

Mission Atlas Project

Germany

Federal Republic of Germany
Bundesrepublik Deutschland or *Deutschland*

Basic Facts

Name: The nation's former names include the German Empire, German Republic, and German Reich. Today, the name, Germany, is the usual designation.

Population: The population of Germany was estimated as 83,029,536 in July 2001. The Federal Statistical Office of Germany declares that the population is approximately 82 million and Johnstone reports 82,220,490. Johnstone predicts negative population growth in 2010 and 2025. In 2025, he estimates the total population at 80,238,159. The Federal Statistical Office of Germany reports that there is a growing number of people over 65 years old and less people under the age of 15. Low numbers of births and a growing propensity not to get married have also affected population numbers in Germany. (see http://www.destatis.de/basis/e/bevoe/bev_txt.htm) The Statistical Office shows fluctuation in the population growth statistics, with some years having negative population growth, but this does not seem to be a major trend, as Johnstone seems to indicate (see http://www.destatis.de/basis/e/bevoe/bev_gra1.htm).

The population age range is 15.57% are ages 0 – 14, 67.82% are ages 15 – 64, and 16.61% is over 65 years old. The life expectancy of a male in Germany is 74.47 years and 80.92 for a female. Germany has an estimated 0.27% population growth rate in 2001.

Area: Germany has 357,021 sq km of total land area and 7,798 sq km of that is water. Comparatively, it is approximately the size of Montana. The territory has lowlands in the north, uplands in the central region, and the Bavarian Alps are in the southern region.

Economy: Germany, listed as the world's third most technically powerful economy after the United States and Japan; it has an estimated 2000 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$1.936 trillion. This equates to a \$23,400 per capita GDP. Germany exhibited a remarkable post World War II recovery becoming one of the world's strongest economies with huge balanced of payments surpluses. Germany became one of the leading industrial economies—providing almost one third of the output of the entire EU

Germany currently has an ongoing unemployment problem. Their social security outlays are greater than contributions, due to an increasingly aging population. They have also been met with challenges of re-incorporating the former Eastern Germany, which costs Western Germany roughly \$70 billion yearly.

The GDP is composed of 1.2% agriculture, 30.4% industry, and 68.4% services. Germany has a labor force of 40.5 million and their current unemployment rate is 9.9%.

Germany's major industries include iron, steel, cement, chemicals, machinery, vehicles, machine tools, electronics, food and beverages, shipbuilding, and textiles.

Germany's export partners include the European Union (52.2%), US (8.1%), and Japan (4.9%). The nation has adopted the European Euro as the official currency.

Government: Germany is a federal republic with a Parliament, federal chancellor, and a Cabinet. This government was established in 1990, after the reunification of East and West Germany. Previously, East Germany had been under a dictatorial Communist government.

The German Constitution was adopted on May 23, 1949 and is known as Basic Law. It became the constitution of the united German people on October 3, 1990. This day is celebrated as Unity Day in Germany.

The German Parliament contains two houses, the *Bundestag* (Federal Diet) and the *Bundesrat* (Federal Council). The Federal Diet is the more powerful of the two houses and passes the laws and chooses the head of government. The Federal Diet has 669 deputies that are elected by the voters for a term of four years. In some cases, laws passed by the Federal Diet are subject to the approval of the Federal Council, such as laws that affect education and local government.

The Federal Council represents Germany's states. Each state is given three to six votes, depending on its population, and is required to vote as a block. The state then appoints delegates up to the number of votes that they have in the council.

The Federal Chancellor is the head of Germany's government and is elected by a majority of the Federal Diet. The Federal Diet can remove the chancellor by electing someone else. The Chancellor has the responsibility to select the members of the Cabinet and head government offices.

Germany has 16 states, each with its own legislature. Most states legislators serve four-year terms. Most states select a minister president to head the state government. In the case of Berlin, Bremen, and Hamburg, the mayor heads the government because they all are cities as well as states.

Two major political parties, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Social Democratic Party, dominate German politics. The CDU supports conservative economic and social policies and the Social Democratic Party supports more social welfare policies and greater regulation of the economy. In most elections, neither party gains enough votes to control the Federal Diet, so a coalition is formed to gain the majority.

The Free Democratic Party, the Green Party, the Party of Democratic Socialism, and the Republican Party are also present in Germany. The Free Democratic Party is a liberal group and the Green Party supports environmental causes. The Party of

Democratic Socialism is the group that ruled the former East Germany and the Republican Party is an extremely conservative party. Germans are given the right to vote at 18 years old.

Germany's highest court is the Federal Constitutional Court. Its responsibilities include interpreting the Constitution and settling disputes between the executive and legislature or the federal government and state governments. This court has 16 judges, which the Federal Diet chooses eight and the Federal Council chooses eight. These judges serve for a term of 12 years.

A regular court system tries all criminal and civil cases with regional and national appellate courts. Judges in these courts are appointed for life. Other specialized courts hear cases on labor, taxes, or social security disputes.

After World War II, the Allies intended for Germany to remain disarmed, but in the 1950's, the Western Allies wanted West Germany's help against a possible Communist invasion. West Germany was allowed to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1955 and to begin building its military. After reunification, Germany remained in NATO and the East German military was dissolved, but many East German soldiers joined the Germany military. German forces have 330,000 troops and German men must serve in the military for 10 months after they turn 18.

Society: Germany is known for its important people in both literature and philosophy. Among these are Goethe, Kant, Hegel, and Nietzsche. Representatives of Germany's musical past include Bach, Handel, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Wagner. German society reflects this important past.

German society is known for its cuisine and beverages. Germans typically eat their largest meal of the day at noon. They usually eat a lighter dinner consisting of bread, cheeses, and sausage. To prevent foods from spoiling, Germans invented sauerkraut and sauerbraten. They also preserved meats by making such sausages as bratwurst and frankfurters. They are responsible for making Limburger, Munster, and Tilsiter cheese named for the regions where they were first made. Beer and wine are both popular beverages in Germany. The Germans consume 1.5 million gallons of beer during the annual Oktoberfest event. The Rhine region of Germany produces many varieties of wines. Originally, these vineyards were planted and tended by monks until the region was conquered by Napoleon in 1803. These vineyards were then divided up and sold to private owners or to the states.

Nearly one of every five of the German people are under the age of 18. Of this number, 10 percent are of foreign nationality. Just less than one of every three of the total population is under the age of 27. Never before in Germany's history have the Young people, as never before in Germany's history, have many material possessions. They also travel, both nationally and internationally, more than any other generation. The greatest concern among young people is the growing unemployment problem. The favorite activities for persons between the ages of 14 and 29 are watching TV, making

phone calls, listening to music, and activities with friends. Extreme right wing ideology is growing among the younger generation, characterized by attacks on foreigners. The Federal Government has set itself against this ideology especially during this legislative term.

