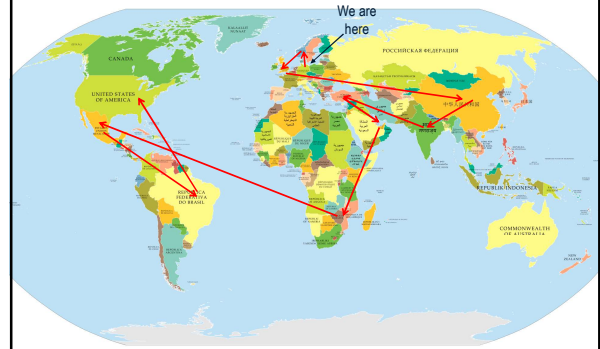


# Germany

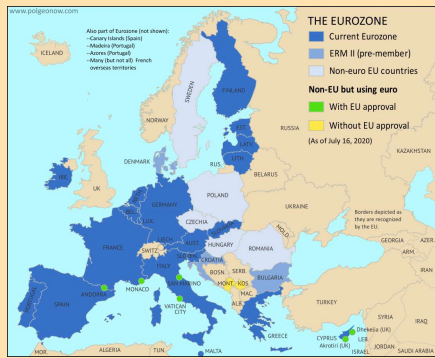
Understanding World Cultures  
Osher course, January 2021

J. N. Hooker

## Travel Plan



## Germany – Economic anchor of the Eurozone



## Major Cities



## German States

Hanseatic League  
1400-1800

Decentralization partly responsible for Western culture



## Photo Album



Marienplatz, München

Photo Album



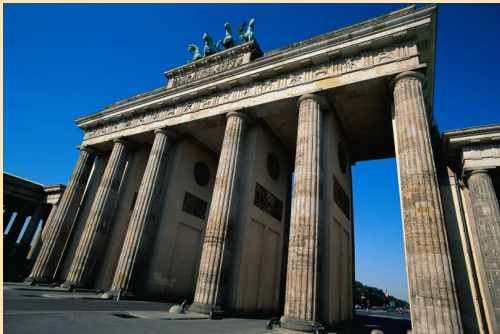
Oktoberfest (Theresienwiese), München

Photo Album



Frankfurt-am-Main

Photo Album



Brandenburger Tür, Berlin

Photo Album



Schloß Neuschwanstein

Photo Album



Autobahn

Photo Album



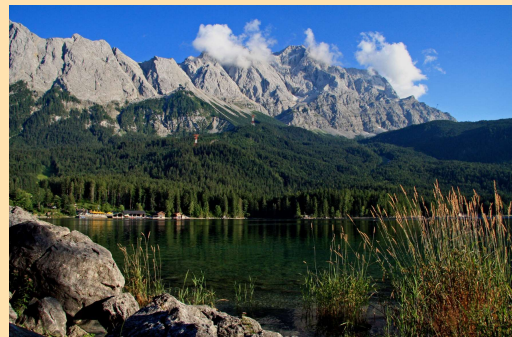
Medieval festival, Bayern

### Photo Album



Königssee

### Photo Album



Zugspitze, near Garmisch-Partenkirchen

### Economics

- German industry is famous for quality, reliability, engineering, efficiency.

Robotic parking lot, Wolfsburg.  
Car is retrieved in 30 sec



### Economics

- Infrastructure runs like a Swiss watch.
  - Trains
  - Staggered school vacations.
  - Very productive, despite 6 week paid holiday each year



Hauptbahnhof Berlin

### Economics

- Apprenticeship system (*Duales System*)
  - 342 trades



### Anti-immigrant sentiments

PEGIDA demonstration in Dresden



PEGIDA = Patriotische Europäer gegen die Islamisierung des Abendlandes

## Cultural Background

- Monochronic.



Clockwork in München Rathaus

## Cultural Background

German gothic,  
Leipzig

- Privacy.
- Low-context.
- Individualistic.
- Masculine.
- Higher power distance than most of northern Europe, but strong labor movement.



## Cultural Background

Berlin—  
City of  
20-somethings  
and nightlife



## Etiquette

- Observe hierarchy, titles, lines of authority.
- Address with last names only
  - Herr/Frau Bockmayr, never Fräulein.
  - An introduction may simply be, "Schmidt hier" (for oneself) or "Herr Schmidt" (when introducing another).
  - Titles must be precise.

