

Glossary

Geographic Areas

(Many of the localities mentioned in this work are no longer part of Germany today, but were ceded to Poland after World War II. For these localities, the original Prussian location is listed first, and it is followed by the name and location in Poland today. The format of the Prussian names is Locality, Kreis or County, Province, Country.)

Aalgraben, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Wegornik, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Angermünde, Uckermark, Brandenburg, Germany

Bad Kudowa, Glatz, Silesia, Prussia (Kudowa Zdroj, Dolnoslaskie, Poland)

Bad Steben (Steben), Hof, Oberfranken, Bayern, Germany

Bad Sulza, Weimarer-Land, Thüringen, Germany

Bärenwalde, Schlochau, West Prussia, Prussia -- Bincze, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Berlin -- First documented in the 13th century, Berlin was the capital of the Kingdom of Prussia (1701–1918), the German Empire (1871–1918), the Weimar Republic (1919–33) and the Third Reich (1933–45). In 1740, Frederick II, known as Frederick the Great (1740–1786), came to power. Under the rule of Frederick II, Berlin became a center of the Enlightenment. Following France's victory in the War of the Fourth Coalition, Napoleon Bonaparte marched into Berlin in 1806, but granted self-government to the city. In 1815, the city became part of the new Province of Brandenburg. The Industrial Revolution transformed Berlin during the 19th century; the city's economy and population expanded dramatically, and it became the main rail hub and economic center of Germany. Additional suburbs soon developed and increased the area and population of Berlin. In 1861, neighboring suburbs including Wedding, Moabit, and several others were incorporated into Berlin. In 1871, Berlin became capital of the newly founded German Empire. On 1 April 1881, it became a city district separate from Brandenburg.

Böck, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Buk, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Brandenburg -- In late medieval and early modern times, Brandenburg was one of seven electoral states of the Holy Roman Empire, and, along with Prussia, formed the original core of the German Empire, the first unified German state. Governed by the Hohenzollern dynasty from 1415, it contained the future German capital Berlin. After 1618 the Margraviate of Brandenburg and the Duchy of Prussia were combined to form Brandenburg-Prussia, which was ruled by the same branch of the House of Hohenzollern. In 1701 the state was elevated as the Kingdom of Prussia. Franconian Nuremberg and Ansbach, Swabian Hohenzollern, the eastern European connections of Berlin, and the status of Brandenburg's ruler as prince-electoral together were instrumental in the rise of that state. When Prussia was subdivided into provinces in 1815, the territory of the Margraviate of Brandenburg became the Province of Brandenburg. In 1881, the City of Berlin was separated from the Province of Brandenburg. Today it is one of the sixteen federal-states of Germany. It lies in the east of the country and is

one of the federal states that was re-created in 1990 upon the reunification of the former West Germany and East Germany. Brandenburg surrounds but does not include the national capital and city-state Berlin. The eastern third of historic Brandenburg (*Ostbrandenburg/Neumark*) was ceded to Poland in 1945.

Brandenburg Gate -- Carl Gotthard Langhans planned and built the Brandenburg Gate in the years 1789 to 1791 basing its style on the Propylea entrance to Athen's Acropolis. It is a former city gate, rebuilt in the late 18th century as a neoclassical triumphal arch, and now one of the most well-known landmarks of Germany.

Bromberg, Bromberg, Posen, Prussia -- Bydgoszcz, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland

Brunn, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Redlica, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Dievenow, Cammin, Pomerania, Prussia -- Dziwnow, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Dobrin, Flatow, West Prussia, Prussia -- Derzno Wies, Wielkopolskie, Poland

East Prussia -- The Province of East Prussia (German: *Ostpreußen*) was a province of Prussia from 1773–1829 and 1878–1945. Composed of the historical region East Prussia, the province's capital was Königsberg (Kaliningrad).