The average age of marriage for a man in Germany is 30 and 27 for women. The number of non-marital partnerships was determined in April 2000 as being 2.1 million people or every tenth couple. This number is up 47% since April 1991. The number of divorces in 2000 was 194,410, which is up 2% from 1999 making this a record high rate. In 1999, ten out of every 1,000 marriages ended in divorce, affecting 148,100 children under the age of 18.

Education in Germany is controlled by the states. Most children must attend school for 9 to 10 years, starting at age 6. German education begins with elementary school for four years after which the young people can attend a traditional junior and senior high, called a *gymnasium*. This schooling prepares them for the university. The youth may choose schools that will prepare them for a vocational position.

Germany has about 60 universities and specialized technical schools. The University of Heidelberg is the oldest, founded in 1386. German universities have been known for their scientific research. Between 1900 and 1933, more Nobel Prizes were awarded to German scientists than any other country.

Sports are an important activity in German society. German sporting clubs have 27 million members or 25% of the total population. Another 12 million people participate in sports without belonging to a club. By far the soccer is the most popular sport, with the German Football Federation having 6.3 million members. This is also one of the largest spectator sport as the national team has won the World Cup three times. Other sports like golf, tennis, ice hockey, and basketball are increasing in popularity.

Language: The two main forms of the German language are High German, spoken in the southern and central areas and Low German in the north. Other dialects are associated with particular regions or towns. The language used by schools, business, and the media is a standardized form of High German called Standard German.

Urbanization: Germany's urbanization rate is 83%. Berlin is the capital and largest city with 3,398,800 people. The next four largest cities include: Hamburg with 1,700,000 people, Munich with 1,188,900 people, Cologne with 962,600 people, and Frankfurt with 643,900 people.

Literacy: Of the people age 15 or over, 99% are literate.

Religion: In Germany 38% of the people are listed as Protestant, 34% Catholic, 3.7% Muslim, and 26.3% are unaffiliated or other.

Germany recognizes no official state church. The churches and religious organizations have a legal status of public-law corporations and are subject to the constitution, known as the Basic Law. The state finances part of the churches programs, such as kindergartens and schools. The churches are allowed to levy taxes on their members, which are collected by the state minus the reimbursement of the state's costs. Clergy are trained at state universities. The churches are known for their social work in society and support hospitals, nursing homes, and training centers, as well as provide counseling.

The Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) is a community of 24 independent Lutheran, Reformed, and United regional churches. Their main legislative body is the Synod and chief executive body is the Council. The churches participate with the EKD through the church conference. The EKD is a member of the World Council of Churches and cooperates with the Roman Catholic Church.

The Roman Catholic Church has 27 dioceses in Germany, with 7 archdioceses. The German bishops and archbishops, more than 70 total, all consult with each other in the spring and fall at the German Bishop's Conference.

Germany is also home to about 1.15 million members of Orthodox churches

Brief History of Germany

The history of Germany begins in ancient times when warlike tribes migrated from northern Europe into present day Germany around 1000 B.C. These tribes spread out as far south as the Rhine and Danube Rivers, which were the borders of the Roman Empire. The Romans called these tribes *Germani* and the land was named *Germania*. In A.D. 9, the Romans lost a decisive battle to these Germanic tribes at the Teutoburg Forest. The Romans then built a wall, called the *limes*, to protect their lands from further attack. Roman power began to collapse and in the 400's, the Germanic tribes invaded Rome and plundered the city. They divided the western empire into tribal kingdoms, of which the Franks became the most important.

The Kingdom of the Franks

The next period of Germany history is the kingdom of the Franks. In A.D. 486, the Frankish King Clovis defeated the Roman governor of Gaul, now France. Clovis continued to expand his kingdom and conquered parts of what is now western Germany. He became an orthodox Christian and introduced Roman ways of life into his empire. Charlemagne, who is remembered as the greatest Frankish ruler, came to power in 768. He established his capital at Aachen and expanded the kingdom. In 800, Pope Leo III crowned him as the emperor of the Romans.

Germany after the Treaty of Verdun

The Treaty of Verdun in 843 divided Charlemagne's empire between his three grandsons. Louis II, called the German, received the land east of the Rhine River, which is now present-day Germany. The other divisions of the empire included the area of France, and the area of Italy. In 911, all the heirs of the Frankish family had died out and the German kingdom had been divided into five *duchies*, each ruled by a duke. These five areas were Bavaria, Lorraine, Franconia, Saxony, and Swabia. The dukes elected Conrad I of Franconia as the king. Henry I of Saxony, whose family ruled until 1024, later succeeded Conrad. Henry's son, Otto I (called the Great), extended German borders by defeating the Hungarians in the south and expanding in the north. Otto also gained control over the middle area of the old Frankish kingdom, including Italy. In 962, Otto I was crowned as the emperor of Rome and this began the Holy Roman Empire.

Under the Holy Roman Empire, the territories each had a separate ruler. In 1075, Pope Gregory VII clashed with Emperor Henry IV over the power to appoint bishops. Some German princes sided with the pope and civil wars began. The Hohenstaufen Emperors restored order. The last of these emperors died in 1254 and a new emperor was not elected until 1273. This new emperor was Rudolf I of Hapsburg. Rudolf took over Austria and made it his main duchy. After Rudolf, various families ruled, but the Hapsburgs returned to power in 1438 and ruled until 1806.

In 1517, the Reformation began when Martin Luther began to question the teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. Nobles, peasants, and townspeople joined the Reformation as it spread. These followers became known as Protestants, meaning those who protest.

People joined the Protestants for various reasons. Some sincerely wanted reform for the church, others sought to gain church property, and many peasants saw this as a way to be free from their lord's control. The pope or Emperor Charles V could not stop the Reformation and Charles was eventually forced to accept the Peace of Augsburg in 1555. This treaty gave Catholic and Protestant princes the right to choose which religion would be practiced in their land. Church lands were also divided between the two religions.

In the 1500's and 1600's, the Catholic Church responded with the Counter-Reformation. This effort won back many people to the Catholic Church, either peacefully or with force. By 1600, there were few Protestants in Austria, Bavaria, and parts of Bohemia and the Rhineland. The remainder of Germany remained primarily influenced by Lutheranism.

In the 1600's, the German lands were divided among both political and religious rivals. In 1618, a Protestant revolt in Bohemia sparked the Thirty Years' War. These wars were religious struggles and also political struggles. The kings of France, Denmark, and Sweden entered the wars as a way to gain German lands and reduce Hapsburg power. The wars ended with the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. France and Sweden received part

of Germany's land as part of the peace. The result of war was that Germany was devastated agriculturally and many towns disappeared. The emperor's power was weakened and Germany became a collection of free cities and hundreds of states.

