

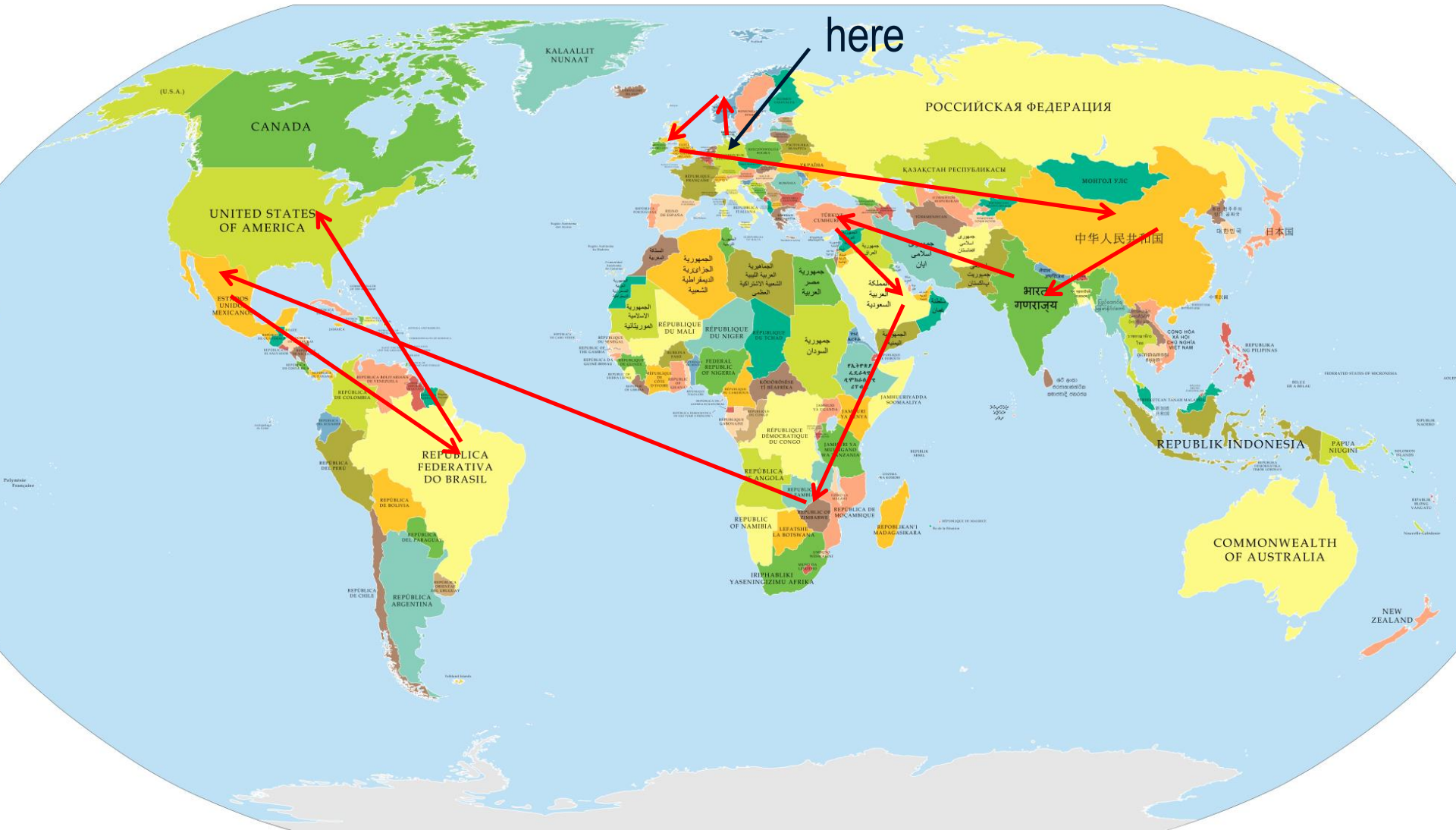
Germany

Understanding World Cultures
Osher course, January 2024

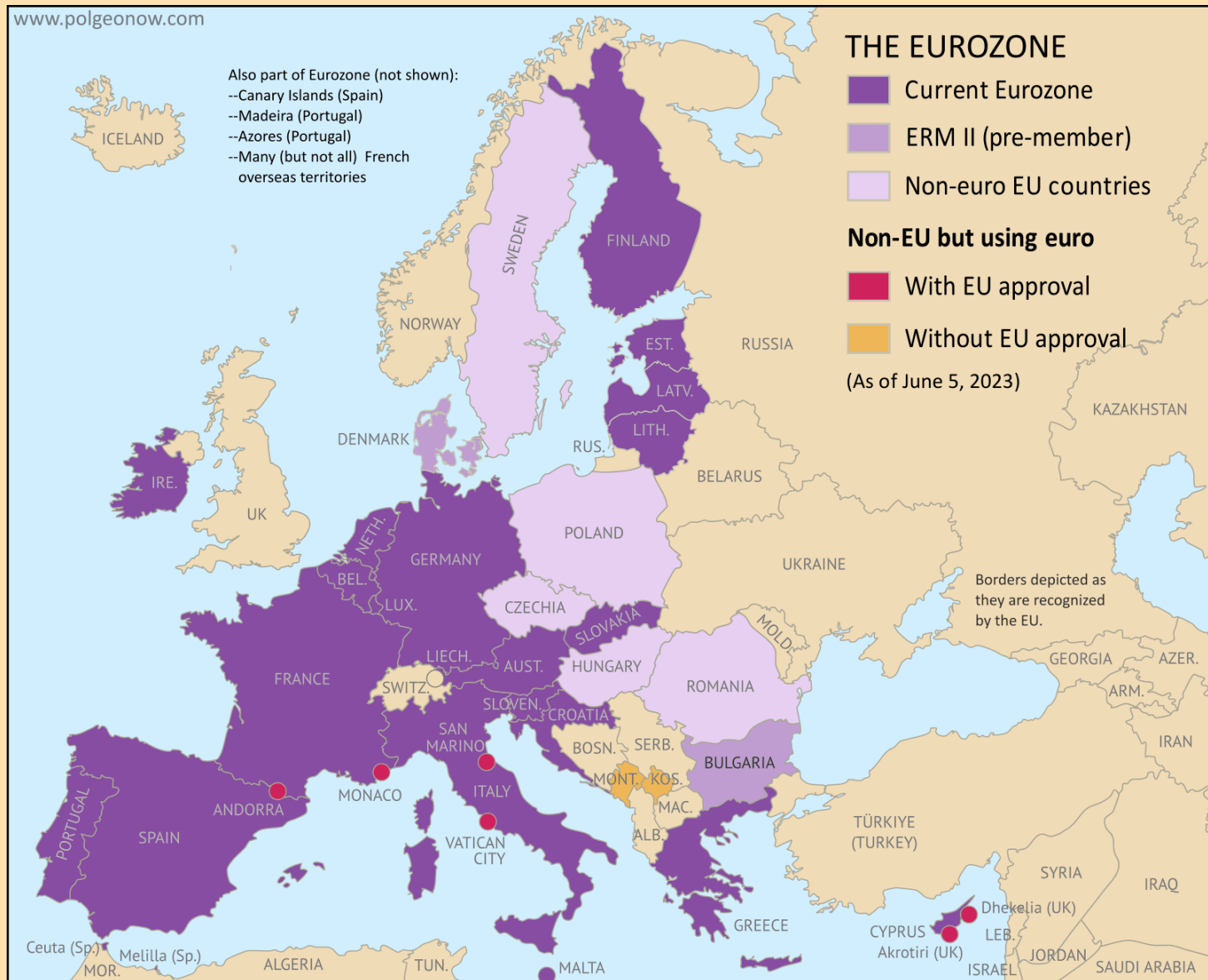
J. N. Hooker

Travel Plan

We are here



Germany – Economic anchor of the Eurozone



Major Cities



German States

Hanseatic League
1400-1800

