Seas to the north, and the Alps, Lake Constance and the High Rhine to the south. It borders Denmark to the north, Poland and the Czech Republic to the east, Austria and Switzerland to the south, France to the southwest, and Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands to the west.

Germany includes 16 constituent states, covers an area of 357,386 square kilometres (137,988 sq mi)<sup>[6]</sup> and has a largely temperate seasonal climate. With 83 million inhabitants, it is the second most populous state of Europe after Russia, the most populous state lying entirely in Europe, as well as the most populous member state of the European Union. Germany is a very decentralized country. Its capital and largest metropolis is Berlin, while Frankfurt serves as its financial capital and has the country's busiest airport. Germany's largest urban area is the Ruhr, with its main centres of Dortmund and Essen. The country's other major cities are Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Stuttgart, Düsseldorf, Leipzig, Dresden, Bremen, Hannover, and Nuremberg.

Various Germanic tribes have inhabited the northern parts of modern Germany since classical antiquity. A region named Germania was documented before 100 AD. During the Migration Period, the Germanic tribes expanded southward. Beginning in the 10th century, German territories formed a central part of the Holy Roman Empire.<sup>[12]</sup> During the 16th century, northern German regions became the centre of the Protestant Reformation. After the collapse of the Holy Roman Empire, the German Confederation was formed in 1815. The German revolutions of 1848–49 resulted in the Frankfurt Parliament establishing major democratic rights.

In 1871, Germany became a nation state when most of the German states unified (except Switzerland and Austria) into the Prussian-dominated German Empire. After World War I and the revolution of 1918–19, the Empire was replaced by the parliamentary Weimar Republic. The Nazi seizure of power in 1933 led to the establishment of a dictatorship, the annexation of Austria, World War II, and the Holocaust. After the end of World War II in Europe and a period of Allied occupation, Austria was re-established as an independent country and two new German states were founded: West Germany, formed from the American, British, and French occupation zones, and East Germany, formed from the Soviet occupation zone. About a third of Germany's pre-war territory was annexed by Poland and the Soviet Union leading to the expulsion of Germans. Following the Revolutions of 1989 that ended communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe, the country was reunified on 3 October 1990<sup>[13]</sup>

Today, the sovereign state of Germany is a federal parliamentary republic led by a chancellor. It is a great power with a strong economy; it has the world's fourth-largest economy by nominal GDP, and the fifth-largest by PPP. As a global leader in several industrial and technological sectors, it is both the world's third-largest exporter and importer of goods. As a developed country with a very high standard of living, it upholds a social security and universal health care system, environmental protection and a tuition-free university education

The Federal Republic of Germany was a founding member of the European Economic Community in 1957 and the European Union in 1993. It is part of the Schengen Area and became a co-founder of the Eurozone in 1999. Germany is a member of the United Nations, NATO, the G7, the G20, and the OECD. Known for its rich cultural history, Germany has been continuously the home of influential and successful artists, philosophers, musicians, film people, sportspeople, entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers, and inventors. Germany has a large number of World Heritage sites and is among the top tourism destinations in the world.

Federal Republic of Germany

Bundesrepublik Deutschland

(German)<sup>[a]</sup>



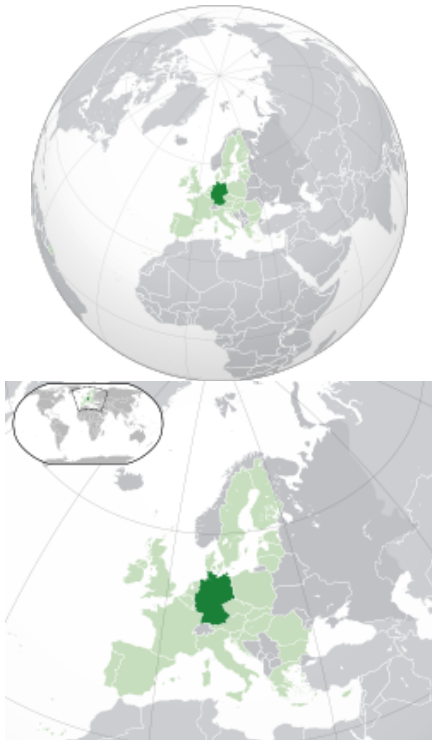
Motto:

"Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit" (de facto)

"Unity and Justice and Freedom"

Anthem: "Deutschlandlied" (third verse only)<sup>[b]</sup>

"Song of Germany"



Location of Germany (dark green)

– in Europe (green & dark grey)

– in the European Union (green)

# Contents

## Etymology

### History

- Germanic tribes and Frankish Empire
- East Francia and Holy Roman Empire
- German Confederation and Empire
- Weimar Republic and Nazi Germany
- East and West Germany
- Reunified Germany and the European Union

### Geography

- Climate
- Biodiversity
- Urbanisation

### Politics

- Law
- Constituent states
- Foreign relations
- Military

### Economy

- Companies
- Transport
- Energy and infrastructure
- Science and technology
- Tourism

### Demographics

- Immigrant population
- Religion
- Languages
- Education
- Health

### Culture

- Music
- Art
- Architecture
- Literature and philosophy
- Media
- Cinema
- Cuisine
- Sports
- Fashion and design

### See also

### Notes

### References

### External links



<b>Capital</b> <div>and largest city</div>	Berlin <sup>[c]</sup> <div>52°31′N 13°23′E</div>
<b>Official language</b> <div>and national language</div>	German <sup>[2][d]</sup>
<b>Ethnic groups</b> (2016) <sup>[2]</sup>	80.8% Germans <div>11.7% Other Europeans</div> <div>4.9% West Asians</div> <div>—3.4% Turks</div> <div>—1.3% Arabs</div> <div>1.3% Other Asians</div> <div>0.6% Africans</div> <div>0.5% Americans</div> <div>0.1% Other</div>
<b>Religion</b> (2017) <sup>[3][4][5]</sup>	57% Christian <div>36% No religion</div> <div>7% Others / Undeclared</div>
<b>Demonym(s)</b>	German
<b>Government</b>	Federal parliamentary republic
<div><div><div><div>•<span> </span>President</div><div>•<span> </span>Chancellor</div><div>•<span> </span>President of the Bundestag</div><div>•<span> </span>President of the Bundesrat</div><div>•<span> </span>President of the Federal Constitutional Court</div></div></div><div><div><div>Frank-Walter Steinmeier</div><div>Angela Merkel</div><div>Wolfgang Schäuble</div><div>Daniel Günther</div><div>Andreas Voßkuhle</div></div></div></div>	
<b>Legislature</b>	
<div><div><div>•<span> </span>Upper house</div><div>•<span> </span>Lower house</div></div></div>	<div>Bundesrat</div> <div>Bundestag</div>
<b>Formation</b>	
<div><div><div>•<span> </span>German Empire</div><div>•<span> </span>Weimar Republic</div><div>•<span> </span>Nazi Germany</div><div>•<span> </span>West and East Germany<sup>[e]</sup></div><div>•<span> </span>Basic Law adopted</div><div>•<span> </span>Founded the EEC<sup>[f]</sup></div><div>•<span> </span>Reunification</div></div></div>	<div>18 January 1871</div> <div>9 November 1918</div> <div>30 January 1933</div> <div>1945–1990</div> <div>8 May 1949</div> <div>1 January 1958</div> <div>3 October 1990</div>
<b>Area</b>	
<div><div><div>•<span> </span>Total</div></div></div>	<div>357,386<span> </span>km<sup>2</sup></div> <div>(137,988<span> </span>sq<span> </span>mi)<sup>[6]</sup></div> <div>(62nd)</div>

