

Former East Germany



Presentation by
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East Germany

Formal English: German Democratic Republic (GDR).

Informal English: East Germany.

In German: Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR).

Existed: 1949 to 1990.

Covered: The area of 6 of the current 16 German states.

First, some background on Germany as a whole



Germany at a Glance - 1

In German: Deutschland.

Population: 84.3 mil. (est)

Land area: 137,847 sq mi.

Chancellor: Olaf Scholz

Government Type: Federal parliamentary republic.

Germany at a Glance - 2

Divided into: 16 States.

Capital: Berlin.

Bicameral Parliament:

– Federal Council or Bundesrat (69 seats).

– Federal Senate or Bundestag (736 seats).

The 16 States of Germany

1. Baden-Wuerttemberg
2. Bavaria
3. Berlin
4. Brandenburg
5. Bremen
6. Hamburg
7. Hesse
8. Mecklenburg-West Pomerania
9. Lower Saxony
10. N. Rhine-Westphalia
11. Rhineland-Palatinate
12. Saarland
13. Saxony
14. Saxony-Anhalt
15. Schleswig-Holstein
16. Thuringia



East Germany Was 30% of Germany's Land

16 States of Germany showing, in red, the States that were part of East Germany

1. Mecklenburg-West Pomerania
2. Brandenburg
3. Saxony
4. Saxony-Anhalt
5. Thuringia
6. East Berlin



The 16 States of Germany:
Terrain: Lowlands in north, uplands in center, Bavarian Alps in south.

Highest: Zugspitze 9,718 ft.

Land use agriculture: 48%.

Natural Resources: Coal, lignite, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel, uranium, potash, salt, timber.

Germany Topography

Northern half of Germany – including all of former East Germany – is lowlands.

Like its neighbors Netherlands, Denmark, and north Poland.



Economy

Germany is Europe's largest economy. **24% of total EU GDP.**

Currency: Euro since 1999.

€1 = US\$1.09.



Gross Domestic Product:

Nominal: 2020 est.

– Total \$3.780 trillion (4th).

– Per capita \$45,466 (15th).

Purchasing Power Adjusted (PPP): 2020 est.

– Total \$4.454 trillion (5th).

– Per capita \$53,571 (15th).

Composition of GDP by sector:

– Agriculture: 1% ←

– Industry: 31%.

– Services: 69%.

Public Debt: 64% of GDP.

USA: 79% of GDP.

37 Fortune Global 500 companies are headquartered in Germany.



Not one of the 37 is headquartered in former East Germany.

Fortune Global 500 – 2022

27 German Companies. Top 10 Are:

Rank	Company	Industry
8	Volkswagen	Automotive
38	Mercedes-Benz	Automotive
47	Allianz	Insurance
59	BMW	Automotive
62	Deutsche Telekom	Telecoms
99	Deutsche Post/DHL	Transportation
108	Bosch	Automotive
109	BASF	Chemicals
112	E.ON	Electricity
133	Munich Re	Insurance

Economy

– 3 states of North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, and Baden-Württemberg → produce 55% of Germany's GDP.



– Military expenditures

– **Germany 1.38% of GDP.**

– **United States 3.4% of GDP.**

Dependence on Imported Oil & Gas

EU as a whole: Imports 58% of oil and gas consumed.

Where from?	2021	2022
Russia	38%	15%
Norway	24%	31%
USA	7%	15%

Germany Imports as % of use 2021:

Oil	98%
Natural Gas	95%

Population: 84.3 million
(Sept 2022 estimate).
Most populous country in
Europe.

Median Age: 47.8.
4th oldest in the world:
#2 Japan: 48.6.
#61 United States: 38.5.

Religion (2020 Est.)

Roman Catholic	27%
Protestant	24%
Muslim	4%
Other	5%
None	41%

Parliament

Bundesrat: 69 seats.
Appointed by state
governments.

Bundestag: 736 seats
(varies). Elected. 4-year
terms. 6 significant
parties. 30% women.

Chancellor:

- Elected by party or coalition
with most members in
Bundestag.
- Confirmed by president.
- Renewable 4-year term.
- Last Parliament vote was
September 26, 2021.

Population Ethnicity

German: 87%.
Turkish: 2%.
Polish: 1%.
Syrian: 1%.
Other: 9%.

Citizenship by Birth? No.

**Head of
Government:**
Chancellor
Olaf Scholz
(since Dec 2021).



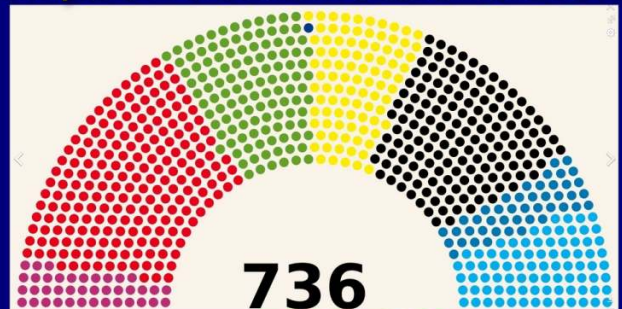
Head of State:
President Frank-
Walter Steinmeier
(since March 2017).



President:

- Elected by a convention of
all members of the
Bundestag and an
equivalent number of
delegates elected by the
state parliaments.
- Serves a 5-year term.
- International law & treaties.

Composition of German Parliament Since 2021



The Left: 39 seats SPD: 206 seats
Greens: 118 seats SSW: 1 seat FDP: 92 seats
CDU: 152 seats CSU: 45 seats AfD: 83 seats
= Ruling Coalition

Flag: Black, red, and gold were colors of Holy Roman Emperor.



Germania: Julius Caesar's name for east of the Rhine.

National holiday: German Unity Day, 3 October (1990). Reunification.

History - 1

1815: After Napoleon's defeat, Congress of Vienna founded the German Confederation: a loose league of 39 sovereign states.

1871: German Empire established. **Monarchy.**

History - 3

1920s: War destroyed Germany's productive capacity. Economy tanked. No hard cash inflows. Could not make reparations payments. Germany began to print money. German mark fell rapidly in value. Prices rose.

History - 5

A loaf of bread in Berlin that cost around 160 Marks at the end of 1922 cost

200,000,000,000 Marks by late 1923. **200 BILLION!**

By November 1923, the US dollar = 4,210,500,000,000 German marks! 4 TRILLION!

So...

Why did we have an East Germany and a West Germany?

And what happened to them now?

History - 2

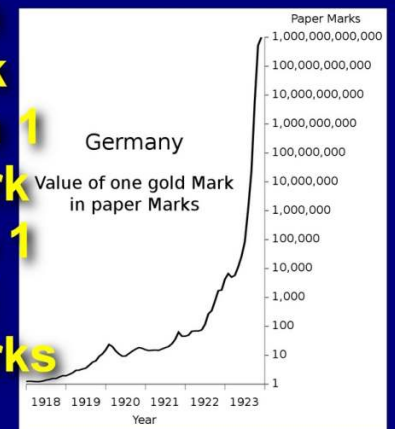
1915-1919: WWI. Germany joins Austria-Hungary, invades Europe. 2 million German soldiers killed. **Defeat.**

1919: Treaty of Versailles. Monarchy resigns. Germany becomes a republic. Owes huge reparations payments.

History - 4

1920s: Huge government budget deficits. Deficit was financed by issuing worthless bonds and printing more money, devaluing the mark even more. **German people tried to spend marks quickly.** Further devaluations.

Value of a Gold Mark went from 1 paper Mark in 1918 to 1 TRILLION paper Marks by 1923!



Hyperinflation in Germany – 1923

Loaf of Bread 1922: 160 Marks.

Late 1923: 200 Billion Marks!



5 Million



50 Million



5 Billion



500 Billion



5 Trillion



50 Trillion

Bank Notes in Billions and Trillions!

History - 6

1920s: Some say Germany deliberately destroyed its economy to pay agreed WWI reparations with worthless currency. **Devastating to the people. Shops demanded hard currencies or barter. Nobody wanted Marks.**

History - 7

1923: French and Belgian troops enter Germany to get reparations payments.

1929: Then the worldwide Great Depression hit Germany. German policy of fiscal austerity and deflation. Unemployment 30% by 1932.

History - 8

1932: Not surprisingly, Nazi Party led by Adolf Hitler won a special election in 1932. He became Chancellor of Germany in January 1933.

Mid-1930s-1942: Horrendous reign of German terror in Europe. Holocaust.

History - 9

1941-1944: Hitler's Germany was short on oil, steel, and (most critically) food. Invaded the Soviet Union.

By 1944: Soviets defeat Germany. Germany loses all the territory gained 1939-42.

History - 10

1944-1945: Hitler refused to capitulate until May 1945. Massive Allied bombing wiped out remainder of Germany's productive capacity.

May 1945: Allies defeat Hitler. Surrender.

German WW2 Casualties:

- 5,300,000 military.
- 500,000 civilians by Allied bombing.
- As many as 2,000,000 civilians killed by Soviets.
- 500,000 Germans killed in Holocaust.

History - 11

Aug 1945: Potsdam Agreement on Germany:

- **Disarmament.**
- **Demilitarization.**
- **Germany divided into 4 control zones:**
 - US. Britain.
 - France. Russia.

The Four Sectors of Germany 1945



History - 12

1948: US, Britain, France, agree to set up a German state (ie West Germany) combining their three zones. Capital at Bonn.