The Hohenzollern Reign

In the 1600's, the Hohenzollern family began to expand its power in Eastern Germany. They ruled the state of Brandenburg and had Berlin as their capital. Their rise to power began under Frederick William (the Great Elector) who began to unite and expand his lands after the Thirty Years' War. In 1701, his son, Frederick became the first King of Prussia. The Hohenzollerns built a large well-trained army. They improved farming and industry and they built canals, schools, and roads. They also promoted the arts and learning. Prussia and Austria fought two wars against each other, War of Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War. After these two wars, Prussia was recognized as a great power. Prussia, Russia, and Austria fought for control of Poland during the 1770's and it was later divided between them. After the French Revolution, they began to struggle against other European countries.

The Napoleonic Period

By the end of 1806, Napoleon had gained control of western Germany and had destroyed the Holy Roman Empire. Some German states joined the Confederation of the Rhine, which allied itself with Napoleon and France. In 1806, Prussia declared war on France. Napoleon attacked and defeated the Prussians at the battles of Jena and Auerstadt. Prussia lost all its territories east of the Elba River and was forced to pay war damages to France. Prussia, Austria, Russia, and the United Kingdom joined forces against Napoleon after his failed attempt to conquer Russia. The Prussian army helped defeat Napoleon at the battles of Leipzig in 1813 and Waterloo in 1815.

The Congress of Vienna met after Napoleon's defeat to restore order to Europe. They left the middle-sized states formed from the Confederation of the Rhine intact. The rest of Napoleon's lands were divided among Austria, Prussia, and Russia. Prussia received some of the Rhineland, Westphalia, and much of Saxony. This increased their power and lands in northern and western Germany.

The German Confederation

The Congress of Vienna established the German Confederation, which was a union of 39 independent states. An assembly called the *Bundestag* was formed and members were appointed by the states and Austria chose the president. Kings or princes ruled the German states. Each state had their own laws, collected taxes, and provided their own defense. The King of Prussia had promised the people a constitution during the war with Napoleon, but he later did not keep his promise. The German population continued to grow and social conditions became poorer and poorer.

When the German people heard of revolt in France against their monarchy, they also revolted. In Berlin, the people forced the Prussian king to promise a constitution. In May, an elected assembly met in Frankfurt to draft a constitution. The Frankfurt Assembly could not decide on whether the Catholic Austria or Protestant Prussia should be the major power in the new German nation. The revolution later failed and the German Confederation was re-established.

Wilhelm I, the Prussian King, appointed Otto von Bismarck as the prime minister in 1862. Bismarck sought to establish Prussia as the leading German power. Bismarck captured the lands of Schleswig and Holstein from Denmark. Bismarck later defeated Austria and he dissolved the German Confederation and established the North German Confederation under Prussian leadership. Austria was never again a power in Germany.

Bismarck also instigated the Franco-Prussian War and the Prussians entered Paris in 1871. The French lost the regions of Alsace and part of Lorraine as a condition of the peace treaty with Prussia. During the Franco-Prussian War, four south German states agreed to join a united German nation under Prussian leadership.

The German Empire

On January 18, 1871, Wilhelm I was crowned the first Kaiser of the new German Empire. Wilhelm then appointed Bismarck chancellor and head of government. In the German Empire, the constitution provided for a two-house parliament and all men over 25 were allowed to vote. The business class and the nobles supported Bismarck, but he faced opposition from the Catholics and the Socialists. The Catholics did not trust the Protestant empire and they organized their own political party. Socialism became popular in the cities and among the workers in industry. Bismarck tried to stop both the Catholic and Socialist parties, but failed.

Bismarck established an alliance with Austria-Hungary in 1879 and Italy joined this alliance in 1882. This alliance became known as the Triple Alliance. When Wilhelm II became emperor, he wanted to build a modern navy to challenge British naval supremacy. To counter this, the British established the Entente Cordiale (cordial understanding) with France in 1904 and Russia joined in 1907. This alliance became known as the Triple Entente. Europe was then divided between these two alliances.

World War I

War broke out in Europe after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. Austria-Hungary, along with help from Germany, turned to war with the Serbs. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 18, 1914 and Russia gave aid to the Serbs. This Russian aid to the Serbs led to Germany declaring war on Russia. When France called up their troops to support Russia, Germany was engaged in war against France. In an effort to reach Paris, Germany invaded neutral Belgium. The United Kingdom then declared war on Germany. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and their allies were known as the Central Powers and all those who opposed

them were known as the Allies. Italy joined the Allies in 1915 hoping to gain Austrian land and the United States joined the Allies in 1917.

In 1917, the Eastern Front collapsed, as Russia was defeated. In 1918, Germany's troops were exhausted and social unrest began at home. American troops continued to arrive to reinforce the Allies and in the summer of 1918, the last German offensive was stopped and Germany signed an armistice on November 11th.

Under the Treaty of Versailles, the Alsace and German part of Lorraine were returned to France. The Rhineland was put under Allied control for 15 years. The German army was reduced to 100,000 men and the nation was forbidden from having an air force. Germany was also required to pay reparations to the Allies in the amount of \$33 billion.

The German Republic

On November 9, 1918, Germany was declared a republic. A national assembly met at Weimar to write the constitution and so the republic became known as the Weimar Republic. A democratic federal republic was established by the constitution in August 1919. In 1922 and 1923, the economy collapsed when inflation ruined the German currency. During this time, the National Socialist German Workers Party, known as the Nazis, attempted a rebellion in Munich under the leadership of Adolf Hitler. This rebellion failed and the republic survived.

A vast depression hit in 1929 costing millions of Germans their jobs. The government appeared powerless and political violence increased. During this time of instability, the Nazi party made rapid gains in elections. The depression caused more Germans to be attracted to Hitler's promises of improving the economy, defying the Treaty of Versailles, and rebuilding Germany's military. In 1933, Hitler was appointed as Chancellor of Germany.

After becoming chancellor, Hitler began to defy the constitution and work toward a dictatorship. He permitted only the Nazi party as a political party. The party controlled the court system, newspapers, police, and schools. In 1934, Hitler declared himself "*der Fuhrer*" (the leader) of Germany. The Nazis called their government the *Third Reich* (Third Empire). The first was the Holy Roman Empire, and the second was the German Empire.

Hitler pursued two main goals. First, he sought to assert authority over what he believed to be inferior races, the Jews, Slavs, and other non-German peoples. He also purposed to gain territory for Germany. In 1933, all German Jews were removed from government jobs. In 1935, their rights were taken away. In the face of persecution, more than half of Germany's 500,000 Jews left the country.

In 1936, German troops reoccupied the Rhineland and formed an alliance with Italy and Japan. These three countries became known as the Axis powers. In March

1938, Germany occupied Austria and made it part of the Third Reich. In August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union agreed not to intervene if the other became involved in war.

World War II

On September 1, 1939 Germany invaded Poland beginning World War II. On September 3, 1939, the United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany. By the spring of 1940, Germany had captured Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. In May 1940, the Germans had flanked France's eastern defenses and by the end of June, they had defeated France. The German advance was stopped at the English Channel.

