

## **Germany: 1500-present:**

Before Germany, the German states were part of the Holy Roman Empire.

**1517:** Luther begins Protestant Reformation in n'ern states—writes the 95 Theses. His main teachings are: Faith gets you to heaven (not works), the Bible is the ultimate authority, and that all Christians are equal. Luther's ideas spread rapidly by Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. John Calvin from Switzerland also splits from the Catholic Church. His main idea was predestination - God chooses who gets to heaven. He said our faith is revealed by our moral lives and that to honor God we need a good work ethic.

Princes in the N'ern HRE supported Protestantism but the Hapsburg family that ruled the H.R.E. supported the Catholic Church, whose head was the pope. **1618-1648:** 30 Years War — Catholics v. Protestants in HRE. There were over 300 German states. Most powerful German states —Prussia (north), Austria (south)

**1740-1786:** Frederick the Great from Prussia: absolute monarch. Makes Prussia a powerful country.

**Enlightenment:** 2 HRE composers: Johann Sebastian Bach & Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

**1800-1808:** Napoleon invades and destroys H.R.E. Germans hate the French. Creates a rise in German nationalism (pride in their country).

**1815:** Congress of Vienna; Dominated by Metternich. Now only 30 German states. Metternich's idea: "Let's go BACK to 1789!" – Balance of Power, A new map of Europe drawn, C of V = peace conference after Napoleon, Kings put back in power.

**1870:** Franco-Prussian War; Bismarck unites Germany. Germany takes Alsace-Lorraine from France. Bismarck believed in realpolitik ("blood & iron")

**WWI dates: 1914 - 1918 :** Germany in Central Powers. King of Germany is Kaiser Wilhelm II; "Spark" that started WWI: assassination of Austria's Archduke Ferdinand; War ends/Germany loses. Germany punished by Treaty of Versailles. German economy is a mess. They must pay reparations.

**1930's:** Hitler; **1939:** Germany invades Poland (real cause of WWII); Part of Axis Powers. **1940:** Fall of France. Battle of Britain lost. **1941:** Invasion of USSR. But fails due to Russian winter. Germany defeated. After the war, US rebuilds W. Germany with the Marshall Plan.

**1947-1991:** Cold War—Two Germanies, East and West. **1961—**Soviets build Berlin Wall to stop people from leaving Soviet controlled East Berlin.

**1989:** Fall of the Berlin Wall. **1990:** Germany reunited  
**1995:** joined the European Union to compete with US & Japan