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West Germany then comprised 11 states and West Berlin , which was given the special status of a state without voting rights. As a provisional solution until an anticipated reunification with the eastern sector, the capital was located in the small university town of Bonn. On October 7, , the Soviet zone of occupation was transformed into a separate, nominally sovereign country if under Soviet hegemony , known formally as the German Democratic Republic and popularly as East Germany. The five federal states within the Soviet zone were abolished and reorganized into 15 administrative districts Bezirke , of which the Soviet sector of Berlin became the capital. Full sovereignty was achieved only gradually in West Germany; many powers and prerogatives , including those of direct intervention, were retained by the Western powers and devolved to the West German government only as it was able to become economically and politically stable. West Germany finally achieved full sovereignty on May 5, Gradual rapprochements between the two governments helped regularize the anomalous situation, especially concerning travel, transportation, and the status of West Berlin as an exclave of the Federal Republic. The dissolution of the communist bloc in the late s opened the way to German unification. As a condition for unification and its integration into the Federal Republic, East Germany was required to reconstitute the five historical states of Brandenburg , Mecklenburg&€”West Pomerania , Saxony , Saxony-Anhalt , and Thuringia. As states of the united Germany, they adopted administrative, judicial, educational, and social structures parallel and analogous to those in the states of former West Germany. East and West Berlin were reunited and now form a single state. For example, Berlin was no longer technically occupied territory, with ultimate authority vested in the military governors. In reaction to the centralization of power during the Nazi era, the Basic Law granted the states considerable autonomy. In addition to federalism , the Basic Law has two other features similar to the Constitution of the United States: The formal chief of state is the president. Intended to be an elder statesman of stature, the president is chosen for a five-year term by a specially convened assembly. However, the president cannot dismiss either the federal chancellor or the Bundestag Federal Diet , the lower chamber of the federal parliament. Among other important presidential functions are those of appointing federal judges and certain other officials and the right of pardon and reprieve. The government is headed by the chancellor, who is elected by a majority vote of the Bundestag upon nomination by the president. Vested with considerable independent powers, the chancellor is responsible for initiating government policy. The cabinet and its ministries also enjoy extensive autonomy and powers of initiative. The chancellor can be deposed only by an absolute majority of the Bundestag and only after a majority has been assured for the election of a successor. Indeed, the constructive vote of no confidence has been used only once to remove a chancellor from office in Helmut Schmidt was defeated on such a motion and replaced with Helmut Kohl. The cabinet may not be dismissed by a vote of no confidence by the Bundestag. The president may not unseat a government or, in a crisis, call upon a political leader at his discretion to form a new government. The latter constitutional provision is based on the experience of the sequence of events whereby Adolf Hitler became chancellor in The German Bundestag, Berlin. These nondelegate members speak or answer questions during parliamentary debates. The Bundestag , which consists of about members the precise number of members varies depending on election results , is the cornerstone of the German system of government. It exercises much wider powers than the member upper chamber, known as the Bundesrat Federal Council. Bundesrat delegations represent the interests of the state governments and are bound to vote unanimously as instructed by their provincial governments. All legislation originates in the Bundestag; the consent of the Bundesrat is necessary only on certain matters directly affecting the interests of the states, especially in the area of finance and administration and for legislation in which questions of the Basic Law are involved. It may restrain the Bundestag by rejecting certain routine legislation passed by the lower chamber; unless a bill falls within certain categories that enable the Bundesrat to exercise an absolute veto over legislation, its vote against a bill may be overridden by a simple majority in

the Bundestag, or by a two-thirds majority in the Bundestag should there be a two-thirds majority opposed in the Bundesrat. To amend the Basic Law, approval by a two-thirds vote in each chamber is required. The powers of the Bundestag are kept in careful balance with those of the Landtage, the state parliaments. Certain powers are specifically reserved to the republic—for example, foreign affairs, defense, post and telecommunications, customs, international trade, and matters affecting citizenship. The Bundestag and the states may pass concurrent legislation in such matters when it is necessary and desirable, or the Bundestag may set out certain guidelines for legislation; drawing from these, each individual Landtag may enact legislation in keeping with its own needs and circumstances. In principle, the Bundestag initiates or approves legislation in matters in which uniformity is essential, but the Landtage otherwise are free to act in areas in which they are not expressly restrained by the Basic Law. Regional and local government Certain functions e. The state governments are generally parallel in structure to that of the Bund but need not be. In 13 states the head of government has a cabinet and ministers; each of these states also has its own parliamentary body. In the city-states of Hamburg, Bremen, and Berlin, the mayor serves simultaneously as the head of the city government and the state government. In the city-states the municipal senates serve also as provincial parliaments, and the municipal offices assume the nature of provincial ministries. The administrative subdivisions of the states exclusive of the city-states and the Saarland are the Regierungsbezirke administrative districts. Below these are the divisions known as Kreise counties. Larger communities enjoy the status of what in the United Kingdom was formerly the county borough. Voters may pass laws on certain issues via referenda at the municipal and state levels.