Germany could not achieve the air superiority needed to invade England. Germany then shifted their focus to the Soviet Union and invaded Russia in June 1941. By the end of 1941, the Germans dominated the continent. Hitler murdered 6 million European Jews and about 5 million Poles, Gypsies, and others. Hitler could not, however, defeat the Soviet Union. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, brought the United States into the war.

The turning point of the war in the west came in 1943, when the Allies defeated the Germans in North Africa and invaded Italy from the south. In June 1944, the Allies invaded France to recover it. Soviet troops closed in on Berlin and Hitler committed suicide on April 30, 1945. Germany later surrendered on May 7th.

Post World War II

The war devastated Germany. Many of the cities were left in ruins and supplies of food, fuel, and water were very low. The United Kingdom, Soviet Union, France, and the United States took control of Germany and decided to divide it into four zones, with each occupying it militarily. The United Kingdom, Soviet Union, and the United States met in Potsdam, Germany and agreed to govern Germany together and to rebuild it as a democracy. Germany lost about 1/4 of its land, as it was put under the Soviet Union and Polish control. The Soviet Union began to establish Communist governments in the lands that they occupied. They established barriers of trade, communication, and travel between the East and the West. These events gave way to the Cold War.

When the Cold War broke out, the Western Allies and the Soviet Union each began to organize their occupation zones in Germany. The Soviet Union established a Communist government in East Germany. The Western Allies rebuilt the German economy under the Marshall Plan. The Western Allies established a new German currency and economic aid was given to Germany from the United States. The Soviets responded by blocking the Western Allies from reaching Berlin. The Allies responded by the Berlin Airlift, sending supplies to Berlin by airplanes.

The Federal Republic of Germany

In Western Germany, the Allies arranged for a German council to write up a constitution. The Allies approved this constitution in May 1949. On September 21, 1949, the Western zones were officially combined as the Federal Republic of Germany (also called West Germany). On May 5, 1955, West Germany became completely independent.

The new West German Parliament met in September 1949 in the new capital of Bonn. West Germany helped found the Council of Europe, which later became the European Community (EC). This was an economic association that later was incorporated into the European Union. In 1955, West Germany joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In the 1980's, many Germans became interested in environmental concerns and the fact that U.S. missiles were in West Germany. The Green Party gained popularity during this time.

In Eastern Germany, the Soviet Union established a communist government and banks, farms, and industries were seized and reorganized. Anyone suspected of opposing Communism was thrown into prison camps. A Communist constitution was adopted in May 1949 and the Soviet zone became the German Democratic Republic (commonly called East Germany). East Berlin was chosen as the capital. In October 1955, East Germany officially became independent.

Also in 1955, East German joined the Warsaw Pact, an Eastern European military pact led by the Soviet Union. In August 1961, the Berlin Wall was built to stop East Germans from escaping to West Germany. In November 9, 1989, Eastern Germany announced that they would open its borders and allow citizens to travel freely. The Berlin Wall was opened signifying this policy change. On March 18, 1990, East Germans voted in free parliamentary elections for the first time. Most East Germans voted for candidates that favored the unification of Germany.

The Allies surrendered their occupation rights to Germany in the Treaty on the Final Settlement With Respect to Germany, which allowed for unification of East and West Germany. On October 3, 1990, East and West Germany were officially unified. Berlin was also unified and declared the capital.

Unification issues are still prevalent, as many East Germans are disappointed at the slow rate of progress with the economy. In West Germany, some people resent the cost of unification. Other issues include problems with immigration. Many Neo-Nazis and other right wing groups protested the increased immigration. In 1993, the German parliament amended the Constitution to reduce the flow of immigration.

Germany lies right in the heart of Europe. Their involvement in NATO and as an integral part of the European Community makes them one of the more important nations in Europe. Their geographical position within Europe makes them a bridge between Central and Eastern Europe. Germany is one of the major industrial centers of the world.

In terms of economic performance, they have the third largest economy and rank second in world trade.

People / People Groups

Groups from Germany

Germans (63,000,000) – This group speaks Standard German. Of this group, they belong to the Evangelical Church of Germany (20 denominations), Roman Catholic Church (23 dioceses), New Apostolic Church, Jehovah's Witness, and 50,000 are Muslims.

Erzgebirgish (328,117) – This group lives in Eastern Germany and speaks a dialect of Standard German spoken in the Erzgebirge mountain range along the Czechoslovakian border. Of this group, 30% are nonreligious; others belong to the Evangelical Church in Germany, or the Roman Catholic Church.

Frisian, Eastern (11,000) – They speak Frisian. This language is spoken in the Frisian Islands of German and in the Dutch state of Friesland.

Germany Gypsy (107,010) – They speak German and are involved in nomadic caravan churches, Gypsy Evangelical Movement, Assemblies of God, other Pentecostal groups, Mennonites, or Roman Catholic.

Jewish, Judeo-German (4,500) – This group speaks Standard German or Eastern Yiddish. They are mostly practicing Jews (84%) and some are a part of the Holocaust remnant.

Northern Frisian (10,000) – These people are residents of Schleswig-Holstein, a coastal strip between the Eider and Wiedau rivers. They speak Frisian but are bilingual in Low and High German. They belong to the Evangelical Church in Germany or the Roman Catholic Church.

Plautdietsch (5,000) – These people speak Plautdietsch, which is a Mennonite Low German.

Romany, South German (30,500) – These people speak Sinte-Romani.

Saxon (9,290,000) – These people speak Saxon (Low German). They are found in Northern Germany and have 30 unintelligible dialects, which are widely used. They are bilingual in Standard German and belong to the Evangelical Church of Germany or the Roman Catholic Church.

Southern Sorb, Lusation (212,000) – These people are found in East Germany and speak Sorbian. There are many along the Austrian border and also in Austria. Of them, 95% are bilingual. They belong to the Evangelical Church of Germany.

Swabian (822,000) – These people speak Swabian and are located in the southwest. Of them, 40% are intelligible with Standard German and are typically bilingual.

Yeniche (15,287) – These people speak Yeniche. Yeniche is a German / Yiddish / Romani / Rotwelsch blend language of urban non-Gypsy nomadic groups. They are also found in Austria, France, and Switzerland. They belong to the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Church in Germany.

Groups from Other European Countries (including Eastern Europe)

Albanian (33,000) – This group speaks Albanian, Tosk. They are immigrants and refugees from Albania. This group is comprised of 25% Muslims (both Sunni and Shia), 50% atheist or nonreligious, and African Orthodox Church.

Allemanisch, German Swiss (300,000) – This group speaks Alemannisch and are bilingual in Standard German. They are called Alsatians in France. They belong to the Roman Catholic Church, Swiss Reformed Church, or the Evangelical Church in Germany.