## Etymology

The English word *Germany* derives from the Latin *Germania*, which came into use after [Julius Caesar](#) adopted it for the peoples east of the [Rhine](#).<sup>[14]</sup> The [German](#) term *Deutschland*, originally *diutisciu land* ("the German lands") is derived from *deutsch* (compare *Dutch*), descended from [Old High German](#) *diutisc* "popular" (i.e. belonging to the *diot* or *diota* "people"), originally used to distinguish the language of the common people from [Latin](#) and its [Romance](#) descendants. This in turn descends from [Proto-Germanic](#) *\*þiudiskaz* "popular" (see also the Latinised form *Theodiscus*), derived from *\*þeudō*, descended from [Proto-Indo-European](#) *\*tewtéh₂-* "people", from which the word *Teutons* also originates.<sup>[15]</sup>

## History

The discovery of the Mauer 1 mandible shows that ancient humans were present in Germany at least 600,000 years ago!<sup>[16]</sup> The oldest complete hunting weapons found anywhere in the world were discovered in a coal mine in Schöningen between 1994 and 1998 where eight 380,000-year-old wooden javelins of 1.82 to 2.25 m (5.97 to 7.38 ft) length were unearthed.<sup>[17]</sup> The Neander Valley was the location where the first ever non-modern human fossil was discovered; the new species of human was called the Neanderthal. The Neanderthal 1 fossils are known to be 40,000 years old. Evidence of modern humans, similarly dated, has been found in caves in the Swabian Jura near Ulm. The finds included 42,000-year-old bird bone and mammoth ivory flutes which are the oldest musical instruments ever found,<sup>[18]</sup> the 40,000-year-old Ice Age Lion Man which is the oldest uncontested figurative art ever discovered,<sup>[19]</sup> and the 35,000-year-old Venus of Hohle Fels which is the oldest uncontested human figurative art ever discovered.<sup>[20]</sup> The Nebra sky disk is a bronze artefact created during the European Bronze Age attributed to a site near Nebra, Saxony-Anhalt. It is part of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme.<sup>[21]</sup>

## Germanic tribes and Frankish Empire

The Germanic tribes are thought to date from the Nordic Bronze Age or the Pre-Roman Iron Age. From southern Scandinavia and north Germany, they expanded south, east and west from the 1st century BC, coming into contact with the Celtic tribes of Gaul as well as Iranian, Baltic, and Slavic tribes in Central and Eastern Europe.<sup>[22]</sup> Under Augustus, Rome began to invade Germania (an area extending roughly from the Rhine to the Ural Mountains). In 9 AD, three Roman legions led by Varus were defeated by the Cheruscan leader Arminius. By 100 AD, when Tacitus wrote Germania, Germanic tribes had settled along the Rhine and the Danube (the Limes Germanicus), occupying most of the area of modern Germany. However, Austria, Baden Württemberg, southern Bavaria, southern Hessen and the western Rhineland had been



Migrations in Europe (100–500 AD)

conquered and incorporated into Roman provinces: Noricum, Raetia, Germania Superior, and Germania Inferior.<sup>[23][24][25][26]</sup>

In the 3rd century a number of large West Germanic tribes emerged: Alemanni, Franks, Chatti, Saxons, Frisii, Sicambri, and Thuringii. Around 260, the Germanic peoples broke into Roman-controlled lands.<sup>[27]</sup> After the invasion of the Huns in 375, and with the decline of Rome from 395, Germanic tribes moved farther southwest. Simultaneously several large tribes formed in what is now Germany and displaced or absorbed smaller Germanic tribes. Large areas known since

the Merovingian period as Austrasia, Neustria, and Aquitaine were conquered by the Franks who established the Frankish Kingdom, and pushed farther east to subjugate Saxony and Bavaria. Areas of what is today the eastern part of Germany were inhabited by Western Slavic tribes of Sorbs, Veleti and the Obotritic confederation.<sup>[23]</sup>