Chapter 2 : Welcome to Stein Marks.

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Part of the Soviet section became East Germany, and other parts became western Poland and small parts of other countries. Walter Ulbricht , the head of the SED, also had a lot of power. Pieck died in , and Ulbricht became "Chairman of the State Council". Now he was really the head of state. On 13 August , the Berlin Wall was built. According to the SED this was to make it hard for American spies to use West Berlin as a place to work from, but it also made it hard for normal people to move between east and west. In the city of Leipzig , people met every Monday and demonstrated, and so these demonstrations are called Montagsdemonstrationen "Monday Demonstrations". Erich Honecker wished that the Soviets would use its army to suppress these demonstrations. The Soviet Union, with its own political and economical problems, refused and did not want to help Eastern Europe anymore. Honecker was eventually forced to resign on October 18, Krenz tried to show that he was looking for change within the GDR but the citizens did not trust him. The spokesman who announced the new travel law incorrectly said that it would take effect immediately, implying the Berlin Wall would open that night. People began to gather at border checkpoints at the wall hoping to be let through, but the guards told them that they had no orders to let citizens through. As the number of people grew, the guards became alarmed and tried to contact their superiors but had no responses. Unwilling to use force, the chief guard at the checkpoint relented at Thousands of East-Germans swarmed into West Berlin and the purpose of the wall was deemed now obsolete. On 18 March , there were free elections in the GDR. Even though the western and the eastern part joined back together in , people from former West Germany still call people from East Germany "Ossi". This comes from the German word "Osten" which means "East". Ossi is not always meant kindly. They closed down lots of the places people worked and tried to make it look like East Germany never existed. This made lots of people lose their jobs and become poor. Today lots of people who used to live in East Germany want it to come back. This is called "Ostalgie", which means "East nostalgia". There were other parties in the GDR, which were called the Blockparteien "block parties" , their job was mostly to cooperate with the SED: It searched for people who were against the state, the SED and their politics. The MfS had many informants who told them when people said or did something against the state. There was a big MfS prison in the town of Bautzen.