Flatow, Flatow, West Prussia, Prussia -- Zlotow, Wielkopolskie, Poland

Gramzow, Uckermark, Prussia -- Gramzow, Uckermark, Brandenburg, Germany

Graudenz, Graudenz, West Prussia, Prussia -- Grudziadz, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland

Greifswald, Greifswald, Pomerania, Prussia -- Greifswald, Vorpommern-Greifswald, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

Groß Küssow, Pyritz, Pomerania, Prussia (Koszewo, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland)

Grünhof, Schlochau, West Prussia, Prussia -- Pomorskie, Poland

Gümnitz, Ueckermünde, Pomerania, Prussia -- Gümnitz, Eggesin, Am Stettiner Haff, Vorpommern-Greifswald, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

Güstow, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Ustowo, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Hammelstall, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Owczary, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Hansdorf, Sagan, Silesia, Prussia -- Jankow Zaganska, Lubuskie, Poland

Jülich, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

Klein Reinkendorf, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Warzymice, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Kloxin, Pyritz, Pomerania, Prussia (Klodzino, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland)

Klücken, Pyritz, Pomerania, Prussia (Kluki, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland)

Kolow, Greifenhagen, Pomerania, Prussia -- Kolowo, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Krackow, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Krackow, Vorpommern-Greifswald, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

Krojanke, Flatow, West Prussia, Prussia -- Krajenka, Wielkopolskie, Poland

Krotoschin, Löbau, West Prussia, Prussia -- Krotoszyny, Warminsko-Mazurskie, Poland

Küssow, see *Groß Küssow*

Lichtenberg -- The historic village of Lichtenberg, today also called *Alt-Lichtenberg*, was founded about 1230, due to the German colonization of the territory of Barnim. The village came to be a residential area and a suburb of Berlin from the mid 19th century on. A new town hall was erected in 1898 and in 1907 Lichtenberg received town privileges. Originally an independent city, it became part of Berlin in 1920 in the Greater Berlin Act.

Liebsen, Sagan, Silesia, Prussia -- Lubieszow, Lubuskie, Poland

Luisenhof, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Plochocin, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Luisenstadt -- It is a former quarter of central Berlin, now divided between the present localities of Mitte and Kreuzberg. It gave its name to the Luisenstadt Canal and the Luisenstädtische Kirche. Luisenstadt is bounded on the north by the river Spree, in the west by the Lindenstraße (in Friedrichstadt), and in the south by the Landwehrkanal.

Luisenstädtische Kirche -- The Luisenstädtische Kirche was a church building in Berlin, in the former Luisenstadt, on Alte Jacobstraße between Sebastianstraße and Stallschreiberstraße.

Madüsee -- also Madü Lake, was a lake in the west of the Pomeranian Lake District near Stargard in Pomerania, about 10 km north of Pyritz and about 25 km south-east of Stettin. The only significant outflow and inflow of the lake today is the Płonia.

Mecklenburg-Strelitz -- Mecklenburg-Strelitz was a grand duchy in northern Germany adjacent to Pomerania.

Moabit -- In the 13th century the waste area along the road to Spandau known as *Große Stadtheide* ("Great city Heath") was a hunting ground of the electors of Brandenburg. 1716 saw the formation of the colony of *Old Moabit* by the Huguenots, who were meant to cultivate white mulberry trees for silkworms, but failed because of the low soil quality. In 1818 *New Moabit* was founded and grew together with Old Moabit to an industrial suburb district, which was incorporated into the city of Berlin in 1861. The industrialization started in 1820 when, with the financial support of court counselor Baillif, a simple bridge was built to connect the island to the Berlin mainland. The bridge was followed by factories, a power plant, the Berlin-Spandau Canal, the *Westhafen* port and the *Hamburger Bahnhof* train station. This resulted in an exponential growth of the population.

Mühlendamm -- Mühlendamm refers to the Mühlendammbrücke (Mill Dam Bridge) in East Berlin's Mitte district and the road crossing the Spree river between Gertaudenstraße and Molkenmarkt. Originally a dam was built at this location used for both crossing the river and for water mills. Later, after the installation of defenses, a lock enabled frequent changes in the crossing of the Spree. It was located in the center of the medieval part of the city.