## East Francia and Holy Roman Empire

In 800, the Frankish king Charlemagne was crowned emperor and founded the Carolingian Empire, which was later divided in 843 among his heirs.<sup>[28]</sup> Following the break up of the Frankish Realm, for 900 years, the history of Germany was intertwined with the history of the Holy Roman Empire,<sup>[29]</sup> which subsequently emerged from the eastern portion of Charlemagne's original empire. The territory initially known as East Francia stretched from the Rhine in the west to the Elbe River in the east and from the North Sea to the Alps.<sup>[28]</sup> The Ottonian rulers (919–1024) consolidated several major duchies and the German king Otto I was crowned Holy Roman Emperor of these regions in 962. In 996 Gregory V became the first German Pope, appointed by his cousin Otto III, whom he shortly after crowned Holy Roman Emperor. The Holy Roman Empire absorbed northern Italy and Burgundy under the reign of the Salian emperors (1024–1125), although the emperors lost power through the Investiture controversy.<sup>[30]</sup>

In the 12th century, under the Hohenstaufen emperors (1138–1254), German princes increased their influence further south and east into territories inhabited by Slavs; they encouraged German settlement in these areas, called the eastern settlement movement (Ostsiedlung). Members of the Hanseatic League, which included mostly north German cities and towns, prospered in the expansion of trade.<sup>[31]</sup> In the south, the Greater Ravensburg Trade Corporation

Population	
• 2018 estimate	<span>▲</span> 83,000,000 <sup>[7]</sup> (17th)
• Density	232/km <sup>2</sup> (600.9/sq mi) (58th)
GDP (PPP)	
• Total	2019 estimate \$4.555 trillion <sup>[8]</sup> (5th)
• Per capita	\$54,983 <sup>[8]</sup> (18th)
GDP (nominal)	
• Total	2019 estimate \$4.117 trillion <sup>[8]</sup> (4th)
• Per capita	\$49,692 <sup>[8]</sup> (17th)
Gini (2017)	<span>▼</span> 29.1 <sup>[9]</sup> low
HDI (2017)	<span>▲</span> 0.936 <sup>[10]</sup> very high · 5th
Currency	
Euro (€) (EUR)	
Time zone	
UTC+1 (CET)	
• Summer (DST)	UTC+2 (CEST)
Driving side	
right	
Calling code	
+49	
ISO 3166 code	
DE	
Internet TLD	
.de and .eu	



The Nebra sky disk, c. 1700 BC



Frankish Realm and its expansion. As it was partitioned in 843, West Francia (blue) and East Francia (red) became predecessors of France and Germany, respectively



Johannes Gutenberg (c. 1400–1468), inventor of the movable-type printing press

(*Große Ravensburger Handelsgesellschaft*) served a similar function. The edict of the Golden Bull issued in 1356 by Emperor Charles IV provided the basic constitutional structure of the Empire and codified the election of the emperor by seven prince-electors who ruled some of the most powerful principalities and archbishoprics.<sup>[32]</sup>

Population declined in the first half of the 14th century, starting with the Great Famine in 1315, followed by the Black Death of 1348–50.<sup>[33]</sup> Despite the decline, however, German artists, engineers, and scientists developed a wide array of techniques similar to those used by the Italian artists and designers of the time who flourished in such merchant city-states as Venice, Florence and Genoa. Artistic and cultural centres throughout the German states produced such artists as the Augsburg painters Hans Holbein and his son, and Albrecht Dürer. Johannes Gutenberg introduced moveable-type printing to Europe, a development that laid the basis for the spread of learning to the masses.<sup>[34]</sup>



Martin Luther (1483–1546), Protestant Reformer.