Chapter 3 : Designed in Germany since in SearchWorks catalog

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British experiences in post-war Germany, highlight some general principles which are relevant today: Let us now win the peace. There is a limit to how much preparation can be done in advance because it is impossible to predict actual circumstances on the ground. Therefore military commanders and civilian authorities need to respond flexibly in light of what they encounter. Democracy cannot be imposed by force or by totalitarian means. If political structures are to last beyond the occupation, they have to be created by local political leaders and accepted by the population as a whole. Personal relationships between occupier and occupied are important. Reconciliation does not happen automatically, but requires a conscious effort on both sides. It was originally intended that the country would be governed as a single entity by central German administrations, in accordance with decisions made by the four Allies acting jointly through the Allied Control Council in Berlin, but in practice each of the Allies ran their zone more or less independently for the first two years of the occupation. It was not until , four years after the end of the war, that the three western zones formally joined together to form the Federal Republic of West Germany, and the Soviet zone became the German Democratic Republic East Germany. This policy paper examines the situation in the British zone, between and Many of the conclusions appear to be equally valid for the US and French zones, although the detailed situation, policies pursued and timescales varied in each zone. In the east, the German Democratic Republic was to prove a loyal ally of the Soviet Union for over 40 years until the fall of the Berlin Wall in and become, in the meantime, relatively affluent compared to other members of the Soviet bloc. Politically and diplomatically, Germany was de-nazified, disarmed as an independent military force and the Western and Eastern parts firmly anchored within the NATO and Warsaw Pact alliances. Success, however, was not a foregone conclusion. A superficial understanding of Allied policies and actions and the German response may create unjustified complacency that once victory is achieved and dictatorial regimes removed from power, sufficient financial investment and the adoption of free market economic policies will be enough to create stable and prosperous democracies. The difficult period of transition, between the end of the war in Europe in May and the creation of an independent Federal Republic of Germany in , involved hard choices. Governing the British zone of occupied Germany offers relevant lessons for contemporary operations. The situation in Germany in In May Germany was in chaos. The economy was at a standstill and no central government remained to implement instructions issued by the Allies. Millions of people were homeless, or attempting to return to homes that no longer existed. Ivone Kirkpatrick, later appointed head of the German Department and subsequently Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, described his first impressions of Germany in Field-Marshal Montgomery, appointed Commander-in-Chief and Military Governor of the British zone of occupation on 22 May , later recalled the immediate problems they faced: Writing in January , his deputy, General Brian Robertson, described the first phase of the occupation, immediately before and after the German unconditional surrender in May The directives were not many, and much was left to the initiative of individuals – the detachments entered into a land of desolation and bewilderment. Government above the level of the parish council had ceased. Faced with problems which appeared alarmingly similar to those their predecessors had faced only 25 years earlier, Montgomery, Robertson and their colleagues tried to avoid the mistakes they believed had been made then. The lessons they drew from the failure to secure a lasting peace after the First World War, were not only that Germany should be completely demilitarised and its industries controlled to prevent future re-armament, but that law and order had to be restored, steps taken to prevent epidemics of disease, and economic activity re-started, to try to prevent the unemployment and social unrest which had, they believed, contributed to the rise of extreme political parties and the Nazi seizure of power in The resources available under his direct command were the army and the civilian Control Commission, which had been established in the final year of the war and transferred to Germany in July and August As early as July , less than three months after the end of the war, he issued a new draft directive to British army

commanders and Control Commission heads of division, finalised on 10 September. Unlike earlier wartime directives, the new directive identified steps to be taken to reconstruct German economic and political life, address shortages of food, fuel and housing, improve transport facilities, re-open schools, permit freedom of assembly, licence political parties and prepare for future elections. British army engineers restored much of the transport infrastructure and the economy started to revive, but severe shortages of labour and raw materials meant that production remained at very low levels. Despite widespread concern over incidents of TB, Hunger Oedema and other diseases, there were no serious epidemics in post-war Germany. The supply of food, however, was a constant problem. Due to the high cost of food imports and the lack of exports to pay for these due to low levels of production, shortages of labour and raw materials, the zone proved to be an economic liability instead of the expected asset. What contribution to revival was made by British economic policies during the first four years of occupation? There were some notable achievements, such as restoration of transport infrastructure, and the preservation and effective management of some enterprises taken into Military Government ownership, such as Volkswagen. Yet the essential British contribution to future German economic revival lay in providing a period of stability after the war, restoring order and the rule of law, and securing the provision of basic services, even though in many areas, such as food and housing, this could only be done at a low level. In so doing, the British provided an environment which enabled Germans to succeed and create economic prosperity through their own efforts. Political renewal Responsibility for re-establishing democratic structures and processes of government in the British zone was devolved to the Administration and Local Government ALG branch of the Control Commission. The set of directives issued by the War Office in October contained no guidance on the issue, apart from instructions to remove all former Nazis from public office and positions of responsibility, and a general requirement to promote decentralisation and the development of local responsibility. None of the senior officials in the branch had previous experience of working in local government positions in Britain. Those who did have suitable qualifications generally preferred to stay in Britain, where there was great demand for skilled personnel in a labour market distorted by six years of war. Harold Ingrams, the head of branch, was a former colonial official. He reported to an army general. Soldiers and former colonial officials, with no personal experience of democratic processes, were therefore given the job of creating a democratic system, in a country that had been ruled by a fascist dictatorship for the past 12 years. They had to create a new political system, in a foreign country, that would prevent another Hitler coming to power. This, he believed, could best be achieved by a policy of decentralisation, starting the process of political renewal at local level, giving people responsibility for their own communities. Ingrams and his colleagues in the ALG branch then built from the bottom up, creating nominated representative councils for towns, cities and rural districts. During the first two years of the occupation, British policy in local government moved from direct to indirect rule. Political parties were licensed from late , initially at local, then at regional and zonal level, and elections were held in October to select representatives for city, district and regional councils. Only those functions of government which could not be performed regionally, such as central economic planning or managing the transport infrastructure, were retained at zonal level under Military Government control, pending agreement between the Allies on the future governmental structure for Germany as a whole. Over time, British officials learnt that they could not impose democracy by force. At first, Ingrams tried to introduce a British model of democracy in Germany. These attempts were generally unsuccessful. They were supported by German exiles in London, and by John Hynd, the Minister for Germany, who had close links with some of the exiles. When discussing future political structures, both sides agreed on many key principles – that individuals should be safeguarded against excessive demands from an authoritarian government, and that the electoral system should be designed to promote stable government with an effective but loyal opposition, and discourage extreme political parties. In many cases, the outcome was a compromise, containing elements of both the British and pre-Nazi German systems. A policy of introducing democracy by persuasion, not by force or by unilateral decree, appears to have succeeded, despite well-publicised concerns which emerged from the s and continue to the present that some former Nazis remained in positions of authority and influence. Personal reconciliation In the first two years after the war, instructions issued to British administrative staff and army personnel regarding personal