Munich, Oberbayern, Bayern, Germany

Neuhaus, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Slawoszewo, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Pasewalk, Ückermünde, Pomerania, Prussia -- Pasewalk, Vorpommern-Greifswald, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

Penkun, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Penkun, Vorpommern-Greifswald, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

Petzin, Flatow, West Prussia, Prussia -- Zalesie, Wielkopolskie, Poland

Polchow, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Pichowo, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Pommerensdorf, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Pomarzany, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Prilipp, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Przylep, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Pomerania, Prussia -- Pomerania (German: *Pommern*), is a historical region on the south shore of the Baltic Sea and was a province in Prussia. After World War II, most of Pomerania became part of Poland, with only a small part west of the Oder River remaining in the German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Posen -- The Province of Posen (German: *Posen*) was a province of Prussia from 1848 and as such part of the German Empire from 1871 until 1918. Incorporated into the Grand Duchy of Posen after the 1815 Congress of Vienna, the territory was administered as a Prussian province upon the Greater Poland Uprising of 1848. In 1919 according to the Treaty of Versailles, Germany had to cede the bulk of the province to the newly established Second Polish Republic.

Prenzlau, Uckermark, Brandenburg, Germany

Pribbernow, Cammin, Pomerania, Prussia -- Przybiernow, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Prussia -- The Kingdom of Prussia (German: *Königreich Preußen*) was a German kingdom from 1701 to 1918. It was the driving force behind the unification of Germany in 1871, and was the leading state of the German Empire until its defeat in World War I. It took its name from the territory of Prussia, although its power base was Brandenburg. Its capital was Berlin.

Prussian Friedland (Preußisch Friedland), Schlochau, West Prussia, Prussia -- Debrzno, Pomorskie, Poland

Rackitt, Cammin, Pomerania, Prussia -- Rokita, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Kreis Randow existed as a German-Prussian county in the period 1818 to 1939. It included the municipalities around the Pomeranian state capital of Stettin, mostly to the west of the Oder River. Kreis Randow was comprised of the following as of 14 October 1939, the day before its dissolution: the four cities of Altdamm, Gartz an der Oder, Penkun and Pölitz; 99 additional towns or communities; and four Gutsbezirke (noble manors).

Scheune, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Szczecin Gumience, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Schildhornhalbinsel -- Is a headland in the protected area of Grunewald. The headland is named reportedly after the legend of the slavic Fürst (prince, ruler) Jacza de Copnic (de:Jaxa von Köpenick), which has it that Jacza put here in 1157 out of thankfulness for his wondrous rescue by the „Christiansgod“ his shield and his horn on a tree after his run from Albert the Bear. A monument commemorates this legend and Jacza. The monument was created in 1845 by the sculptor Friedrich August Stüler.

Silesia -- Silesia (German: *Schlesien*) is a historical region of Poland. Between 1742 – 1945, it was the eastern part of Germany and was a Prussian province.

Stangenhorst, Forsthaus, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Stettin, Stettin, Pomerania, Prussia -- Szczecin, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Stolzenburg, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Stolec, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Stöwen, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Stobno, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Tempelhof -- In the early nineteenth century, Tempelhof was still a village outside Berlin proper and was the site of country excursions for the citizens of Berlin. The northern parts of Tempelhof were incorporated as Berlin's *Tempelhofer Vorstadt* in 1861 and later became part of the Kreuzberg borough.

Thomaskirche, St. Thomas Church -- Is a Protestant church in the Kreuzberg district of Berlin. Friedrich Adler designed and built the church between 1865 and 1869. Prior to the construction of the Berliner Dom, it was the largest church in Berlin, and the congregation was one of the largest in Western Christendom

Thorn, Thorn, West Prussia, Prussia -- Torun, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland

Thuringia has been known by the nickname of "the green heart of Germany from the late 19th century, due to the dense forest covering the land. The Thuringian duchies which became part of the German Empire in 1871 during the Prussian-led unification of Germany were Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, Saxe-Meiningen, Saxe-Altenburg, Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt and the two principalities of Reuss Elder Line and Reuss Younger Line. In 1920, after World War I, these small states merged into one state, called Thuringia; only Saxe-Coburg voted to join Bavaria instead. Weimar became the new capital of Thuringia. Today it is a state in Germany.