Russia sets up its own state: (East Germany). Capital East Berlin.

History - 13

East Germany was under political and military control of the Soviet Union. Soviet-style planned economy. Dissent crushed. Police state (Stasi). Soviets took 23% of GNP for reparations. East German economy failed.

History - 14

1954: Western powers give West Germany full independence.

1955: Joins NATO.

1957: West Germany is a founding member of the European Economic Community (now EU).

History - 15

1950s: Soviet troops remained in East Germany. 2.6 million flee to West.

1961: East Germany builds the Berlin Wall to stop them – shooting those who attempted to flee.

Two Germanies 1949-1990



History - 16

1980s: West German economy boomed. “Economic Miracle”.

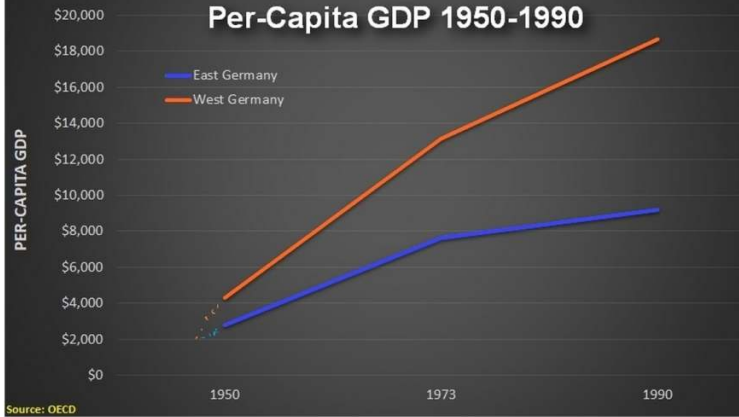
1980s: East German economy faltered.

- Economic mismanagement.
- Emigration to the West.
- Repressive, undemocratic leadership.

A German friend's comments on why the East did not boom:

- Brain drain.
- Big companies (eg Deutsche Bank and Siemens) fled Berlin.
- Educated young people fled, but the elderly did not dare.
- Only low paying jobs created.
- East German privatization was sometimes a "sell out" to West.

West Germany vs East Germany: Capitalism vs Socialism Per-Capita GDP 1950-1990



Meanwhile, until the end, East Germany continued to publish total LIES about its productivity. Claimed GDP growth in East Germany was much higher than West Germany, USA, or Western Europe!

Table 2.1. Official growth estimates of gross output in constant prices in East Germany in comparative perspective from 1950 to 1989 (1950 = 100)

	East Germany (official)	Soviet Union (official)	West Germany	United States of America	Western Europe
1950	100	100	100	100	100
1960	262	261	219	141	161
1970	401	523	336	212	259
1980	638	850	439	291	347
1989	902	1,107	516	392	426

Sources: Statistisches Jahrbuch der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik 1990; Statistisches Bundesamt (1991); Kudrov (1998); Maddison (2001)

History - 17

Nov. 9, 1989: East Germans breached Berlin Wall. Nobody stopped them! Began dismantling the wall. Made reunification inevitable. Hundreds of thousands of East Germans crossed the border.

July 1990: Russia agreed to support reunification in exchange for financial aid from W. Germany.

Fall of the Berlin Wall Nov 9, 1989



History - 18

Oct. 3, 1990: German Democratic Republic (East) became part of the Federal Republic (West), and Germany became a united state for first time since 1945.

1991: Vote to move capital from Bonn to Berlin in 1999.



History - 19

1990: Enormous issues faced the reunified nation:

- Funding the reunification.
- Modernization of former East Germany.

Almost all East German industries were considered outdated.

History - 20

West Germany created a company to privatize East German property:

- 8,500 state-owned entities, 4 million workers.
- 6 million acres of forest and agricultural land.
- Vast public housing projects.

History - 21

In 3 decades, direct spending by central German government **US\$2 TRILLION.**

- 65% of that in social benefits: welfare, pensions, unemployment pay.
- 35% infrastructure, roads, business investment.

Funding the \$2+ Trillion Cost

7.5% income tax surcharge for individuals and companies.

Solidaritätszuschlaggesetz "solidarity surcharge".

Rate dropped to 5.5%.

Initially was for only 1991-1992.

But continued through 2020.

Mostly phased out starting 2021.

Has led to West German resentment toward East Germans.

History - 22

Plus Germany gave Eastern Germans one Deutsch Mark for one nearly worthless Ostmark. Cost another \$100 Billion.



Ostmarks

Now, 30 Years Later: States of former East Germany still lag behind West Germany with lower wages and higher unemployment. Plus more than 2 million more people have left the East and not returned (talent drain).

As of 2019:

East GDP is 69% of West.

East unemployment 40% higher.

West income 21% higher.

30 Years United, East Germany Still Trails the West

Selected economic indicators for East and West Germany in 1991 and 2019



Source: Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

Former East Germany Two Parts to Our Visit

1. Famous cities south of Berlin: Dresden, Meissen, Leipzig, Erfurt, Wartburg, Weimar. Drive from Berlin or Frankfurt.
2. Potsdam – just outside former East Berlin. Train or boat from Berlin.

Map next slide...



Dresden

- Capital of Saxony.
- Pop 560,000.
- On River Elbe.
- WWII bombing destroyed the entire city center.



**Semperoper
Dresden Opera House
Built 1841.
Seats 1300.**



**Largely destroyed in WW2.
Reconstruction completed 1985.**

**Statue is King John
of Saxony
Reign
1854-1873**

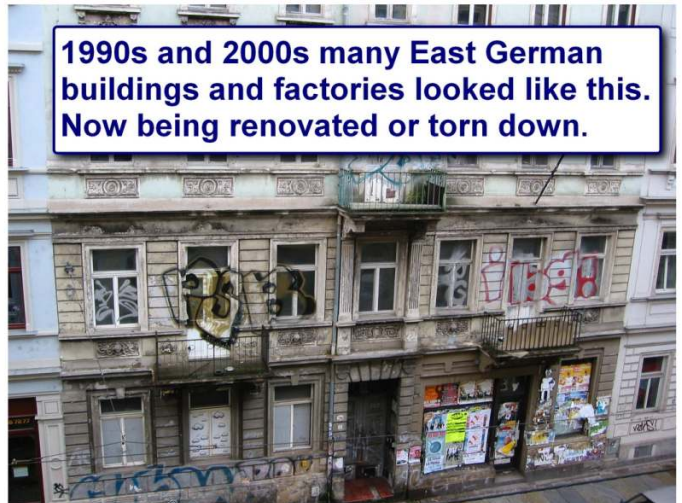


**Semperoper Dresden
1841**



Premiered major works by:
– Richard Wagner, 3 in 19th c
– Richard Strauss, 9 in 20th c

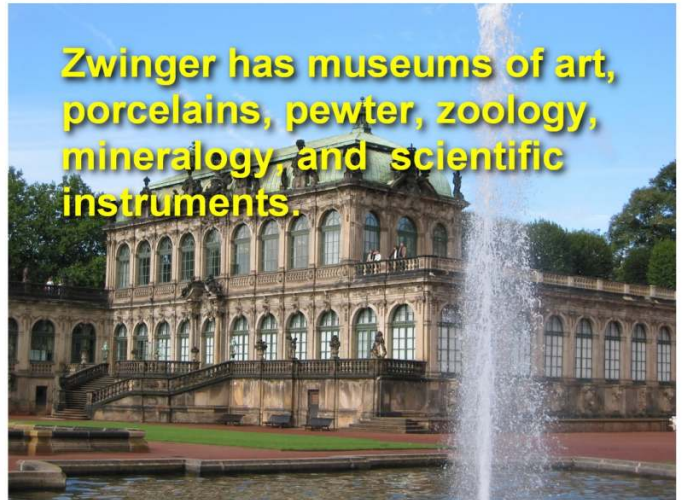
**1990s and 2000s many East German
buildings and factories looked like this.
Now being renovated or torn down.**



**Zwinger Baroque Palace
and Gardens Dresden
Built 1710-1728**



**Zwinger has museums of art,
porcelains, pewter, zoology,
mineralogy, and scientific
instruments.**



**Zwinger
Baroque
Architecture**



**Zwinger Art Collection
includes Old Masters
Paintings and Porcelains**





Zwinger – Porcelains

Internet Photo



Semper Gallery
Designed by Gottfried Semper,
Who also designed the opera.
Built 1847-1854.

Part of the Zwinger Palace



Semper Gallery - Dresden
Italian painters include:
Raphael, Titian, Giorgione,
Correggio, Tintoretto,
Guercino, Pinturicchio,
Canaletto.



Semper Gallery - Dresden
Flemish and Dutch painters
include:
Rubens, Rembrandt,
Jordaens, Frans Hals, Van
Dyck, and Vermeer.



Semper Gallery - Dresden
German painters include:
Lucas Cranach the Elder
and Lucas Cranach the
Younger.
Many works by French and
Spanish painters as well.



Frauenkirche
(Our Lady) 1743
– Lutheran.
– Bombed 1945.
– Left as War
Memorial 50 Years.
– Reconstruction
began after
reunification.