relations with German civilians changed completely, from non-fraternisation and a ban on all contacts with Germans other than those necessary for their work, to official support for all forms of activity that promoted mutual understanding and personal reconciliation. British soldiers and administrators have recorded in diaries, memoirs and oral history interviews how they came to know Germans during the occupation through work, meeting socially as friends, as lovers, or eventually as husbands and wives. Around 10, British soldiers and officials married German women they met during the occupation. Once power started to be devolved to local German administrations, British officials could no longer issue instructions to German subordinates. Relations between British and Germans were not harmonious throughout the occupation. There were some tense conflicts, hunger strikes and demonstrations. Requisitioning of accommodation for the occupying forces was especially unpopular among the Germans, at a time of massive housing shortages. Many Germans also objected to the privileges of the occupying forces, such as clubs and hotels exclusively for their use, and reserved compartments on some local trains in cities such as Hamburg. But in general, reconciliation worked in post-war Germany, because personal initiatives, at many levels, received official support and encouragement and were combined with active collaboration between the British and local German administrations. Reconciliation required a conscious effort on both sides. It did not happen automatically.

Conclusion The military occupations of Germany and Japan after the Second World War are probably the most prominent examples in modern times of the economic and political reconstruction of a defeated country. Historian John Dower, for example, has suggested that they were used by US policymakers in and as examples of successful military occupations. Despite the successful outcome, however, post-conflict reconstruction in occupied Germany should not be seen as a direct model for countries where specific circumstances may be very different. If there had been armed resistance in occupied Germany, requiring British troops to fight back and possibly kill civilians, as has occurred in other post-conflict situations such as Iraq, the outcome might have been very different. There was no armed resistance because Germany had been completely defeated in war and the Nazi government utterly discredited. Acceptance by a majority of both occupiers and occupied that the previous regime had been illegitimate, together with the establishment of law and order, peace and internal security, adequate supplies of food and measures to prevent disease, were the crucial pre-conditions for the positive work of reconstruction. The British experience, however, illustrates some general principles which are relevant today. Firstly, political solutions cannot be imposed from above by force or by decree. Secondly “ and correspondingly “ there is a need for flexibility. Thirdly, it is important to provide a period of stability after the end of a war and the removal of the previous government, to give local people the space to develop political, economic, social and cultural institutions and practices.