Topolla, Wirsitz, Posen, Prussia -- Topola, Wielkopolskie, Poland

Völschendorf, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Wolczkowo, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Wamlitz, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Wawelnica, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

West Prussia (German: *Westpreußen*) was a province of the Kingdom of Prussia from 1773–1824 and 1878–1919/20 which was created out of the earlier Polish fiefdom of Royal Prussia. In February 1920, Germany (after it had been defeated in 1918) handed over West Prussia's central parts to become the so-called Polish Corridor and the Free City of Danzig, while the parts remaining with the German Weimar Republic became the new Posen-West Prussia or were joined to the Province of East Prussia as Regierungsbezirk West Prussia. The territory was included within Reichsgau Danzig-West Prussia from 1939–45, after which it became part of Poland.

Wollin, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Wollin, Penkun, Vorpommern-Greifswald, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

Woltersdorf, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Woltersdorf, Casekow, Gartz (Oder), Uckermark, Brandenburg, Germany

Woltersdorf, Schlochau, West Prussia, Prussia -- Kielpin, Pomorskie, Poland

Wyk, Naugard, Pomerania, Prussia -- Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Wussow, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Osow, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Zastrow, West Prussia

Zeissau, Sagan, Silesia, Prussia -- Czyzykow, Lubuskie, Poland

Zinnowitz, Usedom-Wollin, Pomerania, Prussia -- Zinnowitz, Vorpommern-Greifswald, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

Züllchow, Randow, Pomerania, Prussia -- Zelechowa, Zachodnio-Pomorskie, Poland

Historic Events and People

The *Austro-Prussian War* or Seven Weeks' War was a war fought in 1866 between the German Confederation under the leadership of the Austrian Empire and its German allies on one side and the Kingdom of Prussia with its German allies and Italy on the other, that resulted in Prussian dominance over the German states. Most of the German states sided with Austria against Prussia, even though Austria had declared war. Those that sided with Austria included the Kingdoms of Saxony, Bavaria, Württemberg, and Hanover. Southern states such as, Baden, Hesse-Kassel (or Hesse-Cassel), Hesse-Darmstadt, and Nassau also joined with Austria. Some of the northern German states joined Prussia, in particular Oldenburg, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Brunswick. The Kingdom of Italy participated in the war with Prussia, because Austria held Venetia and other smaller territories wanted by Italy to complete the process of Italian unification. In return for Italian aid against Austria, Bismarck agreed not to make a separate peace until Italy had obtained Venetia. The major result of the war was a shift in power among the German states away from Austrian and towards Prussian hegemony, and impetus towards the unification of all of the northern German states in a *Kleindeutschland* that excluded Austria. It saw the abolition of the German Confederation and its partial replacement by a North German Confederation that excluded Austria and the South German states.

The *Battle of Burkersdorf* was a battle fought on July 21, 1762 during the Seven Years' War. A Prussian army of 40,000 men fought an Austrian army of around 30,000 men.

The *Battle of Gitschin* was a battle of the Austro-Prussian War on 29 June 1866, ending with a Prussian victory over the Austrian forces.

The *Battle of Königgrätz* also known as the Battle of Sadowa, was the decisive battle of the Austro-Prussian War, in which the Kingdom of Prussia defeated the Austrian Empire. Taking place near Königgrätz and Sadowa in Bohemia on 3 July 1866, it was an example of battlefield concentration, a convergence of multiple units at the same location to trap and/or destroy an enemy force between them. The battle ended with heavy casualties for both sides. The Prussians had nearly 9,000 men killed, wounded or missing. The Austrians and allies had roughly 31,000 men killed, wounded or missing, with 9,291 of these being prisoners.

The *Battle of Königinhof* was fought on 29 June 1866 during the Austro-Prussian War.

The *Battle of Münchengrätz* was fought on June 28, 1866 during the Austro-Prussian War. It ended in an Prussians victory over the Austrian Empire.