In 1517, the Wittenberg priest Martin Luther nailed the *Ninety-Five Theses* to the church door, challenging the practice of selling of indulgences. He was subsequently excommunicated in the papal bull *Exsurge Domine* in 1520, and his followers were condemned in the 1521 Diet of Worms, which divided Western Christianity. In 1555, the Peace of Augsburg tolerated the "Evangelical" faith (now called Lutheranism) as an acceptable alternative to Catholicism, but also decreed that the faith of the prince was to be the faith of his subjects, a principle called *cuius regio, eius religio*. The agreement at Augsburg failed to address other religious creed: for example, the Reformed faith was still considered a heresy and the principle did not address the possible conversion of an ecclesiastic ruler, such as happened in Electorate of Cologne in 1583. However, in practice Calvinists were given protection under the *Augsburg Confession Variata* modified upon request by Philip Melancthon



The Holy Roman Empire in 1648, after the Peace of Westphalia, which ended the Thirty Years' War

From the Cologne War until the end of the Thirty Years' Wars (1618–1648), religious conflict devastated German lands.<sup>[35]</sup> The latter reduced the overall population of the German states by about 30 per cent, and in some places, up to 80 per cent.<sup>[36]</sup> The Peace of Westphalia ended religious warfare among the Imperial Estates of the Holy Roman Empire.<sup>[35]</sup> Their mostly German-speaking rulers were able to choose either Roman Catholicism, Lutheranism, or the Reformed faith as their official religion after 1648.<sup>[37]</sup>

In the 18th century, the Holy Roman Empire consisted of approximately 1,800 territories.<sup>[38]</sup> The elaborate legal system initiated by a series of Imperial Reforms (approximately 1450–1555) created the Imperial Estates and provided for considerable local autonomy among ecclesiastical, secular, and hereditary states, reflected in the Imperial Diet. The House of Habsburg held the imperial crown from 1438 until the death of Charles VI in 1740. Having no male heirs, he had convinced the Electors to retain Habsburg hegemony in the office of the emperor by agreeing to the Pragmatic Sanction of 1713. This was finally settled through the War of Austrian Succession in the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. Charles VI's daughter Maria Theresa ruled the Empire as Empress Consort when her husband, Francis I, became Holy Roman Emperor. From 1740, the

dualism between the Austrian Habsburg Monarchy and the Kingdom of Prussia dominated the German history

In 1772, then again in 1793 and 1795, the two dominant German states of Prussia and Austria, along with the Russian Empire, agreed to the Partitions of Poland; dividing among themselves the lands of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth. As a result of the partitions, millions of Polish speaking inhabitants fell under the rule of the two German monarchies. However, the annexed territories though incorporated into the Kingdom of Prussia and the Habsburg Realm, were not legally considered as a part of the Holy Roman Empire.<sup>[39][40]</sup> During the period of the French Revolutionary Wars, along with the arrival of the Napoleonic era and the subsequent final meeting of the Imperial Diet, most of the secular Free Imperial Cities were annexed by dynastic territories; the ecclesiastical territories were secularised and annexed. In 1806 the empire was dissolved; many German states, particularly the Rhineland states, fell under the influence of France. Until 1815, France, Russia, Prussia and the Habsburgs (Austria) competed for hegemony in the German states during the Napoleonic Wars.<sup>[41]</sup>

## German Confederation and Empire

Following the fall of Napoleon, the Congress of Vienna (convened in 1814) founded the German Confederation (*Deutscher Bund*), a loose league of 39 sovereign states. The appointment of the Emperor of Austria as the permanent president of the Confederation reflected the Congress's failure to accept Prussia's rising influence among the German states, and exacerbated the long-standing competition between the Hohenzollern and Habsburg interests. Disagreement within restoration politics partly led to the rise of liberal movements, followed by new measures of repression by Austrian statesman Metternich. The *Zollverein*, a tariff union, furthered economic unity in the German states.<sup>[42]</sup>

National and liberal ideals of the French Revolution gained increasing support among many especially young, Germans. The Hambach Festival in May 1832 was a main event in support of German unity, freedom and democracy. In the light of a series of revolutionary movements in Europe, which established a republic in France, intellectuals and commoners started the Revolutions of 1848 in the German states. King Frederick William IV of Prussia was offered the