Decentralization partly responsible for Western culture

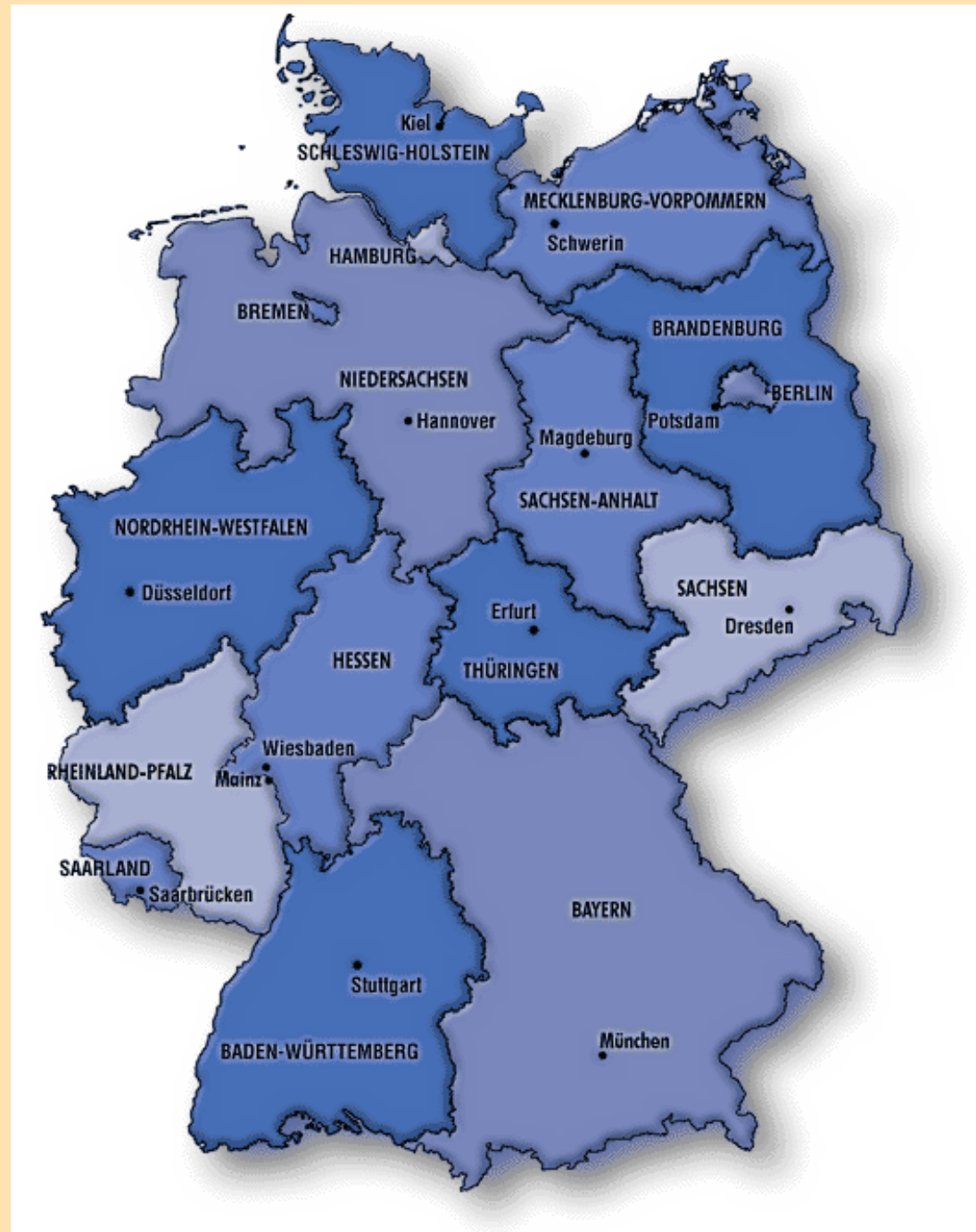


Photo Album



Marienplatz, München

Photo Album



Oktoberfest (Theresienwiese), München

Photo Album



Frankfurt-am-Main

Photo Album



Brandenburger Tür, Berlin

Photo Album



Schloß Neuschwanstein

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Autobahn

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Medieval festival, Bayern

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Königssee

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Zugspitze, near Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Economics