Battle of Sedan -- Was fought during the Franco–Prussian War on 1 September 1870. It resulted in the capture of Emperor Napoleon III and large numbers of his troops.

Bavarian Succession War -- A Saxon–Prussian alliance fought the War of the Bavarian Succession (July 1778 – 21 May 1779) against the Austrian Habsburg Monarchy to prevent the Habsburgs from acquiring the Electorate of Bavaria. Although the war consisted of only a few minor skirmishes, thousands of soldiers died from disease and starvation, earning the conflict the name Kartoffelkrieg (Potato War) in Prussia and Saxony.

Biedermeier Period -- The Biedermeier period refers to an era in Central Europe during which the middle-class grew and arts appealed to common sensibilities in the historical period

between 1815, the year of the Congress of Vienna at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, and 1848, the year of the European revolutions. Although the term itself is a historical reference, it is predominantly used to denote the artistic styles that flourished in the fields of literature, music, the visual arts and interior design.

Bismarck, Otto von -- Otto Eduard Leopold, Prince of Bismarck, Duke of Lauenburg (1 April 1815 – 30 July 1898), was a Prussian statesman who dominated German and European affairs with his conservative policies from the 1860s to his dismissal in 1890 by Emperor Wilhelm II. In 1871, after a series of short victorious wars, he unified most of the German states (excluding Austria) into a powerful German Empire under Prussian leadership. He then created a balance of power that preserved peace in Europe from 1871 until 1914. As Minister President of Prussia 1862–90, Bismarck provoked wars that made Prussia dominant over Austria and France, and lined up the smaller German states behind Prussia. In 1867 he also became Chancellor of the North German Confederation. Otto von Bismarck became the first Chancellor of a united Germany after the 1871 Treaty of Versailles and largely controlled its affairs until he was removed by Kaiser (Emperor) Wilhelm II in 1890. His diplomacy of Realpolitik and powerful rule gained him the nickname the "Iron Chancellor".

Consistorial Council --A consistory was an ecclesiastical court for provinces or districts appointed by the crown.

Danish Campaign of 1864 -- It was the second military conflict as a result of the Schleswig-Holstein Question. Denmark fought Prussia and Austria. Like the First Schleswig War (1848–51), it was fought for control of the duchies because of succession disputes concerning the duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg when the Danish king died without an heir acceptable to the German Confederation. Decisive controversy arose due to the passing of the November Constitution, which integrated the Duchy of Schleswig into the Danish kingdom in violation of the London Protocol. Reasons for the war were the ethnic controversy in Schleswig and the co-existence of conflicting political systems within the Danish unitary state. The war ended on 30 October 1864, when the Treaty of Vienna caused Denmark's cession of the Duchies of Schleswig, Holstein, and Saxe-Lauenburg to Prussia and Austria. It was the last victorious conflict of the Austrian Empire/Austria-Hungary in its history.

The European Revolutions of 1848, known in some countries as the *Spring of Nations*, *Springtime of the Peoples* or the *Year of Revolution*, were a series of political upheavals throughout Europe in 1848. It remains the most widespread revolutionary wave in European history, but within a year, reactionary forces had regained control, and the revolutions collapsed. The revolutionary wave began in France in February, and immediately spread to most of Europe and parts of Latin America. Over 50 countries were affected, but with no coordination or cooperation among the revolutionaries in different countries. Five factors were involved: widespread dissatisfaction with political leadership; demands for more participation in government and democracy; the demands of the working classes; the upsurge of nationalism; and finally, the regrouping of the reactionary forces based on the royalty, the aristocracy, the army, and the peasants. The uprisings were led by shaky *ad hoc* coalitions of reformers, the middle classes and workers, which did not hold together for long. Tens of thousands of people were killed, and many more forced into exile. The only significant lasting reforms were the abolition of serfdom in Austria and Hungary, the end of absolute monarchy in Denmark, and the definitive end of the Capetian monarchy in France. The revolutions were most important in France, Germany, Poland, Italy, and the Austrian Empire, but did not reach Russia, Great Britain, Spain, Sweden, Portugal, or the Ottoman Empire