Austrian (229,308) – This group is expatriates or residents from Austria. They speak German and belong to the Roman Catholic Church, Evangelical Church of Germany, and some are monks of different orders.

Balkan Gypsy (3,500) – This group speaks Balkan Romani and is found in 10 – 12 countries. They are 20% Muslim or belong to the Roman Catholic Church, Evangelical Church of Germany, or the Gypsy Evangelical Movement.

Basque (31,000) – These are immigrants from Spain involved in commerce and other professions. They are strong Roman Catholics.

Bosnian (288,000) – These people speak Serbo-Croatian. They are refugees from the Bosnian Civil War and were accepted by Germany in 1992. The group is 100% Sunni Muslim.

British (86,000) – This group speak Standard English and belong to the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Church, and Cooneyites. William Irvine in Ireland founded the Cooneyites around 1897-99. They deny the Trinity and believe that salvation comes through grace and works and only through their church. (For more information see: <http://home.earthlink.net/~truth/sec2-2FactSht.htm>)

Bulgar (3,800) – The people in this group speak Bulgarian and are refugees from Bulgaria. They serve as laborers and migrant workers. Of this group, 22% are nonreligious and others belong to the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

Catalonian (46,000) – This group speak Catalan-valencian-baleare and are migrant workers from Catalonia (Spain). They belong to the Roman Catholic Church and 4% are nonreligious.

Croat (305,744) – Their language is Serbo-Croatian and they are refugees from Yugoslavia since 1945 and have increased since 1990. They belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

Czech (19,000) – They speak Czech and are refugees from Czechoslovakia since 1938, 1945, and 1968. They belong to the Roman Catholic Church and the Moravian Church.

Danish (50,000) – They speak Danish and are expatriates from Denmark and settlers in south Schleswig. They belong to the National Church of Denmark, Evangelical Church of Germany, and the Roman Catholic Church.

Dutch (101,000) – They speak Dutch and are expatriates from Holland involved in commerce and other professions. They belong to the Netherlands Reformed Church.

French (75,000) – These are expatriates from France involved in commerce, industry, and professional jobs. French is their main language. They are involved in the Roman Catholic Church and 10% are nonreligious.

Galician (38,000) – They speak Galician and are migrant workers from Galicia (Spain) and belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

Germany, Portuguese (78,000) – These are immigrant and migrant workers from Portugal involved in commerce and professions. They speak Portuguese and are predominately Roman Catholic.

Greek (76,436) – These are migrant workers from Greece and speak Greek. They belong to the Greek Orthodox Church and the Greek Evangelical Church.

Hungarian (13,000) – These people are refugees from Hungary since 1945 and 1956. They belong to the Roman Catholic Church, the Hungarian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Hungarian Free Protestant Church.

Italian (764,360) – These people are expatriates from Italy involved in commerce and professions. They speak Italian and are strong Roman Catholic Church members.

Lovari Gypsy (7,644) – This group of gypsies are found in 25 countries including Argentina, Brazil, and Columbia. They speak Lovari or Vlax Romani. They belong to caravan churches, the Gypsy Evangelical Movement, or to the Roman Catholic Church.

Luxemburger (14,000) – These are settlers or immigrants from Luxembourg, especially in the Bitburg area in western Germany. They speak Luxembourgish. They belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

Polish, Pole (241,000) – These people speak Polish and are refugees from Poland since 1945. There is a sizable community located in Berlin and they are strong Roman Catholics.

Romanian (123,000) – These people speak Romanian and they are refugees from Romania after 1945. They belong to the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Romany, Vlach (5,000) – These people speak Vlax-Romani.

Serb (461,000) – These people speak Serbo-Croatian and are migrant workers from Serbia. They belong to the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Slovene (77,000) – These people speak Slovenian and are migrant workers from Slovenia, which is located in former Yugoslavia. They are strong Catholics.

Spaniard (134,000) – These people are migrant workers from Spain and Latin America. They speak Spanish and belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

Groups from Asia (Includes Russia, China, and India)

Bhojpuri (17,000) – These people speak Bhojpuri. They are from Nepal.

Burmese (500) – This group speaks Burmese.

Byelorussian (5,100) – These people speak Belarussian and are refugees from Russia since 1917. They are 30% nonreligious or belong to the Belorussian Autocephalic Orthodox Church.

Chechen (542) – They speak Chechen.

Estonian (77,000) – These are refugees from Estonia since 1940. They speak Estonian and belong to the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Exile.

Han Chinese, Mandarin (1,500) – These are residents from the Chinese diaspora. They speak Mandarin Chinese and 93% are Buddhist or Chinese folk religionists. Some also belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

Han Chinese, Yue (2,300) - These are residents from the Chinese diaspora. They speak Mandarin Chinese and 90% are Buddhist or Chinese folk religionists. Some also belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

Hindi (24,500) – These people speak Hindi and are immigrants from India. Many are merchants. Religiously, 87% are Hindus, 3% are Muslims, and 3% are Baha'is.

Japanese (2,293) – This group speaks Japanese. Of this group, 50% are Buddhists and 40% belong to New-Religions (Soka Gakkai and others). Others belong to the United Church of Christ in Japan.

Javanese (2,300) – This group speaks Javanese and are migrant workers. Religiously, 49% are Muslims and 35% are apart of Javanese mystical New Religions. They are from Indonesia.

Kazakh (6,137) – This group speaks Kazakh.

Korean (14,000) – These are migrant workers from Korea and speak Korean. This group is 20% Buddhists, 20% Shamanists, 13% Confucians, Roman Catholic, Assembly of God, or Holy Spirit Association for Unification of World Christianity.

Latvian (8,000) – These people speak Latvian and are refugees from Latvia since 1940. They are members of the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Exile.

Lithuanian (38,000) – The people speak Lithuanian and are refugees from Lithuania since 1940. They are members of the Roman Catholic Church and the Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Exile.

Punjabi (16,000) – These people speak Punjabi and are immigrants from India and Pakistan. They are 75% Muslim, 20% Sikhs, and some Hindus.

Russian (360,000) – These people are refugees from Russia since 1917 and speak Russian. They belong to the Russian Orthodox Church.

Russian Jew (61,000) – These people are immigrants from Russia since 1980. They speak Russian and 74% are Jewish, 20% nonreligious, and some are Messianic believers.

Tamil (41,000) – These are refugees from the civil war in Sri Lanka. They also relocated in Canada. They speak Tamil and are 70% Hindus, 5% Muslims, and some are Baha'i. Other denominations represented among them include the Roman Catholic Church, Evangelical Church of Germany, Seventh Day Adventists, and Jehovah's Witness.

Ukrainian (38,000) – These people are refugees from Russia since 1917. They speak Ukrainian and belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

Urdu (16,000) – These people are migrant workers and immigrants from India and Pakistan. They are 99% Muslim and speak Urdu.