Frauenkirche
1743

Rebuilt 2005

1945 Bombing



Elbe River - 680 mi Long
Czech Rep. and Germany
Commercially Navigable

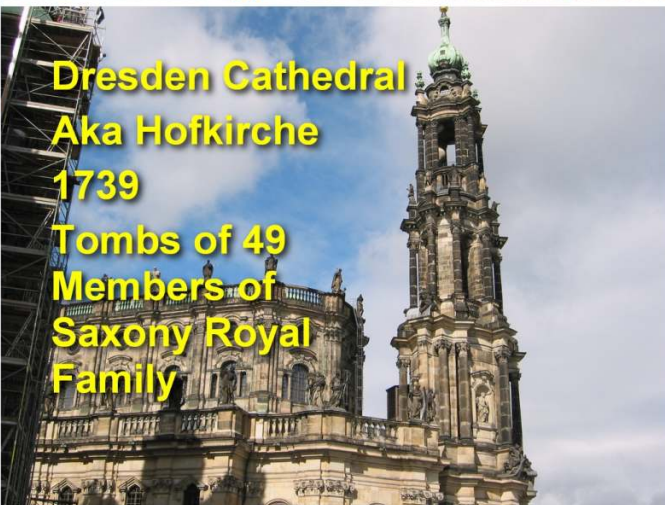
**Elbe River
Ministry of Culture**



**Dresden Cathedral
Roman Catholic
1739**



**Dresden Cathedral
Aka Hofkirche
1739
Tombs of 49
Members of
Saxony Royal
Family**

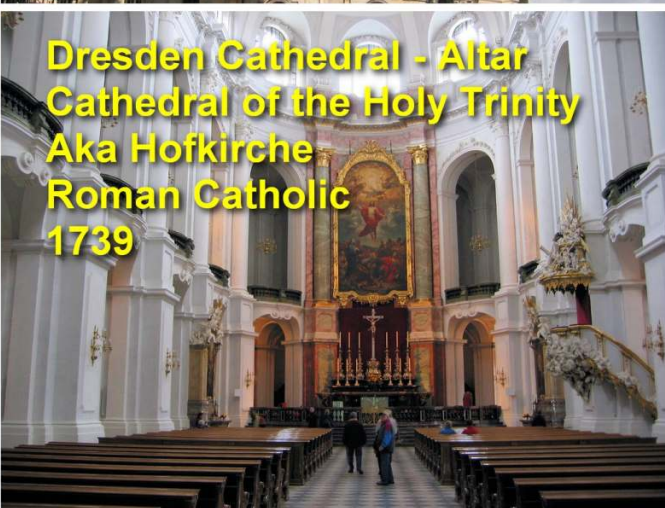


Hofkirche - 1739



**Also has tombs of some
Polish kings, princes,
and princesses**

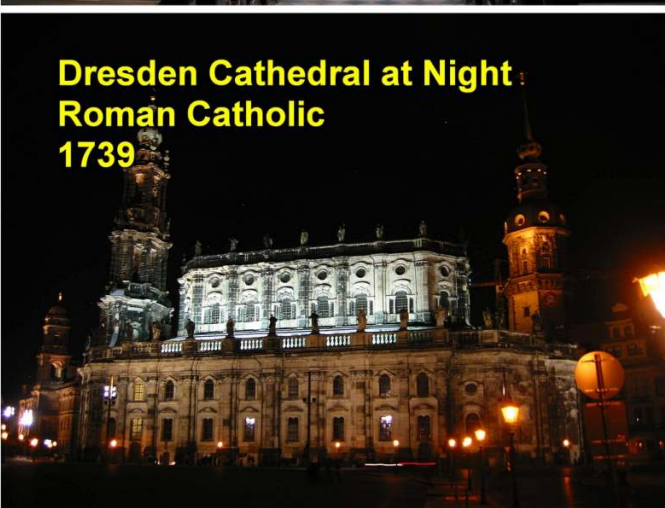
**Dresden Cathedral - Altar
Cathedral of the Holy Trinity
Aka Hofkirche
Roman Catholic
1739**



**Famous Organ Made by
Gottfried Silbermann, 1753**



**Dresden Cathedral at Night
Roman Catholic
1739**



**Hausmannsturm
Tower of 17th
c Dresden
Castle
Rebuilt**





Dresden Castle
17th c - Rebuilt



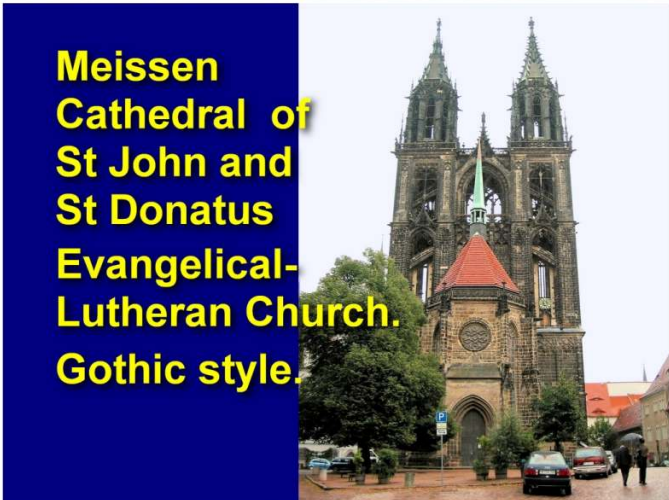
Academy of Fine Arts



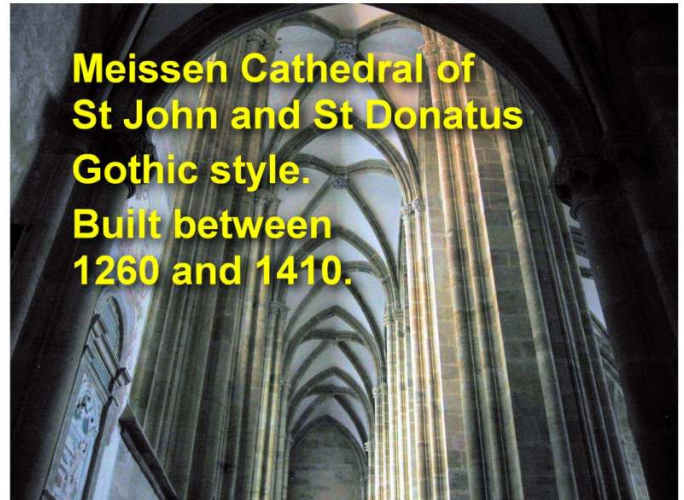
Academy of Fine Arts

Meissen

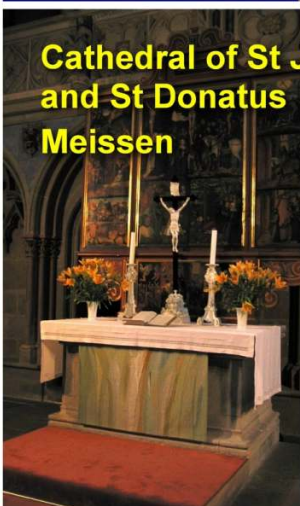
- Pop 25,000.
- 16 miles from Dresden.
- On Elbe River.
- Famous for Meissen porcelain (still made).
- Started 1710. First high-quality porcelain produced outside the Orient.



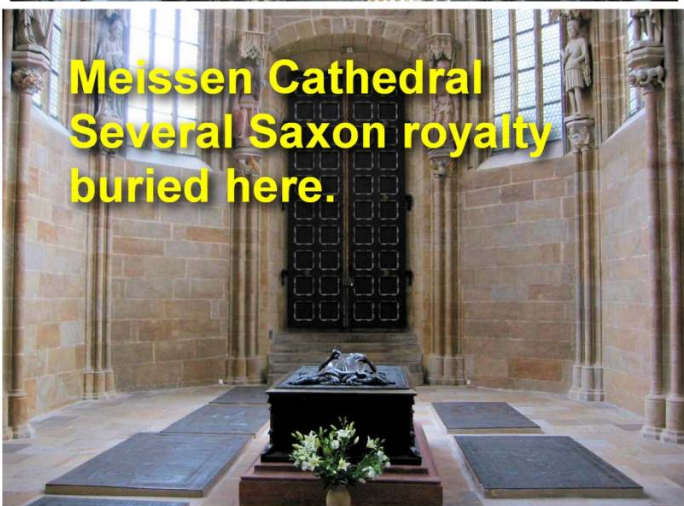
Meissen Cathedral of St John and St Donatus
Evangelical-Lutheran Church.
Gothic style.



Meissen Cathedral of St John and St Donatus
Gothic style.
Built between 1260 and 1410.



Cathedral of St John and St Donatus
Meissen



Meissen Cathedral
Several Saxon royalty buried here.

Meissen Porzellan-Stiftung Meissen Porcelain Museum



Internet Photos

Leipzig

- Pop 600,000.
- Largest in Saxony.
- On White Elster River.
- Trade center since the Holy Roman Empire.
- Historical center for music.
- Named "Most Liveable City in Germany".



Leipzig Market Square



Leipzig Market Square



Market Square (main plaza) Under renovation



Mendebrunnen Fountain in front of Concert Hall 1883



Augustusplatz



Soviet Style Sculpture Preserved in Augustusplatz



Pedestrian Street



Leipzig Museum of Fine Arts
3,500 paintings.
1,000 sculptures.
Late Middle Ages to the present.