The Franco-Prussian War or Franco-German War, (19 July 1870 – 10 May 1871), was a significant conflict pitting the Second French Empire against the Kingdom of Prussia and its allies in the North German Confederation, as well as the South German states of Baden, Württemberg, Bavaria and Hesse-Darmstadt. The conflict emerged from tensions regarding the German unification. A war against France was deemed necessary to unite the North German Confederation and the independent southern German states, while France was preoccupied by the emergence of a powerful Prussia. Napoleon III seized on a supposed insult in the Ems Dispatch to declare war, which most French leaders expected to win. The German coalition quickly took charge. Its forces were superior, due to much better training and leadership, and more effective use of modern technology.^[7] A series of swift Prussian and German victories in eastern France culminating in the Battle of Sedan, saw Napoleon III and his whole army captured on 2 September. Yet this did not end the war, as the Third Republic was declared in Paris on 4 September 1870 and French resistance continued under the Government of National Defence and Adolphe Thiers. Over a five-month campaign, the German forces defeated the newly recruited French armies in a series of battles fought across northern France. Following a prolonged siege, noted for the first use of anti-air artillery (against French balloons), Paris fell on 28 January 1871. The German states proclaimed their union as the German Empire under the Prussian king, Wilhelm I, uniting Germany as a nation-state.

Frederick II -- Lived: 24 January 1712 – 17 August 1786; Reigned: 31 May 1740 - 17 August 1786. He is best known for his brilliance in military campaigning and organization of Prussian armies. He became known as Frederick the Great and was nicknamed *Der Alte Fritz* ("Old Fritz"). Frederick was a proponent of enlightened absolutism. For years he was a correspondent of Voltaire, with whom the king had an intimate, if turbulent, friendship. He modernized the Prussian bureaucracy and civil service and promoted religious tolerance throughout his realm. Frederick patronized the arts and philosophers, and wrote flute music. Frederick is buried at his favorite residence, Sanssouci in Potsdam. Because he died childless, Frederick was succeeded by his nephew, Frederick William II of Prussia, son of his brother, Prince Augustus William of Prussia.

Frederick III -- Lived: 18 October 1831 – 15 June 1888). He was German Emperor and King of Prussia for 99 days in 1888, the Year of the Three Emperors. *Friedrich Wilhelm Nikolaus Karl*, known informally as Fritz, was the only son of Emperor William I and was raised in his family's tradition of military service. Although celebrated as a young man for his leadership and successes during the Second Schleswig, Austro-Prussian and Franco-Prussian wars, he nevertheless professed a hatred of warfare and was praised by friends and enemies alike for his humane conduct. Following the unification of Germany in 1871 his father, then King of Prussia, became the German Emperor. On William's death at the age of 90 on 9 March 1888, the throne passed to Frederick, who had by then been Crown Prince for 27 years. Frederick was suffering from cancer of the larynx when he died on 15 June 1888, aged 56, following unsuccessful medical treatments for his condition.

Frederick William II -- Lived: 25 September 1744 – 16 November 1797) was King of Prussia, from 1786 until his death. Pleasure-loving and indolent, he is seen as the antithesis to his predecessor, Frederick II. Under his reign, Prussia was weakened internally and externally, and he failed to deal adequately with the challenges to the existing order posed by the French Revolution. His religious policies were directed against the Enlightenment and aimed at

restoring a traditional Protestantism. However, he was a patron of the arts and responsible for the construction of some notable buildings, among them the Brandenburger Tor in Berlin.

Frederick William III -- Lived: 3 August 1770 – 7 June 1840) was king of Prussia from 1797 to 1840. He ruled Prussia during the difficult times of the Napoleonic wars and the end of the old German Empire. Steering a careful course between France and her enemies, after a major military defeat in 1806, he eventually and reluctantly joined the coalition against Napoleon in the *Befreiungskriege*. Following Napoleon's defeat he was King of Prussia during the Congress of Vienna which assembled to settle the political questions arising from the new, post-Napoleonic order in Europe.