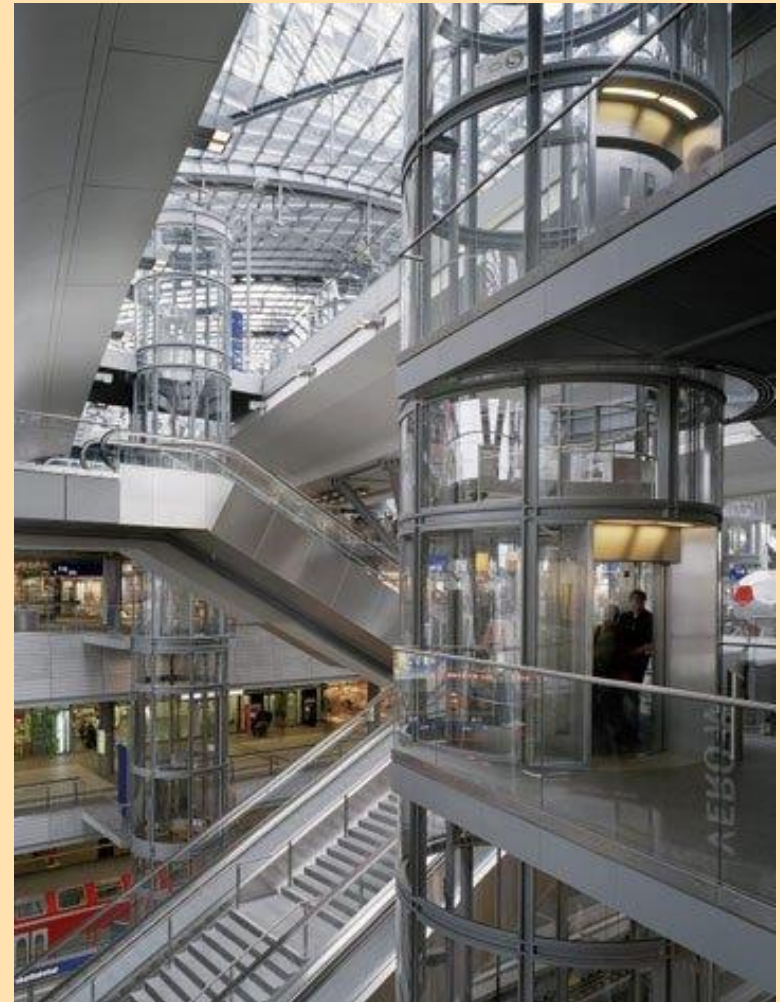
- German industry is famous for quality, reliability, engineering, efficiency.

Robots in
BMW plant,
München



Economics

- Infrastructure runs like a Swiss watch.
 - Trains (less so, recently)
 - Staggered school vacations.
 - Very productive, despite 5 to 6 weeks paid holiday each year



Hauptbahnhof Berlin

Economics

- Apprenticeship system (*Duales System*)
 - 342 trades
 - Over 50% of work force