Vietnamese (60,000) – These people are refugees from the Vietnamese War. They speak Vietnamese and are 40% Buddhists, 10% New-Religionists, 15% Nonreligious, or belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

Middle East and North Africa

Afghani (33,000) – This group speaks Pashto and Farsi. They are refugees from Afghanistan and 99% of them are Sunni Muslims.

Arabized Berber (25,000) – This group speaks Arabic, Tamazight, and Tangier Arabic. They are Moroccan Berber immigrants and 99% of them are Muslims.

Armenian (31,492) – This group is composed of refugees from Turkey and the USSR. They speak Armenian and belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic (800) – This group speaks Iranian Koine.

Chaldean, Neo-Aramaic (3,000) – These people speak Chaldean Neo-aramaic, which is spoken in Syria and Iraq.

Circassian (1,957) – Their language is Adyghe and they are located in Munich. They are also found in the former USSR, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Iraq, Yugoslavia, and the USA. They are 99% Sunni Muslims.

Irani (110,000) – These people speak Farsi and are refugees from Iran. They serve as merchants and 97% of them are Muslim.

Kurmanji, Northern Kurd (296,000) – This group speaks Kurmanji. They are migrant workers and refugees from Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. Of them, 40,000 speak Zaza and 10,000 speak Sorani. Religiously, 99% of them are Muslims.

Morooccan Arab (46,000) – These people speak Libyan and Arabic. They are migrant workers from Morocco and 99% of them are Muslims.

North African Arab (25,000) – This group consists of migrant workers from Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, and Niger. They are 95% Muslim and their languages are Arabic and Judeo-moroccan.

Persian, Irani (23,000) – These people speak Farsi and are merchants from Iran. They are 97% Muslim.

Shawiya (37,000) – These people speak Chaouia. This group are Berbers from North Africa.

Syrian Aramaic (20,000) – These people speak Turoyo, which is a Syrian Aramaic language. They are also found in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, USA, Sweden, and the Netherlands. They belong to the Syrian Orthodox Church (Jacobites), Nestorian church, or the Roman Catholic Church.

Tunisian Arab (26,000) – These people use Arabic, but speak Libyan. They are immigrants and workers from Tunisia and they are 99% Muslim.

Turk (2,110,000) – These people are immigrant laborers from Turkey. They speak Turkish and are 99% Muslim.

North American Groups

USA Black (41,000) – These are members of the US military. They speak English and belong to the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, Assembly of God, Mormon, Church of Christ Scientist, Seventh Day Adventist, Jehovah's Witness, or the Christian Church of North America.

USA White (92,000) – These people are expatriates from the USA or belong to the American military. They speak English and belong to the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, Assembly of God, Mormon, Church of Christ Scientist, Seventh Day Adventist, Jehovah's Witness, or the Christian Church of North America.

African Groups

Amhara (5,700) – This group speaks Amharic and are immigrants from Ethiopia. They belong to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

Religion in Germany

Its ties to the Reformation with Lutheran have dominated religion in Germany, Reformed groups numbering almost 21 million with 26.8 million adherents. Totals for Protestants in Germany are 27, 995 and for Catholics 27,000,000. The non-religious groups number 21.862,429 or 26.59 percent of the population. These figures indicate that the non-religious groups almost equal the Protestants and Catholics and EKD (a federation of Lutheran, Reformed, and United Lutheran groups). Sizable groups of other religions likewise live in modern Germany.

The Non-Religious

The presence, increase, and persistence of the non-religious groups in Germany indicate the serious spiritual conditions that prevail. The number of atheists in Germany

has slightly decreased after the fall of Communism in the east. The number of non-religious has grown however. Post-war affluence, secularization, the corrosive effects of Marxist ideology, the enervating influences unevangelical theological movements such liberalism, biblical criticism, and neo-orthodox teachings have joined to result in serious decline in the strength, reputation, and influence of the Christian movement and the churches.

In 1970, atheists and non-religious people comprised around 9.6% of the total population but in 1995 they numbered as high as 19.3% of the population. The percentage had risen to 26.59% in 2000. These figures exclude those who belong to a church, but are non-practicing Christians. These non-practicing Christians were 34.5% of the population in 1995.

The Church and the churches have fallen outside the mainline of Germany society. An exodus from organized Christianity has increased in the latter decades of the 20th Century. During the 1990s almost 600,000 persons opted out of paying the church tax. These decisions not only seriously impacted the ministry of the churches but also revealed the place that Christianity no longer holds in the lives of the people. Some 70% of the people claim to be Christian but only 45% believe in a personal God and less than 8 % attend worship regularly. Only 5% of the Protestant EKD members and 18% of the Catholics are active in church life. Only 3% of the German men are active in church. Open hostility exists toward anything related to Christianity.

A significant rise is occurring in groups such as the occult, Satanism, and New Age ideology. Also, an increase in neo-Nazi movements seems to be promoting a rising incidence in violence against non-Germans. The picture in Germany is one of declining Christian influence and increasing non-religious activity.

The Catholic Church in Germany

The Catholic Church established three sees in Germany during the 3rd century and Christianity began to be the dominant religion after the conversion of King Clovis in 496. Scottish-Irish missionary monks, including Columba, came to Germany during the sixth century. Boniface, who was protected by Charles Martel, gave himself to the conversion of the German people and became an archbishop without a fixed see in 722. Conflicts between the church and the German states continued until the Concordant of Worms largely resolved matters in 1122. By the end of the 12th Century, Catholic power had extended largely the result of military campaigns by the Order of Teutonic Knights.

Early signs of dissent from the Catholic Church erupted in the region of Germany before the period known as the Reformation. John Huss was burned at the stake in 1415 because of his critical attitude toward the clergy and his championing of dissent theological views. In 1517, Martin Luther hung his 95 Theses on the church door at Wittenburg, beginning the Protestant Reformation. Germany was then split between Catholicism and Lutheranism. The north of Germany became Lutheran and the southern part remaining mostly Catholic. The Schmalkeldic League was formed in 1531 primarily

among the princes in the north who sided with the Lutheran position. This led to fighting between the groups. The Peace of Augsburg of 1555 settled the conflict by determining that the leader would determine the region's religion

The Council of Trent marked the beginning of the Counter-Reformation, which indirectly led to the Thirty Years War (1618 – 48). This war was fought between Catholic and Protestant princes and produced serious consequences for Germany. Germany's population was reduced from 16 million to 6 million and its commerce and intellectual life were destroyed. The Peace of Westphalia ended the Thirty Years War and again gave the leader the right to determine which religion would be practiced in a particular area. The reformed movement of Calvin and Zwingli were also added as accepted religions.

During the reign of Napoleon, many of the smaller German states were amalgamated into the larger states, where religion was more heterogeneous. Following World War I, the Protestant churches lost their political supremacy, but they continued to count a majority of the population. During the Third Reich, an attempt was made to establish a government controlled united Protestant church, but it was unsuccessful.