Frederick William IV -- Lived: 15 October 1795 – 2 January 1861), the eldest son and successor of Frederick William III of Prussia, reigned as King of Prussia from 1840 to 1861. Also referred to as the "romanticist on the throne", he is best remembered for numerous buildings he had erected in Berlin and Potsdam, as well as for sponsoring the completion of the gothic Cologne cathedral. In politics he was conservative and he crucially rejected the title of German Emperor offered to him by the Frankfurt parliament in 1849. Although a staunch conservative, Frederick William did not seek to be a despot and so he toned down the reactionary policies enacted by his father, easing press censorship and promising to enact a constitution at some point, but refused to enact a popular legislative assembly, preferring to work with the aristocracy through "united committees" of the provincial estates. When revolution broke out in Prussia in March 1848, part of the larger Revolutions of 1848, the king initially moved to repress it with the army, but later decided to recall the troops and place himself at the head of the movement on 19 March. He committed himself to German unification, formed a liberal government, convened a national assembly, and ordered that a constitution be drawn up. Once his position was more secure again, however, he quickly had the army reoccupy Berlin and dissolved the assembly in December.

German Unification -- During the first half of the 19th century, many Germans looked forward to a unification of the German states, but most German leaders and the foreign powers were opposed to it. The German nationalist movement believed that a united Germany would replace France as the dominant land power in Western Europe. This argument was aided by demographic changes: since the Middle Ages, France had had the largest population in Western Europe, but in the 19th century, its population stagnated (a trend that continued until the second half of the 20th century), and the population of the German states overtook it and continued to rapidly increase. The eventual unification of Germany was triggered by the Franco–Prussian War in 1870 and the French defeat. Thereafter, the German Empire was widely viewed as having replaced France as the leading land power in Europe.

Humbolt Palace -- The Tegel Palace (or Humboldt Palace), originally a Renaissance manor house from 1558 and a hunting lodge of Elector Frederick William of Brandenburg, was bequeathed to the Humboldt family in 1797.

Jahn, Friedrich Ludwig, August 11, 1778 – October 15, 1852. Was a German gymnastics educator and nationalist. His admirers know him as *Turnvater* Jahn, roughly meaning "father of gymnastics" Jahn.

Lessing, Gotthold Ephraim -- *Minna von Barnhelm or the Soldiers' Happiness*. A comedy by the German author Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. It has five acts, was begun in 1763 and completed in 1767 - its author put the year 1763 on the official title page, presumably to

emphasize that the recent Seven Years' War plays a major part in the play, which is set on 22 August 1763. It is one of the most important comedies in German literature

The Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815) were a series of wars between Napoleon's French Empire and opposing coalitions. French power rose quickly as Napoleon's armies conquered much of Europe but collapsed rapidly after France's disastrous invasion of Russia in 1812. Napoleon's empire ultimately suffered complete military defeat resulting in the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy in France and the creation of the Concert of Europe. The wars resulted in the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire and sowed the seeds of nascent nationalism in Germany and Italy that would lead to the two nations' respective consolidations later in the century. The first attempt to crush the French Republic came in 1793 when Austria, the Kingdom of Sardinia, the Kingdom of Naples, Prussia, Spain and the Kingdom of Great Britain formed the First Coalition. French measures, including general conscription, military reform, and total war, contributed to the defeat of the First Coalition, despite the civil war occurring in France. In 1806, at the battle of Jena, French forces crushed the Prussian armies. Within two weeks of Jena, Napoleon had conquered almost all of Prussia except the area around Königsberg. The Prussian army, previously thought invincible, had been fought to almost the point of total liquidation. The Continental System, led Napoleon to directly incorporate German-speaking areas such as Hamburg into his First French Empire. In Prussia, subjugation by the French Empire brought with it many products of the French Revolution including democracy, due process in courts, abolition of privileges, etc. The Napoleonic Wars, often fought in Germany and with Germans on both sides, as in the Battle of the Nations at Leipzig, also marked the beginning of what was explicitly called *French–German hereditary enmity*. Modern German nationalism was born in opposition to French domination under Napoleon. In the recasting of the map of Europe after Napoleon's defeat, most of the German-speaking territories in the Rhineland adjoining France were put under the rule of Prussia and remainder of ones were ruled by Bavaria and Grand Duchy of Hesse.