## Etiquette

- Dinner with colleagues...
  - Runs late into evening.
  - Customers may be served at different times.
  - OK to drink alkoholfreies Bier.
  - Health conscious; smoking uncommon.
- Out with the boys...
  - May become drunk & loud.

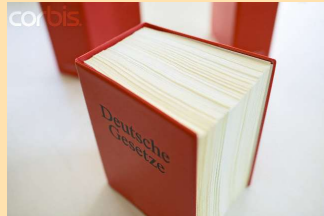
## Stress Avoidance

- Germans deal with stress and uncertainty by structuring their environment.
  - Monochronic.
  - Highly engineered physical and social systems.



## Stress Avoidance

- Most highly rule-based culture in the world.



## Guilt-based culture

- Guilt feelings over WWII, Holocaust
  - Avoidance of flags, patriotism.



Denkmal für die ermordete Juden Europas  
in center of Berlin

## Stress Avoidance

- Risk aversion.
  - Like bridge building: double the safety margin.



Brooklyn Bridge, 1883, designed by Johann August Röbling

Got his start in Saxonburg, PA

Built 3 bridges in Pittsburgh, including 6<sup>th</sup> Street bridge, 1859 (replaced 1892, 1928)

## Stress Avoidance

- Prefer quality despite the price.
  - Wal-Mart left Germany 2006.



## Stress Avoidance

- Separate work and personal life.
  - Du and Sie.
  - Closing hours.
  - Many holidays.
  - Long vacations.
- Passion for perfection.



## Masculine culture



Angela Merkel  
First female Kanzler of Germany

Female heads of state often occur in masculine cultures

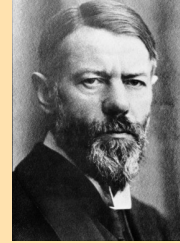
## Privacy

- Germans may seem cool and unwelcoming.
  - Friendships form slowly and imply commitment.
  - "Coconuts" and "peaches."



## Romanticism

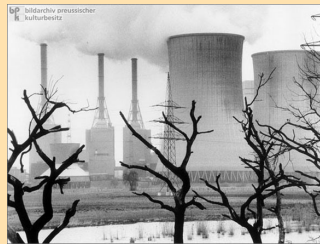
- Re-enchantment of nature in a secular world.
  - Western technology is based on disenchantment of nature, secularism.
  - Romanticism brings re-enchantment.



Max Weber, 1864-1920  
Father of Sociology

## Romanticism

- Brutal exploitation of nature...



Ruhr Valley

## Romanticism

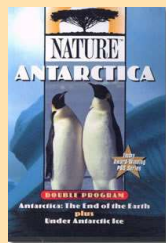
- ... goes hand-in-hand with the romanticizing of nature.



Painting by Caspar David Friedrich, 1774-1840

## Romanticism

- Love of wilderness
  - Sierra Club
  - National parks
  - Ecotourism
  - Nature shows on TV



## Romanticism

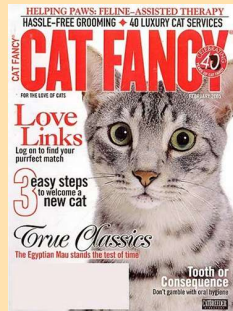
- German "green dot" recycling program.
  - 1991 law required recycling.
    - Pushed by the Green Party (*Die Grünen*).
    - Introduced by *Duales System Deutschland* (DSD).
  - Now governed by EU.
    - Operates in 23 European countries
    - 130,000 participating companies.



Grüner Punkt (green dot) recycle bins

## Romanticism

- Anthropomorphizing of pets



## Romanticism

- Western-style music.
  - German musical superstars
  - Integrates reason and emotion



J. S. Bach



Mozart



Beethoven



Brahms

## Some German Expressions

- *Guten Morgen* (good morning)
- Guten Tag* (good day)
- Guten Abend* (good evening)
- Grüss Gott* (hello, in Bavaria)
- *Bitte, Bitte schön* (please)
- Danke, Danke schön, vielen Dank* (thanks)

## Some German Expressions

- *Entschuldigen* (excuse me)
- Gute Nacht* (good night)
- Auf Wiedersehen* (see you later)
- Tschüss* (bye)
- Viel Spass* (have fun)