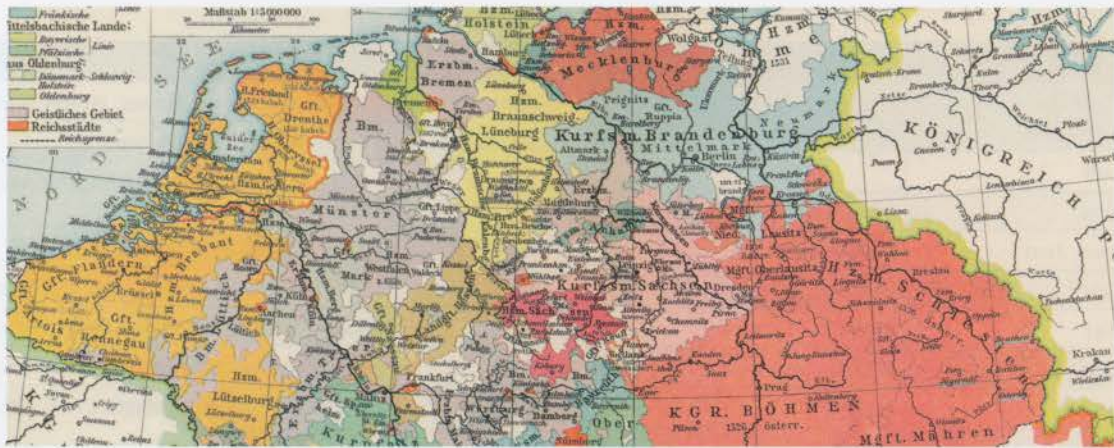


HISTORICAL TIMELINE



- 800** Charlemagne (in German: Karl der Grosse) is crowned by the pope.
- 962** Otto the Great renews the mantle of Charlemagne as head of a “Holy Roman Empire.”
- 1440** Frederick III is crowned Holy Roman Emperor, beginning the Hapsburg dynasty’s reign in the role.
- 1517** Martin Luther starts the Protestant Reformation, cleaving the Holy Roman Empire’s religious unity.
- 1555** The Peace of Augsburg allows German nobles to choose Catholicism or Lutheranism for their territories.
- 1563** The Council of Trent requires Catholic parish registers; Lutherans and Reformed follow.
- 1648** The Thirty Years War ends. Many German villages are in ruins as a result of the conflict.
- 1683** Francis Daniel Pastorius founds Germantown, Penn., the first permanent German American settlement.
- 1740** Frederick the Great takes the Prussian throne. During his reign, he expands Prussia into a power equal to Austria.
- 1772** The first partition of Poland divides Polish lands between Prussia, Austria and Russia. Subsequent partitions occur in 1793 and 1795.
- 1783** Hessian soldiers fight for the British; thousands remain in America after the war’s end.
- 1806** The Holy Roman Empire ends, and French Emperor Napoleon I takes control of certain German areas; those under French influence begin civil registration.
- 1815** The Congress of Vienna forms a German Confederation.
- 1817** The Lutheran and Reformed churches in Prussian lands merged into one Protestant church known as Evangelisch.
- 1848** Failed revolutions across Europe result in thousands leaving the German states to settle in America.
- 1871** The Second German Empire forms after Prussia and its allies defeat France and annex Alsace and Lorraine.
- 1874** Civil registration is decreed in the Kingdom of Prussia. Its enacted in the whole German Empire two years later.
- 1882** More than 250,000 Germans arrive in the United States, a one-year record for German American immigration.
- 1894** More than 800 German-language newspapers and periodicals are printed in the United States.
- 1918** Germany’s defeat in World War I results in several territorial losses.
- 1945** Germany’s defeat in World War II results in further territorial losses, as well as Allied occupation and division into East and West.
- 1990** East and West Germany reunify after the fall of the Berlin Wall.
- 2009** Reform relaxes vital records blackout periods: births after 110 years, marriages (80 years), and deaths (30 years).