Monument to the 1813 Battle of Leipzig.
aka Battle of the Nations. Defeat of Napoleon's French army at Leipzig by a coalition of Russia, Prussia, Austria, and Sweden.



Old Stock Exchange
Alte Börse
1678
Now an events venue.



Old Stock Exchange
Old Town Hall Museum



Old Town Hall Museum
Leipzig - 1556
City History Museum



Old Town Hall Museum
1556



Old Town Hall Museum
1556





**Old Town Hall Museum
Leipzig - 1556**



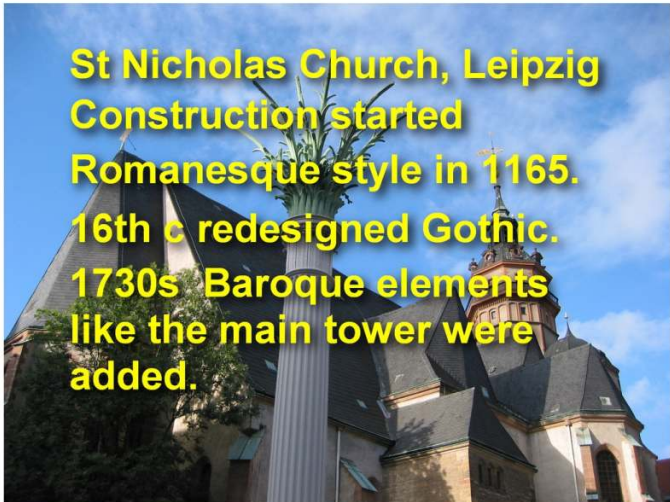
**Leipzig Opera - 1960
Augustusplatz**



**Leipzig Opera in 1900
Augustusplatz
Destroyed in WWII**



**St Nicholas Church, Leipzig
Nikolaikirche
Evangelical-Lutheran**



**St Nicholas Church, Leipzig
Construction started
Romanesque style in 1165.
16th c redesigned Gothic.
1730s Baroque elements
like the main tower were
added.**



Baroque main tower added 1730s



**St Nicholas Church
Leipzig**



**St Nicholas Church
Leipzig**



Johann Sebastian Bach was music director of Nikolaikirche and also of St Thomas Church (our next stop) from 1723-1750.



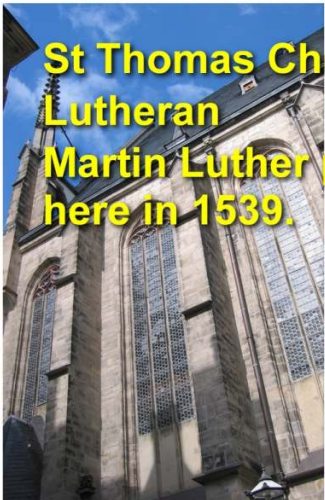
Several of Bach's works premiered in Nikolaikirche



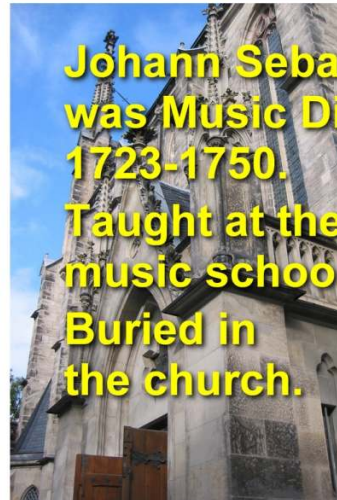
Nikolai Church School



**St Thomas Church
Leipzig
Lutheran
Late Gothic
Style.
12th c.
Current tower
built 1537.**



**St Thomas Church, Leipzig
Lutheran
Martin Luther preached here in 1539.**



**Johann Sebastian Bach was Music Director 1723-1750.
Taught at the music school.
Buried in the church.**

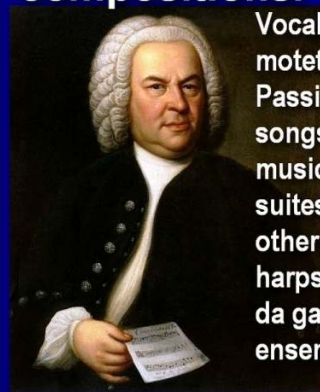


Statue of Bach 1908

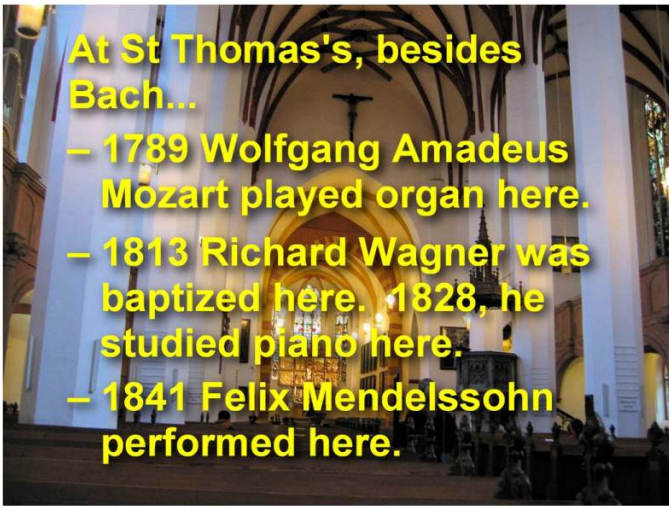


JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Bach wrote over 1000 known compositions.

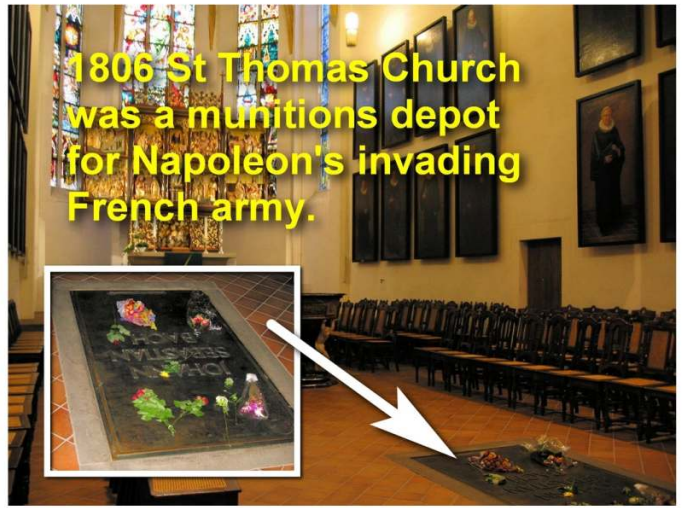


Vocal music includes cantatas, motets, masses, Magnificats, Passions, oratorios, chorales, songs and arias. Instrumental music includes concertos, suites, sonatas, fugues, and other works for organ, harpsichord, lute, violin, viola da gamba, cello, flute, chamber ensemble and orchestra.



At St Thomas's, besides Bach...

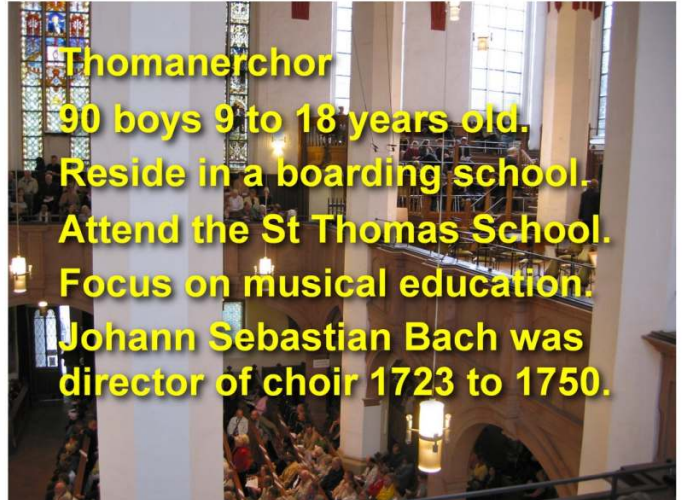
- 1789 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart played organ here.
- 1813 Richard Wagner was baptized here. 1828, he studied piano here.
- 1841 Felix Mendelssohn performed here.



1806 St Thomas Church was a munitions depot for Napoleon's invading French army.



Thomanerchor, the choir of the Thomaskirche. Well-known boys' choir. Founded in 1212.



Thomanerchor 90 boys 9 to 18 years old. Reside in a boarding school. Attend the St Thomas School. Focus on musical education. Johann Sebastian Bach was director of choir 1723 to 1750.



Shopping Arcade, Leipzig



Shopping Arcade



Leipzig



Untimely Contemporaries by Bernd Goebel near Augustusplatz

About the injustices of communism. Completed before fall of Berlin wall.



Marktplatz Leipzig



Marktplatz Leipzig



Marktplatz Leipzig



Marktplatz Leipzig



Marktplatz Leipzig

Erfurt

- Pop 220,000.
- State of Thuringia.
- On Gera River.
- Martin Luther, founder of the Protestant Reformation, studied and preached here.