The Catholic proportion increased in all the areas of the north due to increased immigration following World War II. The Catholic population generally declined in the south and western areas. In 1945, the Western Allies assigned the Catholic and Protestant churches with a role in the reorganization of the new Germany. One result was the formation of the Christian Democrats. The Christian Democrats is a political party with 75% Catholic membership that governed Germany without interruption until 1969.

The Catholic Church has an increased number of people affiliating with them, due to the offspring of current members joining the church. They however, are struggling with issues of decreased church attendance, advancing age of priests, secular priests, and decreases in the number of ordinations. The laity is becoming more involved in the worship services and 6% of all priests abandon their ministry within the first four years of service.

The use of the laity in the services has been met with some opposition from Rome. The decreasing church attendance is a problem for Catholics. In 1990, there were 90,000 Catholics removed from the membership and only 22% of the membership attended weekly mass in the area of West Germany.

The Catholic Church in Germany numbers over 21, 094,000 members and 27 million adherents. These figures give the Catholics some 32.84% of those who claim to be Christians in Germany.

Marginal Christian Groups in Germany

Germany is home to several groups that while they carry the name of Christian cannot actually be considered Christian.

The Jehovah's Witnesses [*Zeugen Jehovas*] began in Germany around 1897 and claim some 2114 congregations and 167,494 members with over 270,000 adherents. They were banned from East Germany in 1949, but maintained an underground following. Schisms within Jehovah's Witnesses have formed the Kingdom of God Church and the Free Bible Congregation.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) [*Kirche Jesus Christ der Heiligen der Letzten Tage*] began in Germany as early as 1845 and have 185 congregations, 17,568 members, and over 39,000 adherents.

Christian Science [*Christliche Wissenschaft*] began in Germany in 1907 and has 114 congregations, 5500 members, and 10000 adherents.

Evangelical Church of the Revelation for St. John the Divine - This Church began in 1926 and now has some 15 congregations, 2000 members, and 4000 adherents.

Other marginal groups include Anthroposophical society, Nature Philosophy Union, and the Free Christian People's Church.

Evangelical Churches in Germany

The population of Protestants in Germany has fallen from just over 50% in 1970 to 37.5% in 1995. Germany has experienced a large loss in church attendance as has also been common in East Germany and other western European countries. The 10% church tax deducted by the government for all people belonging to a church has contributed to an increased withdrawal rate among churches since 1970.

In all the church groups in Germany, the lack of leadership and leadership training marks a significant need in Germany. In the mid 1990s, over 12000 Protestants and 10000 Catholic students were in the universities that provided training for church leadership. These numbers are in rapid decline.

Evangelical Church in Germany (*Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, EKD*) is composed of 28 territorial people's churches in Germany. The EKD was founded after World War II as an attempt to establish a strong Protestant church out of the preceding 400 years of turmoil. The EKD remains more of a federation of autonomous churches than a single unified body. Of the 28 EKD member churches, 14 are Lutheran, 12 are United Lutheran and Reformed, and 2 are Reformed.

The EKD Federation boasts some 18,200 congregations with 20,938,000 members and 26,800,000 adherents.

EKD churches are heavily involved in medical and social services. They support some secondary schools, some of which have existed since the Reformation. All the medical and social work is coordinated through the Diaconal work of the Evangelical Church in Germany (*Diakonisches Werk der EKD*). This group was founded in 1957 and is responsible for 300 medical institutions (hospitals, clinics, etc.) and thousands of other institutions (orphanages, youth, aged, alcoholics, ex-convicts, and others).

Federation of Free Evangelical Congregations in Germany This federation traces its work back to 1854 and now has 477 congregations, 19817 members with 45000 adherents.

Free Brethren, Plymouth Bruder [*Freier Bruderkreiss*] several groups have some 290 congregations with 30,000 members and 56000 adherents

Lutheran and Reformed Churches Several independent and reformed Lutheran groups are also active in Germany. The largest is the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded in 1972 by the merger of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church with the Old Lutherans. There are also Evangelical Lutheran Churches related to the Missouri and Wisconsin Synod Lutherans in the USA. There are also Lutheran churches that have been established to minister to refugees from Eastern Europe. Two other Reformed churches serve refugees and expatriates from Hungary and the Netherlands.

These groups number some 1405 congregations with around 14,500 members and 23,300 adherents.

Orthodox Church in Germany - More than nine Orthodox Church groups minister in Germany. The largest of these is the Greek Orthodox Church has some 60 congregations with 265,000 members and 380,000 adherents. Russian Orthodox is divided into two groups, one under the Patriarch of Moscow and the other the Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. These Orthodox Churches have 82 congregations, 32,895 members and 50,000 adherents. Other Orthodox churches serve refugees in exile, such as Armenians, Romanians, Serbians, and Ukrainians and report over 100,000 members..

Moravian Brethren Church - The Mennonites trace their history back to the 16th century and the Moravians to the 18th century. The Moravian Brethren had only a small presence in Germany before reunification, but their center at Herrnhut, founded by Zinzendorf in 1722, continues to serve as their world headquarters. The Moravian Brethren Church has 32 congregations, 16000 members and 25000 adherents.

Baptist Union [*Bund Evangelische Freikirchlicher Gemeinin Deutschland*] The work of congregations associated with the Baptist Union of Germany began in 1834 and now has some 340 congregations (695 Barrett), 150,000 members (66,672 Barrett) and 312,000 adherents (250,000 Barrett). Some German Baptists work in conjunction with the Southern Baptists from the USA.

The Methodist Church [*Evangelisch methodistische Kirche*] began in Germany in 1830 and now has 650 congregations (1200 Barrett), 30,000 members (59,000 Barrett) and 80,000 adherents (100,000 Barrett).

Seventh-day Adventist [*Sieberten Tags Adventisten*] began their ministry in Germany in 1875 and now have 577 congregations, 35,475 members, and 53000 adherents

Other groups represented include: Plymouth Brethren, Congregationalists, Salvation Army, Assemblies of God, and several small Pentecostal denominations. In 1971, a charismatic youth movement began in Eastern Germany and continued to spread independent of the organized churches. In the early 1990's, hundred of third wave church fellowships arose in Germany and range in size from small house meetings to worship services with thousands in attendance. These independent churches positioned themselves as an alternative to the EKD and often criticized the established churches.

Independent Churches

Several independent church groups serve in Germany.

The Old Catholic Church [*Alt-Katholische Kirche in Deutschland*] resulted from a break from the Catholic Church after Vatican I. The group disagreed with the doctrine of papal infallibility so they formed this new church in 1874. The Church has around 212 congregations, 15,000 members and 20,000 adherents. .