William I, (full name: *Wilhelm Friedrich Ludwig*, (22 March 1797 – 9 March 1888), of the House of Hohenzollern was the King of Prussia (2 January 1861 – 9 March 1888) and the first German Emperor (18 January 1871 – 9 March 1888). Under the leadership of William and his Minister President Otto von Bismarck, Prussia achieved the unification of Germany and the establishment of the German Empire. During his reign William was the commander-in-chief of the Prussian forces in the Second Schleswig War against Denmark in 1864 and the Austro-Prussian War in 1866. After the latter was won by Prussia, William wanted to march on to Vienna and annex Austria but Bismarck and Crownprince Frederick talked him out of it. Bismarck wanted to end the war, so as to allow Prussia to ally with Austria if it needed to at a later date. During a heated discussion Bismarck threatened to resign if William continued to Vienna; Bismarck got his way. In 1867, the North German Confederation was created and William became its president. In 1870, during the Franco-Prussian War, William was in command of all the German forces at the crucial Battle of Sedan.

William II -- (full name: *Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor Albrecht von Preußen*), (27 January 1859 – 4 June 1941). He was the last German Emperor (*Kaiser*) and King of Prussia, ruling the German Empire and the Kingdom of Prussia from 15 June 1888 to 9 November 1918. He was a grandson of the British Queen Victoria and related to many monarchs and princes of Europe, two notable contemporary relations being his cousins King George V of the United Kingdom and the Dominions, founder of the House of Windsor, and Tsar Nicholas II of the House of Romanov, the last ruler of the Russian Empire before the Russian Revolution of 1917 which deposed the monarchy. Crowned in 1888, he dismissed the Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, in

1890 and launched Germany on a bellicose "New Course" in foreign affairs that culminated in his support for Austria-Hungary in the crisis of July 1914 that led to World War I. Bombastic and impetuous, he sometimes made tactless pronouncements on sensitive topics without consulting his ministers, culminating in a disastrous *Daily Telegraph* interview that cost him most of his power in 1908. His top generals, Paul von Hindenburg and Erich Ludendorff, dictated policy during World War I with little regard for the civilian government. An ineffective war leader, he lost the support of the army, abdicated in November 1918, and fled to exile in the Netherlands.

Traditions

Easter -- For the Pomeranians, Easter water signifies life and fertility. When it was still dark, girls would go in complete silence to fetch Easter water from springs and streams and then wash with the Easter water. If a girl was able to sprinkle her lover with Easter water, there would be a wedding soon.

Whit Sunday -- Pfingsten or Pentecost is a religious holiday in Germany to mark the Holy Spirit's descent on Jesus' followers. Spring fun fairs are held on the long Pentecost weekend in many areas of Germany. Many local and regional customs are also associated with Pentecost Sunday, which is also known as Whitsunday. Birch trees are decorated with large wreaths. Birch trees are just coming into leaf at this time of year and symbolize the fertile spring and summer seasons. Young men in rural areas may attach a birch sprig to the wall beneath an unmarried woman's window. This fertility rite can be traced back thousands of years. The cattle were traditionally in stables and fields near villages in rural areas during winter and early spring. They were taken to fields further away from the villages at Pentecost. The strongest animals were decorated with flowers and plants and led the procession.

Other

Sirach -- The *Book of the All-Virtuous Wisdom of Joshua ben Sira*, commonly called the *Wisdom of Sirach* or simply *Sirach*, and also known as *The Book Ecclesiasticus* or *Siracides* or *Ben Sira*, is a work of ethical teachings from the early 2nd century B.C.. (approximately 200-175 B.C.) written by the Jewish scribe Shimon ben Yeshua ben Eliezer ben Sira of Jerusalem. *Sirach* is accepted as part of the Christian biblical canon by Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and most Oriental Orthodox. In addition, like the Churches of the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran Churches include it in their lectionaries, and as a book proper for reading, devotion, and prayer.