**Domplatz
Cathedral Square
Heart of Erfurt**

**Cathedral
Shadow** →

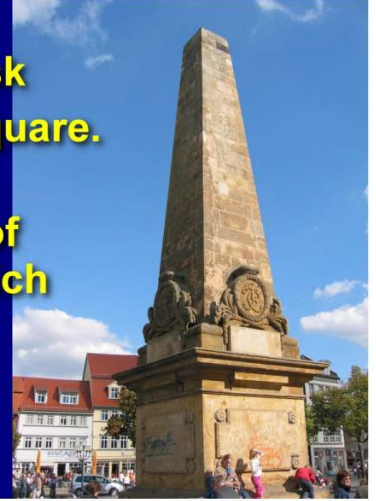


**Domplatz - Erfurt
Cathedral Square**

**Pope Benedict XVI
celebrated Mass in
this square Sept 24, 2011.
30,000 people.**



**Erthal Obelisk
Cathedral Square.
Built 1777 to
honor Lord of
Erfurt Friedrich
Karl Joseph
von Erthal.**



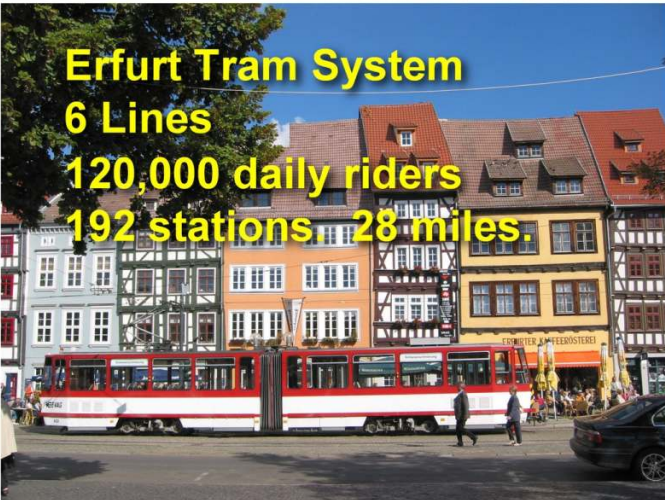
**Domplatz - Erfurt
Cathedral Square**



**Domplatz - Erfurt
Cathedral Square**



**Erfurt Tram System
6 Lines
120,000 daily riders
192 stations, 28 miles.**



**Fishmarket Square
Erfurt**



**Erfurt City Hall
Rathaus
1869-1875
Neo-Gothic
style.
Fishmarket
Square.**



Erfurt Fishmarket Square



Guildhall Late 19th c



Erfurt Fishmarket Square



Tourist Carriage



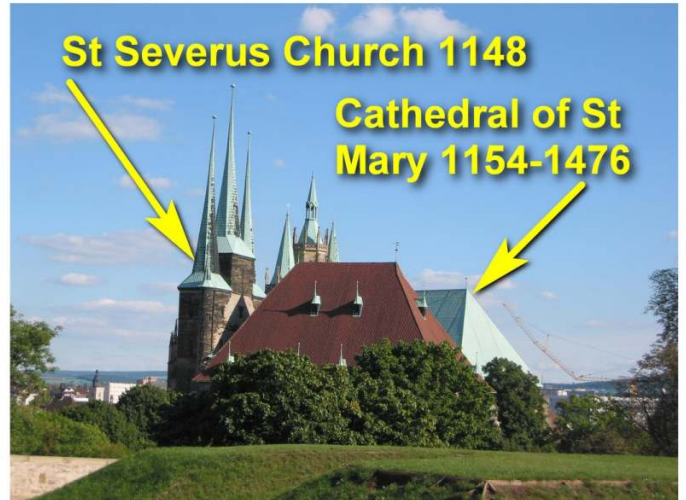
Erfurt Fishmarket Square



15th c Half-timbered Houses



St Severus Church 1148

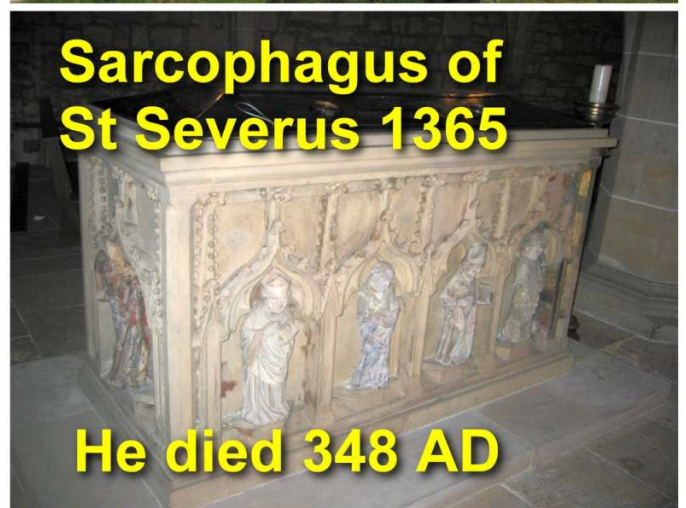


Cathedral of St Mary 1154-1476

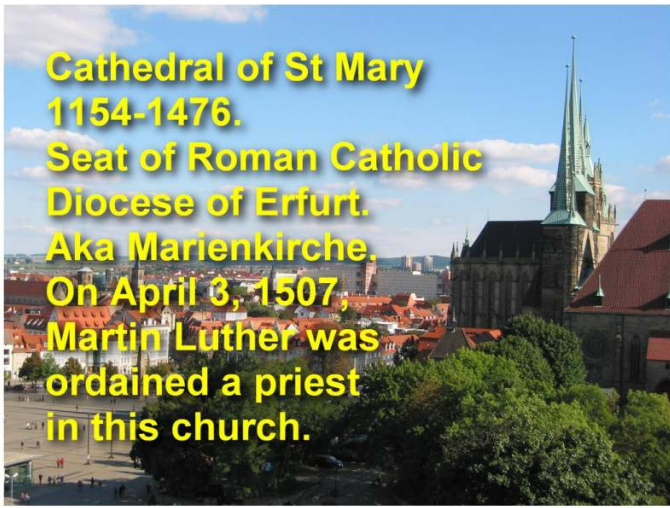
**St Severus Church
1148 - Gothic
Three towers
Sarcophagus of St
Severus 1365
Adjoins St
Mary's Cathedral**



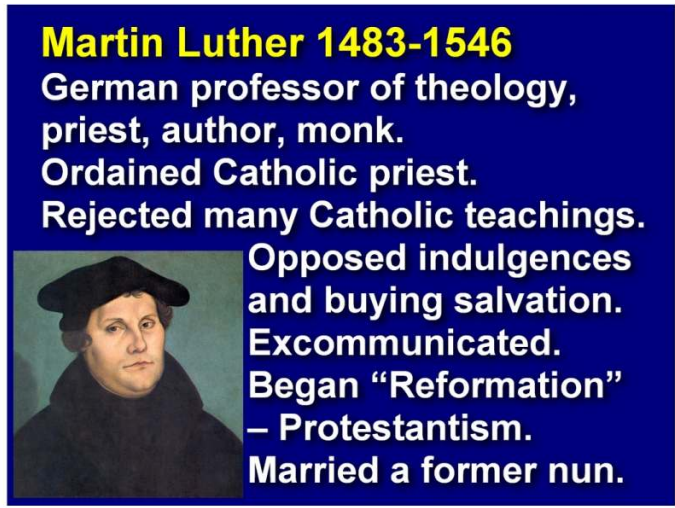
**Sarcophagus of
St Severus 1365**



He died 348 AD



Cathedral of St Mary
1154-1476.
Seat of Roman Catholic
Diocese of Erfurt.
Aka Marienkirche.
On April 3, 1507,
Martin Luther was
ordained a priest
in this church.



Martin Luther 1483-1546
German professor of theology,
priest, author, monk.
Ordained Catholic priest.
Rejected many Catholic teachings.
Opposed indulgences
and buying salvation.
Excommunicated.
Began "Reformation"
– Protestantism.
Married a former nun.



Cathedral of St Mary
Erfurt



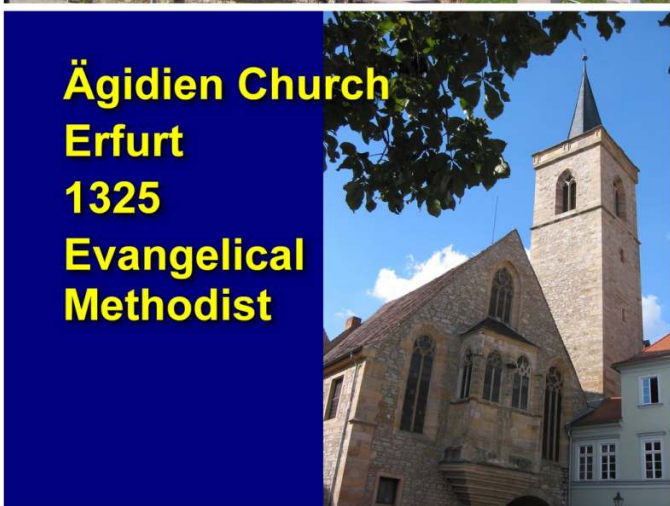
Cathedral of St Mary
Erfurt



Petersberg Citadel - Erfurt



Petersberg Citadel
17th c



Ägidien Church
Erfurt
1325
Evangelical
Methodist



Predigerkirche
"Preacher Church"
Evangelist
13th c

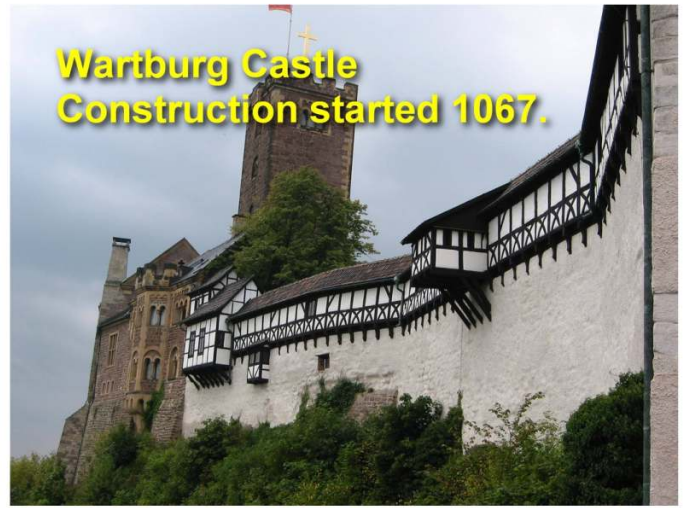
Famous Canon in D Major
Johann Pachelbel was
organist here 1678-1690

Wartburg Castle



- UNESCO site.
- Construction started 1067.
- On a 1,350 ft precipice.
- Overlooking town of Eisenach.
- Martin Luther translated New Testament into German here.