Anti-immigrant sentiments

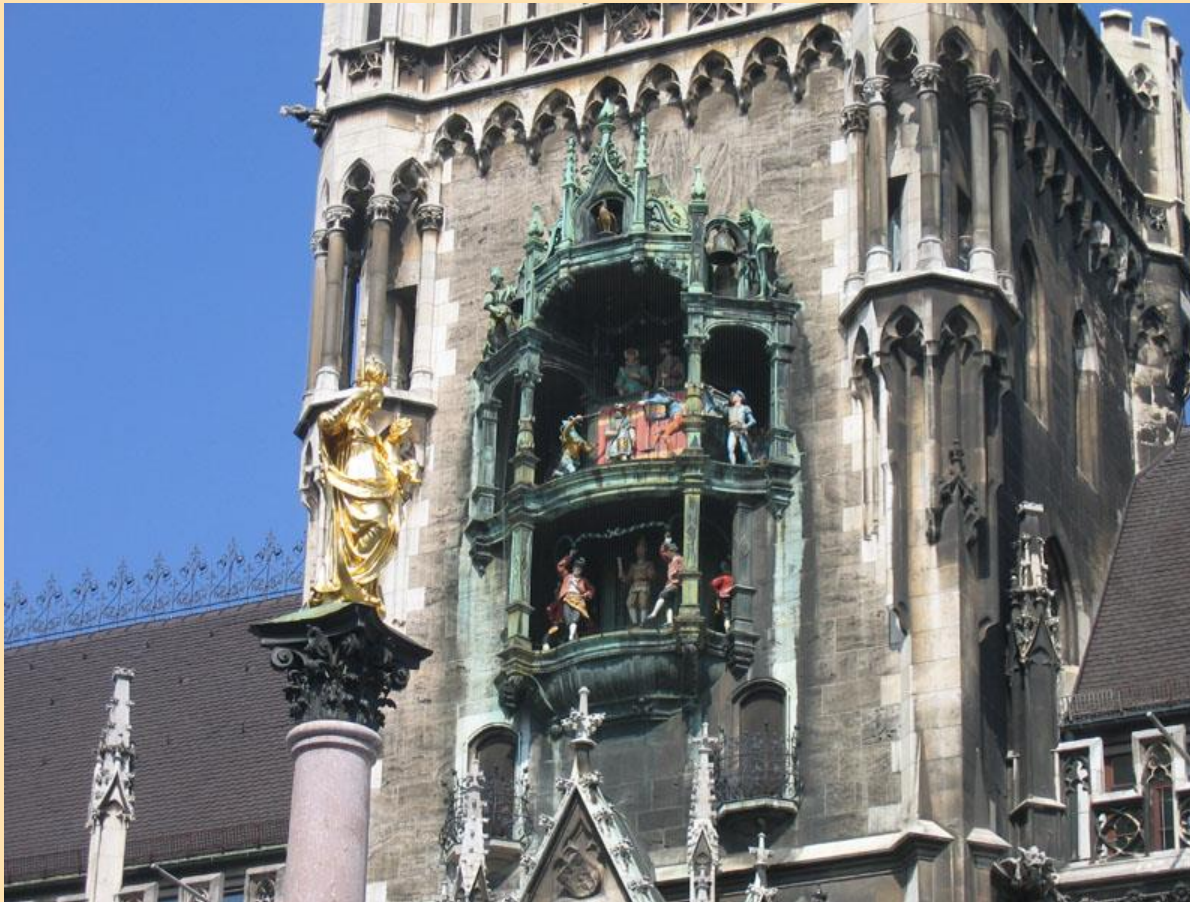
PEGIDA
demonstration
in Dresden



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 should be precise.

Etiquette

- Dinner with friends/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.