New Apostolic Church (NAC). This Church, formed from the Catholic Apostolic Church, in England around 1830. The New Apostolic Church was formed as a schism from the Catholic Apostolic Church in 1863. Forty-eight living apostles and a chief apostle govern the New Apostolic Church. The chief apostle has semi-papal powers, represents Christ on earth, and is regarded as the successor to Peter.

The NAC has 700 congregations, with 289,000 members, and 390,000 adherents. The NAC claims over one million members worldwide and has world headquarters in Dortmund. This church is the largest church in Germany aside from the Catholic and Protestant territorial churches.

Other Religious Groups in Germany

Islam

In 1995, the Muslim population in Germany was numbered around 3 million people. This figure indicated substantial increase over previous years when Muslims increased from 0.6% of the total population to almost 4.0% of the population (3.70%). This growth can be attributed to both illegal and legal immigration. Turkish Muslims account for the largest group of Muslims.

Muslims are estimated to be increasing at a rate of 5.1 % and to have reached a total of 3,042, 158. The growth rate of Muslims compares to – 1.0 % for all under the name Christian (Catholics, Orthodox, Marginal, Protestant). The Muslim population, which continues to grow due to immigration, is expected to become almost 10% of the population in 2025.

In the 1980's and 90's, a small group of young people participated in increased violence against Muslims.

Judaism

In 1929, the total Jewish population in Germany was 564,379. During the war, many escaped to other countries and 160,000 were murdered in Nazi concentration camps. After the holocaust, only a few thousand remained in Germany,

In the 1960's, the total Jewish population reached 40,000. The decreasing numbers can be attributed to an increased number of deaths as opposed to births and immigration. Today, the Jewish communities have nearly 100,000 members (98,665 or 0.12 % of the population). Most of the Jewish people came to Germany from countries of the former Soviet Union. Berlin, Munich, and Frankfurt have the largest concentration of Jewish people.

In 1965, a federal law concerning damaged property made it possible for many synagogues to be restored. A Jewish school reopened in Frankfurt and an academy in Heidelberg. In East Germany, before reunification, the state subsidized the construction, reconstruction, and upkeep of the nine synagogues and Jewish cemeteries in the country.

Baha'i

The Baha'i faith entered Germany before 1921. They have located one of their seven temples of the world near Frankfurt, Germany. The Baha'i number over 32,888 or .04 % of the population but show a growth rate of +8.6 % almost 9 times the Christian growth rate.

Buddhist

Recent immigrations have boosted the numbers of Buddhists to 41,110 or 0.05 % of the population. The Buddhist groups are increasing at a + 20.3 % annual rate. Germany has had easy immigration policies in the past and many people have sought refuge there. The Tibetan Buddhists have a strong presence there. Also, many Tamil people seeking refuge from the civil war in Sri Lanka have moved to Germany.

Interdenominational Organizations

In East Germany, the Council of Christian Churches was founded in 1970. It included the eight territorial Protestant churches, Baptists, Reformed, Mennonites, Methodists, Moravians, Congregationalists, Old Catholics, and Old Lutherans. This council was an associate council of the World Council of Churches. After the reunification of East and West Germany, this council merged into the Council of Christian Churches in Germany founded in 1948 and headquartered in Frankfurt. Members of the Council of Christian Churches include the Evangelical Churches of Germany, Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Baptists, Mennonites, Methodists, Moravians, Old Catholics, Old Reformed, and Salvation Army. This group promotes theological study, research, and ecumenical cooperation on the local, national, and international level and is an associate council of the World Council of Churches.

The Evangelical Alliance unites the Evangelicals of Germany (about 1.5 million in 1990). They provide joint ministries in social action, national weeks of prayer, evangelism, and missionary information and outreach. Related to this group is the Association of Evangelical Missions.

Future Trends

After Germany was unified, church attendance increased in the former East German regions. In the areas of West Germany, atheism and non-religious attitudes continues to grow. The percentage of Christians is expected to decline in future years.

Missiological Implications

1. The Gospel must be presented as relevant for the German people with the power to transform their lives.

Germany has been a place historically of religious tension, from the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation to present day. German 19th century criticism of the Bible has hurt the Bible's validity among many Germans. They view the Bible as irrelevant and unimportant. Marxist influences are also prevalent in the former East Germany, which hurts the Bible's validity among the people. Many Germans have begun to look to astrology, the occult, and New Age religion for answers.

2. Pastors and church leaders need to rekindle a passion for God, Christ, and the Bible.

Many Germans are leaving the church so that they will no longer have to pay church taxes. Church attendance is considerable low.

3. Evangelical witness and new evangelical church starting is needed in several areas of the country.

The areas of Berlin, Bavaria, Eiffel, on the Belgian border, and other regions have very little evangelical witness. This condition is true in spite of the influence of the Reformation and the continued presence of churches. Note map .

4. An effort should be made to reach the major cities within Germany.

83% of the people in Germany reside in the cities. There are several cities with over one million people living there. Many of the cities show signs of increasing secularity and spiritual decline. Less than 50 % of the population of Berlin are affiliated with any church.

5. A concerted effort to reach Germany's youth should become an evangelical priority.

Germany's youth today have more material possessions than any other generation. They increasingly search for answers and feel isolated and lonely.

Over 50 % of active Christians in Germany are over 50 years of age.

Christian resources could aid significant efforts already seen on the part of several groups. SMD [IFES] (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) has 50 groups in the 163 universities and 1000 groups in the 6100 secondary schools. The CCCI (Campus Crusade for Christ, International) has 116 workers in 6 universities and in churches. Navigators have 33 staff workers engaged in

university witness. A movement, *Wort und Wissen*, prepares students for university life by leading them to Christian foundations. The YMCA is an evangelical organization with 260,000 members. CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) has 40 staff workers committed to children's work.

Some youth are also involved in the neo-Nazi movement that promotes violence among non-Germans.

6. The Protestant Churches need revival.

The EKD has been divided on moral, political, and theological issues. The EKD is crippled by lack of unity and the influence of the church in society is diminishing.

7. Evangelical Christians need to work together for the evangelization of Germany.

The Evangelical Alliance has 1.5 million members and is working toward evangelizing Germany.

8. Theological Education needs to be improved in Germany.

The universities that award the theological degrees necessary to minister in the EKD churches have been influenced by decades of liberal, neo-orthodox, and other non-biblical teachings. Evangelicals should provide alternatives to these schools and also seek to work with them to provide more wholesome theological training.

9. An effort should be made to reach the number of immigrants within Germany.

There have been considerable numbers of immigrants coming to Germany. This is especially true of many Muslim immigrants. Other immigrants include people from Russian and Eastern Europe. These people could be reached with the Gospel and they could then reach the natives in their homelands.

10. Churches within the former East Germany need to be renewed.

The churches in East German were more vigorous under Communism influence than they are now. There were large prayer meetings and better church attendance under Communism. Now, church attendance has fallen and the church needs to demonstrate to the people the importance of the Gospel.