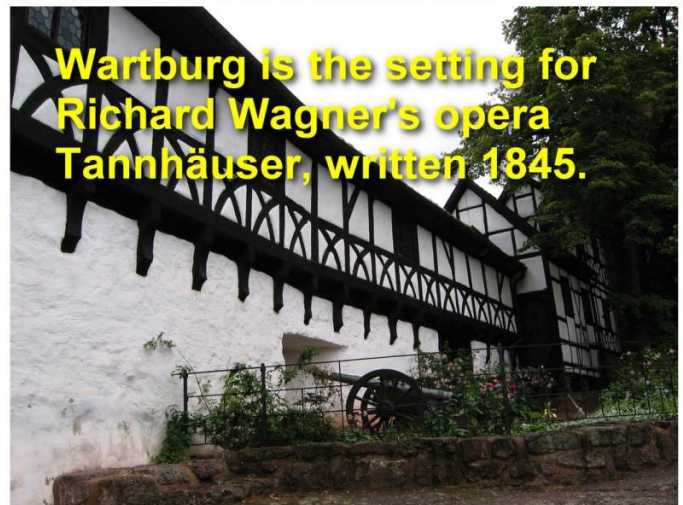
Wartburg Castle Construction started 1067.



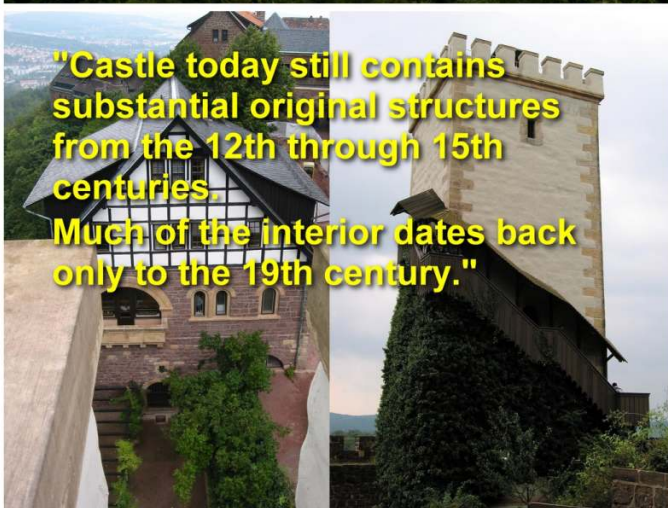
Wartburg Castle overlooks Eisenach in the State of Thuringia.



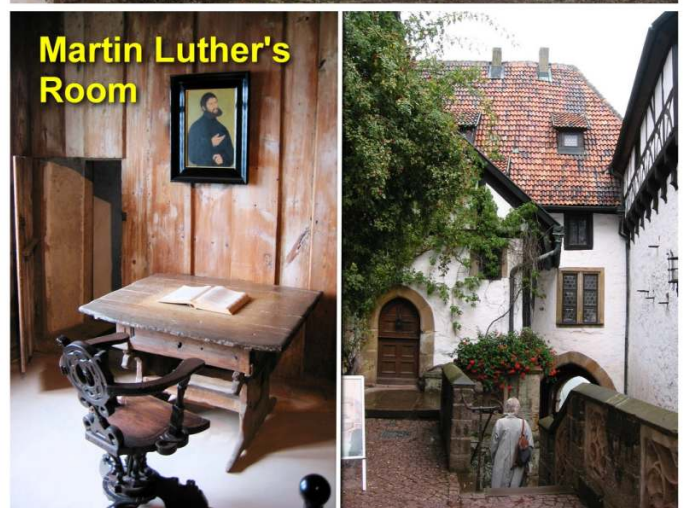
Wartburg is the setting for Richard Wagner's opera Tannhäuser, written 1845.



"Castle today still contains substantial original structures from the 12th through 15th centuries. Much of the interior dates back only to the 19th century."

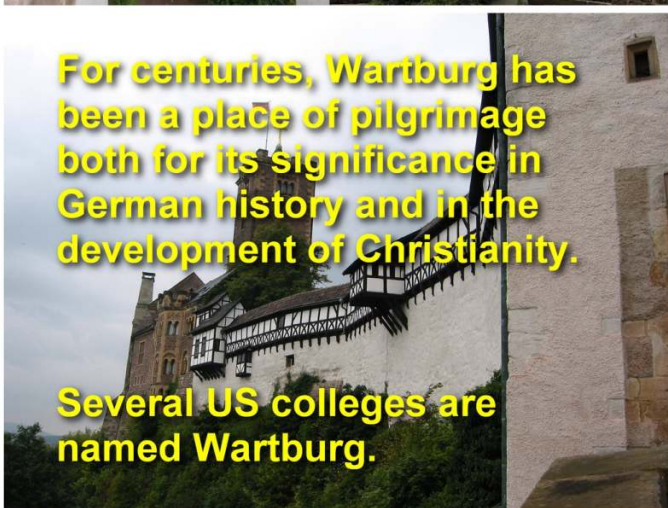


Martin Luther's Room



For centuries, Wartburg has been a place of pilgrimage both for its significance in German history and in the development of Christianity.

Several US colleges are named Wartburg.



Weimar

- Pop 65,000.
- Historical cultural center:
 - Base of writers Johann von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller.
 - Composer Franz Liszt.
 - Architects Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, and Walter Gropius – "Bauhaus movement".
- Constitution of Germany after WWI signed here – "Weimar Republic".





Happy to recommend the Grand Hotel Russischer Hof (Best Western Premier). Weimar.



Weimar City Hall Rathaus - 1841 Market Square



Market Square - Weimar



Market Square Weimar



German National Theatre and Concert Hall - Weimar 1906



Schloss Weimar Weimar Palace Late 18th c



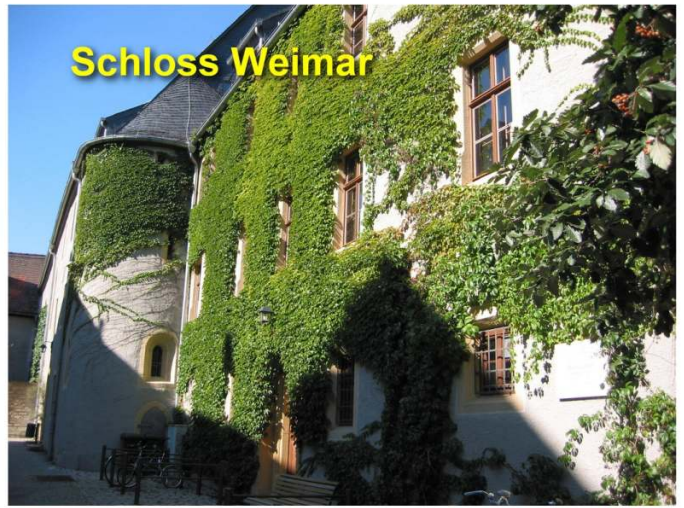
Schloss Weimar Weimar Palace Late 18th c



The Bastille Oldest Part of Schloss Weimar Weimar Palace



Schloss Weimar
Weimar Palace
Late 18th c
Ilm River
UNESCO



Schloss Weimar



Schloss Weimar
Park an der Ilm
UNESCO Cultural
Area

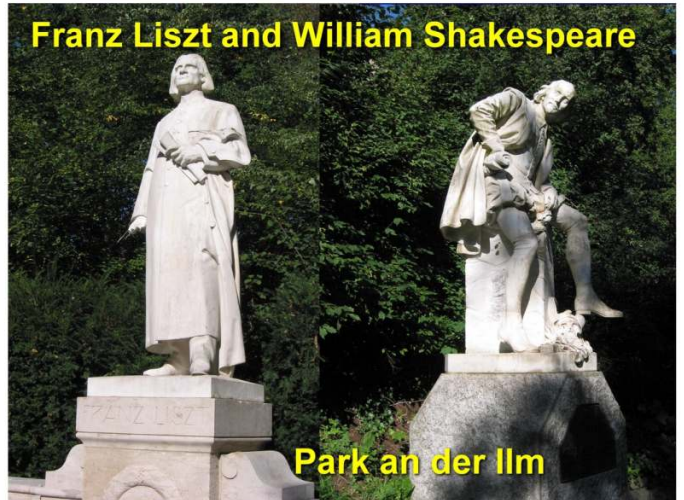


Park an der Ilm
18th century park.
Part of UNESCO
cultural site.