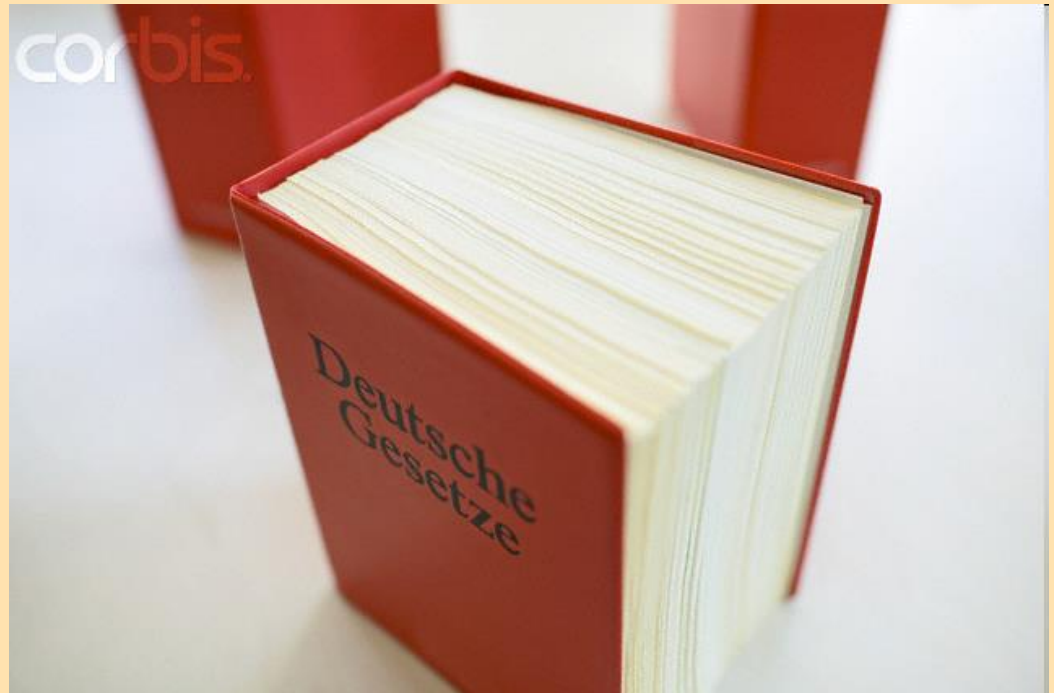
Stress Avoidance

- 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 6th 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, 2005-2021

Current *Kanzler*: Olaf Scholz

Female heads of state often occur in masculine cultures

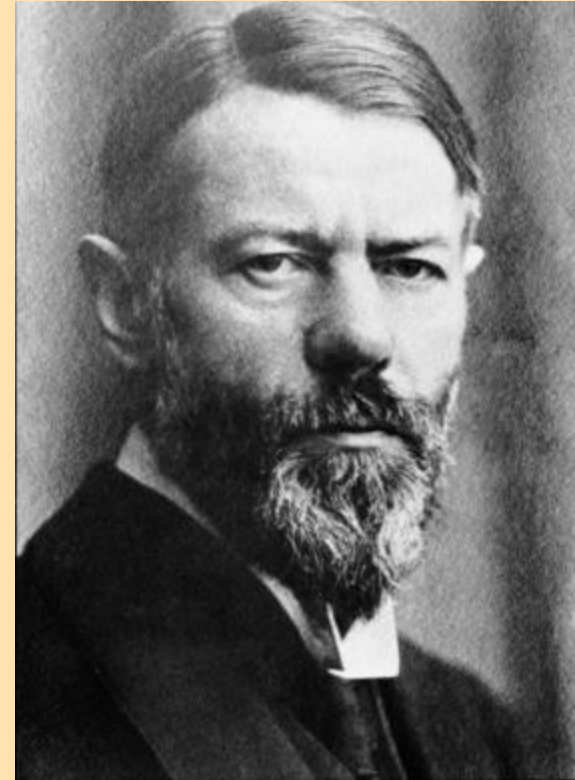
Privacy

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



Romanticism

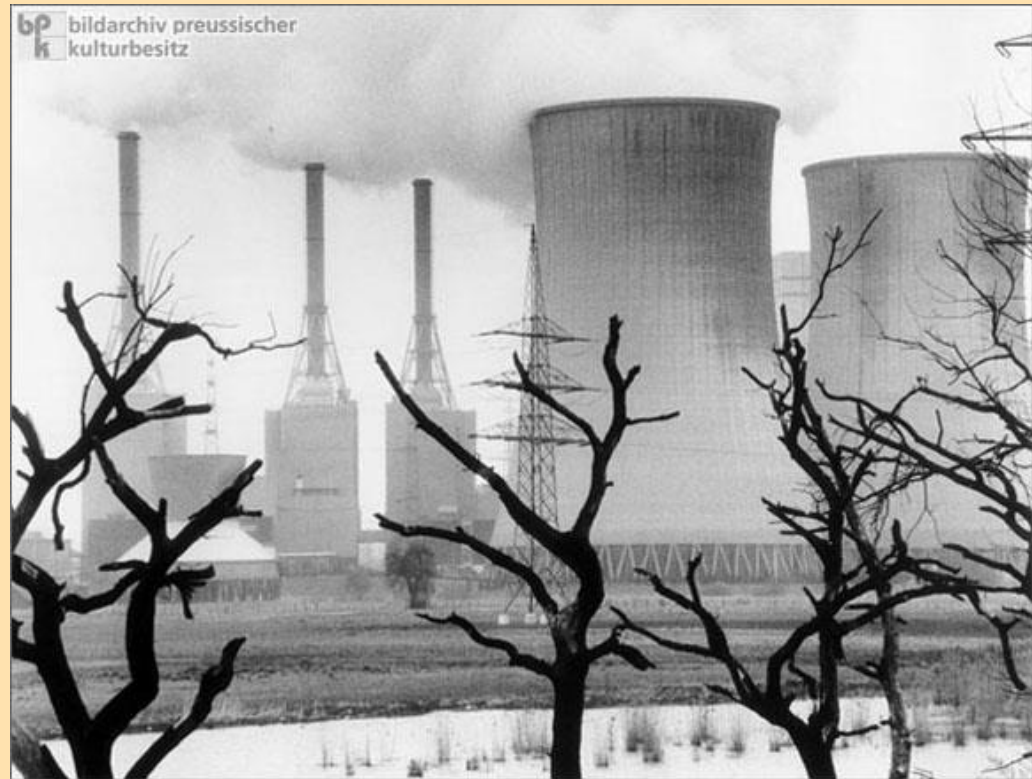
- Re-enchantment of nature in a secular world.
 - Western technology is based on disenchantment of nature, secularism.
 - Romanticism brings re-enchantment.