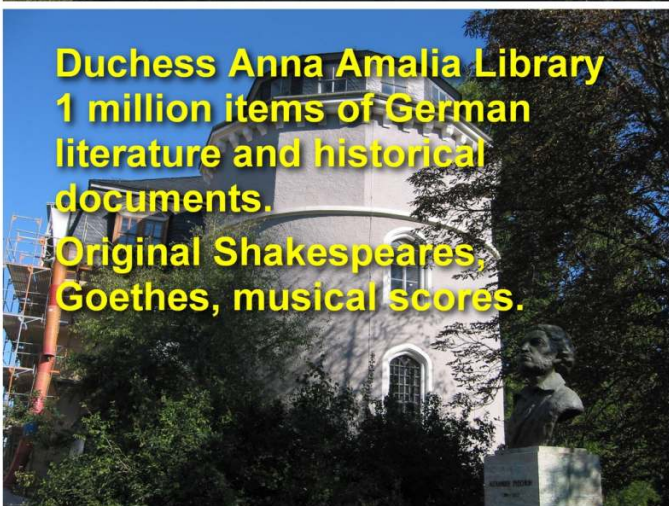
Park on the Ilm.
18th c landscaped
park in Weimar.
Created by Goethe.

Goethe's House

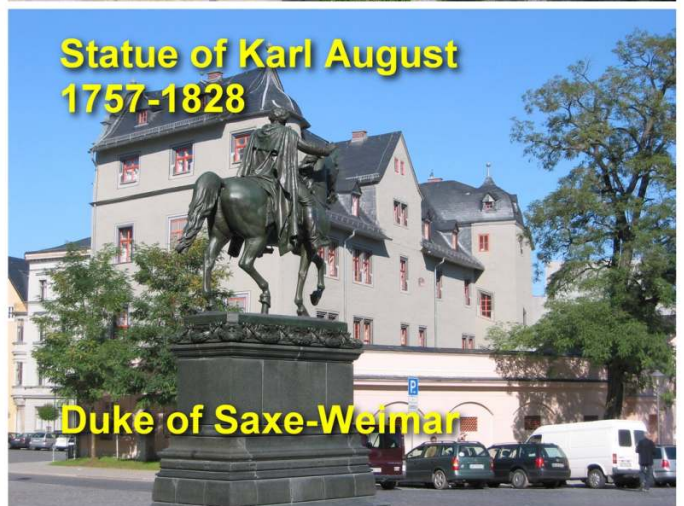


Franz Liszt and William Shakespeare

Park an der Ilm

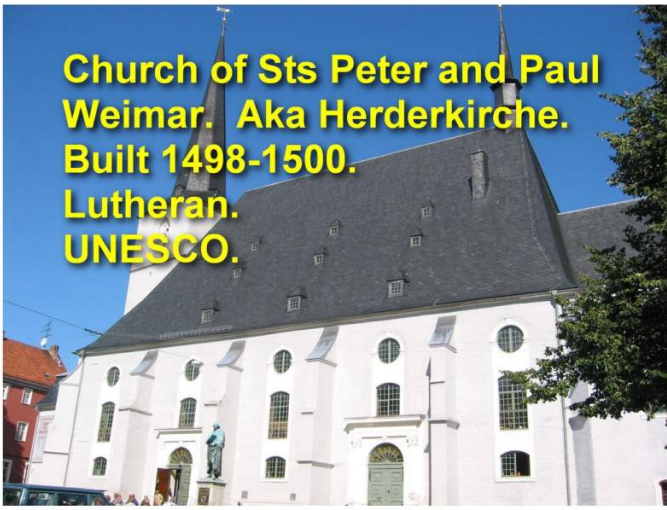


Duchess Anna Amalia Library
1 million items of German
literature and historical
documents.
Original Shakespeares,
Goethes, musical scores.

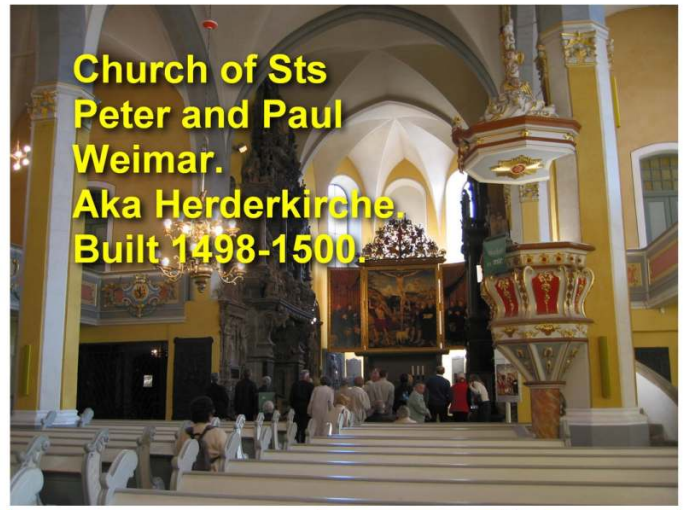


Statue of Karl August
1757-1828

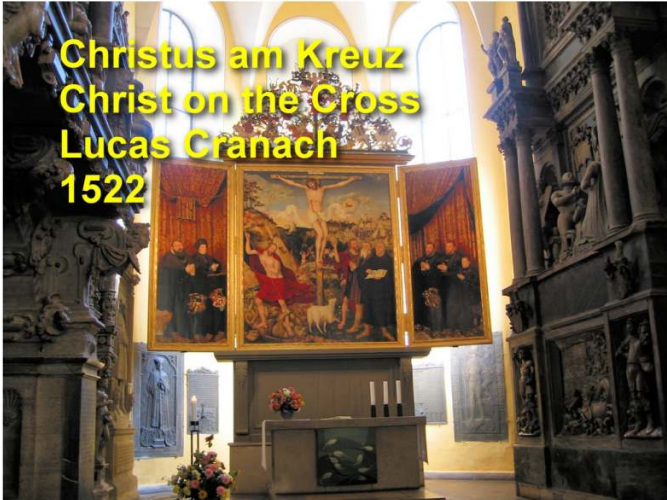
Duke of Saxe-Weimar



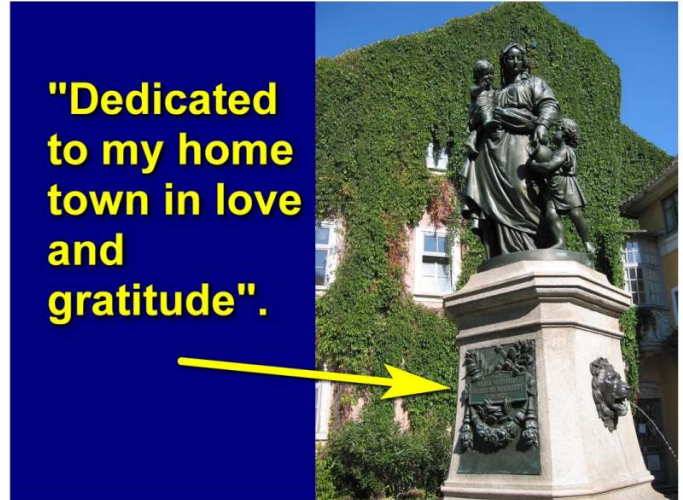
**Church of Sts Peter and Paul
Weimar. Aka Herderkirche.
Built 1498-1500.
Lutheran.
UNESCO.**



**Church of Sts
Peter and Paul
Weimar.
Aka Herderkirche.
Built 1498-1500.**



**Christus am Kreuz
Christ on the Cross
Lucas Cranach
1522**

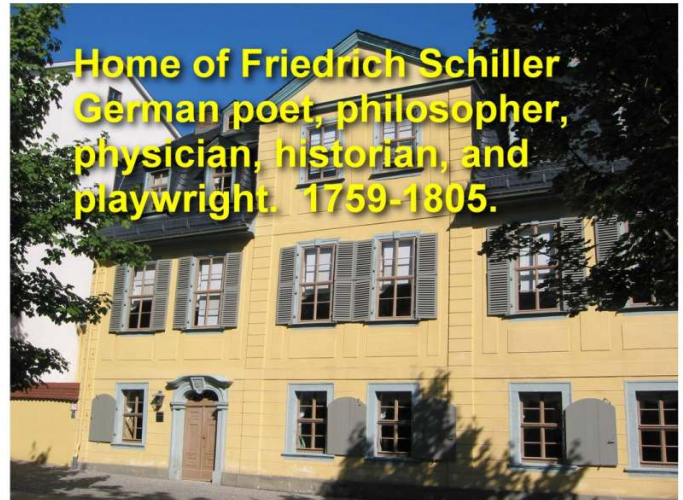


**"Dedicated
to my home
town in love
and
gratitude".**



**Monument to Goethe and
Schiller (1857) in front of
German National Theatre**

**Goethe is often
called Germany's
Shakespeare.**



**Home of Friedrich Schiller
German poet, philosopher,
physician, historian, and
playwright. 1759-1805.**

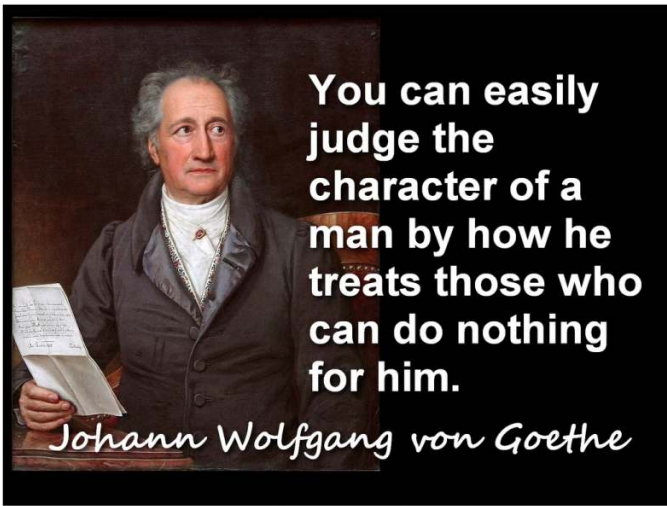


**Home of Johann Wolfgang
von Goethe. 1749-1832.
Weimar.**

**Poet, playwright, novelist,
scientist, statesman, theatre
director, critic, artist.**



**Goethe's Home and
Garden. Weimar.**



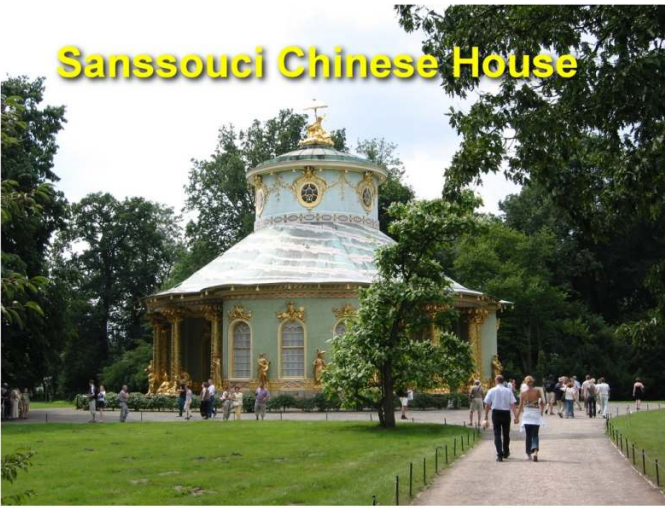
Potsdam
Day-trip add-on to Berlin visit.
Just a quick train ride.
– 40 minutes on S-Bahn S7 train to Potsdam Hauptbahnhof.
– Several trains each hour.
Or you can go by boat.
Potsdam's parks and palaces are UNESCO World Heritage.



Potsdam: Sanssouci Palace and Ornate Royal Park.
– Built 1774 by the King of Prussia.
– Rococo.
– Styled after Versailles.
– 700 acres of gardens, terraces, fountains.



Sanssouci Chinese House



Cecilienhof Palace Prussian royal palace – 1917. Rustic English Tudor style.



Cecilienhof was site of the
Potsdam Conference in 1945,
where Stalin, Churchill, and
Truman decided to divide
Germany into different
occupation zones.

Potsdam Conference at Cecilienhof 1945



Glienicke Bridge (Glienicker Brücke)

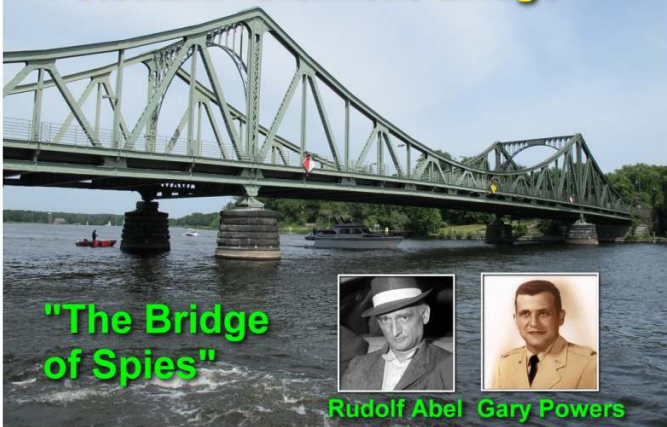
- Mysterious Cold War site.
- Spans the Havel River.
- Built 1904-1907.
- Connected Soviet
Potsdam in the east with
US-occupied West Berlin.

Checkpoint to exchange captured Cold War spies and secret agents.

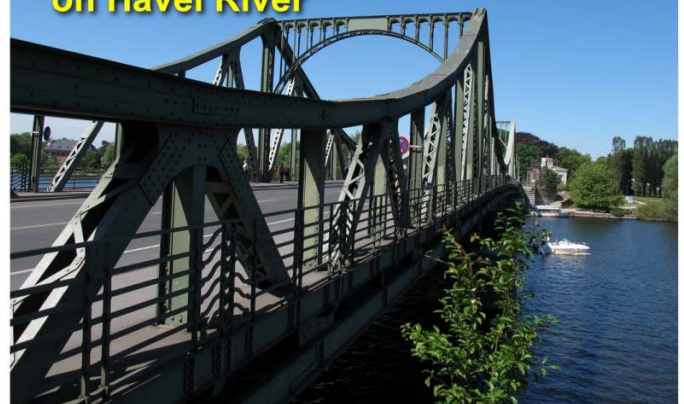
- 1962: Trade Rudolf Abel
for Francis Gary Powers.
- Many others.
- 2015 film by
S. Spielberg.



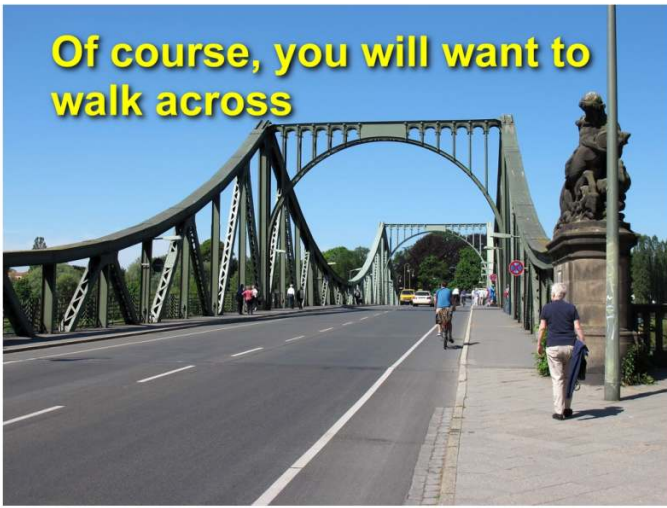
Potsdam: Gleinicke Bridge



Potsdam: Glienicke Bridge on Havel River



Of course, you will want to walk across



The Dividing Line



A few historical photos

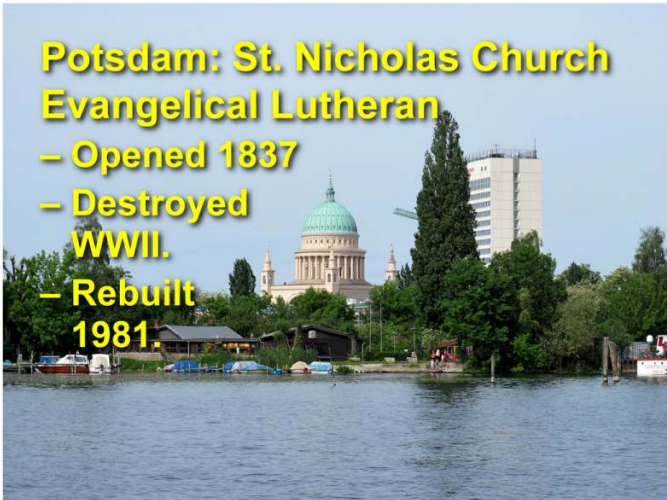


Beautiful views of Havel River

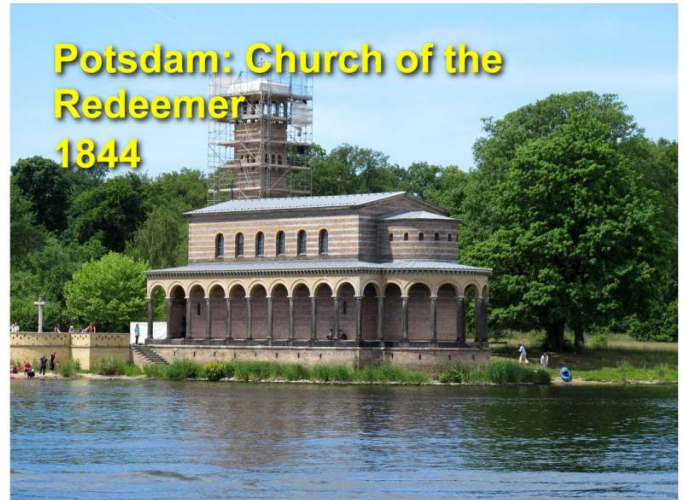


Potsdam: St. Nicholas Church
Evangelical Lutheran

- Opened 1837
- Destroyed WWII.
- Rebuilt 1981.



Potsdam: Church of the Redeemer
1844



We have covered a lot of ground in former East Germany



THE END

of our visit to
Former East Germany

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www.paulvisits.com

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