Max Weber, 1864-1920
Father of Sociology

Romanticism

- Brutal exploitation of nature...



Ruhr Valley before cleanup

Romanticism

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

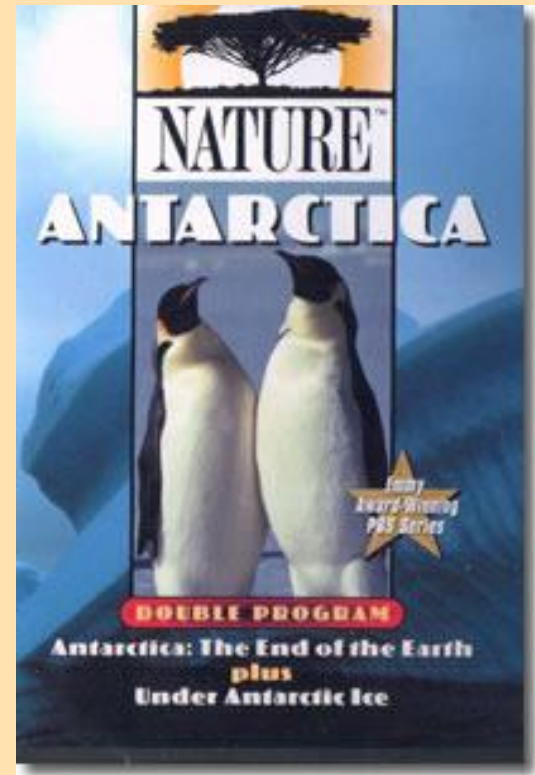
Painting by
Caspar David
Friedrich,
1774-1840



Romanticism

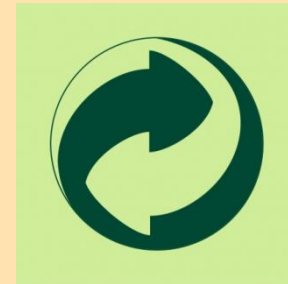
➤ Love of wilderness

- Sierra Club
- National parks
- Ecotourism
- Nature shows



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 31 European countries
 - 130,000 participating companies.



Grüner Punkt (green dot)
recycle bins

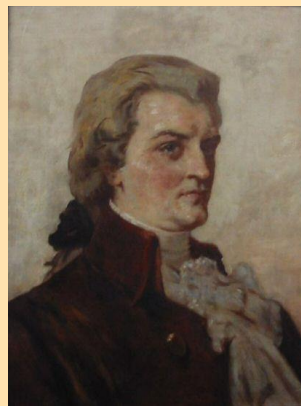
Romanticism

➤ Western-style music.

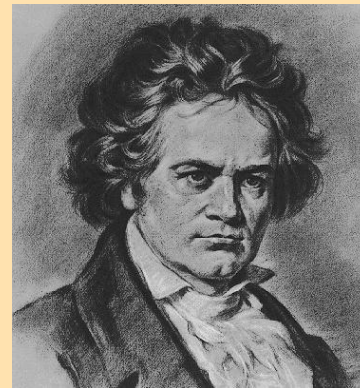
- German musical superstars
- Integrates reason and emotion



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)