Chapter 4 : German political system

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The voters in the election for President are known collectively as the Federal Convention, which consists of all members of the Bundestag and an equal number of members nominated by the state legislatures - a total of 1, The head of the government is the Chancellor equivalent to the British Prime Minister. Merkel came into office in so that she has now served 13 years as Chancellor. However, following poor performances by her party in both federal and state elections, she has announced that she will step down as Chancellor at the next federal elections in Every four years, after national elections and the convocation of the newly elected members of the Bundestag, the Chancellor is elected by a majority of the members of the Bundestag upon the proposal of the President. This vote is one of the few cases where a majority of all elected members of the Bundestag must be achieved, as opposed to a mere majority of those that are currently assembled. Most significantly, the Chancellor cannot be dismissed by a simple vote of no confidence but only by a "constructive vote of no confidence" with majority support for an alternative named Chancellor. Since , only two constructive votes of no confidence have been attempted in and and only one that in has been successful. This special type of no confidence vote was invented in West Germany, but is today also used in other nations, such as Belgium, Spain, Hungary, Slovenia and Lesotho. In the six decades of the Bundestag, there have been only eight Chancellors - a remarkable element of stability. In the same period of time, Italy has had almost 40 Prime Ministers although some have served several separate terms of office. As in Britain or France, day to day government is carried out by a Cabinet, the members of which are formally appointed by the President but in practice chosen by the Chancellor. Since Germany has a system of proportional representation for the election of its lower house, no one party wins an absolute majority of the seats and all German governments are therefore coalitions. Following the federal election in , it took almost three months to form a new government. This forced the two major parties to negotiate another GroKo. After almost six months of uncertainty - the longest the country has been without a government in postwar history- an agreement was reached in March and subsequently endorsed in a ballot of SPD members. The price of this deal is that the Social Democrats take control of the finance, foreign and labour ministries. The CSU has the interior ministry. Its members are elected for four-year terms. The method of election is known as mixed member proportional representation MMPR , a more complicated system than first-past-post but one which gives a more proportional result a variant of this system known as the additional member system is used for the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly. Half of the members of the Bundestag are elected directly from constituencies using the first-past-the post method of election. Then the other half - another - are elected from the lists of the parties on the basis of each Land the 16 regions that make up Germany. This means that each voter has two votes in the elections to the Bundestag. The first vote allows voters to elect their local representatives to the Parliament and decides which candidates are sent to Parliament from the constituencies. The second vote is cast for a party list and it is this second vote that determines the relative strengths of the parties represented in the Bundestag. So each Land or state has a given number of directly elected members and each party in each Land has a list which determines the order of selection of any members chosen as a result of the application of the second vote. Each of these parties is allocated seats in the Bundestag in proportion to the number of votes it has received. This system is designed to block membership of the Bundestag to small, extremist parties. As a consequence, there are always a small number of parties with representation in the Bundestag - currently the figure is only seven and effectively the CDU and the CSU are the same party. There was a problem with the electoral system, however. Many voters "split" their ballots, voting for a candidate from one party with their first vote and for a different party with their second. This also meant that the Bundestag swelled from its theoretical size of seats to In , the Constitutional Court ruled that this was unfair and unconstitutional. So, in , a new system was finally agreed. If direct mandates for any party exceed its second-vote ratio, then all the other parties get compensated so that the ratios again reflect the second votes exactly - so-called "Ausgleichmandate". In practice, that could make the Bundestag bigger again,

with perhaps more than seats. Crucially, it also hurts one party by withdrawing an advantage it has enjoyed in the past: As a result, the CDU is likely to fare worse under the new system than it would have done under the previous system. A further consequence of this system is that every new legislative period begins with a construction crew moving, removing or adding seats on the plenary floor in the Reichstag. One striking difference when comparing the Bundestag with the American Congress or the British House of Commons is the lack of time spent on serving constituents in Germany. In part, it is because constituency service seems not to be perceived, either by the electorate or by the representatives, as a critical function of the legislator and a practical constraint on the expansion of constituent service is the limited personal staff of Bundestag members especially compared to members of the US Congress. Traditionally proceedings in the Bundestag have been conducted respectfully in contrast to many other legislatures around the world - but the result of the last federal election and the formation of a new grand coalition may change things somewhat. So the Bundestag is likely to hear a more robust tone from its members. The Bundestag elects the Chancellor for a four-year term and it is the main legislative body. The last federal election was held on 24 September and the next election to the Bundestag will be in Autumn there is a permissible window of two months. Voting is held on a Sunday. However, there are two fundamental differences in the German system: Its members are not elected, neither by popular vote nor by the state parliaments, but are members of the state cabinets which appoint them and can remove them at any time. Normally, a state delegation is headed by the head of government in that Land known in Germany as the Minister-President. The states are not represented by an equal number of delegates, since the population of the respective state is a major factor in the allocation of votes rather than delegates to each particular Land. The votes allocation can be approximated as 2. This means that the 16 states have between three and six delegates. This unusual method of composition provides for a total of 69 votes not seats in the Bundesrat. The state cabinet then may appoint as many delegates as the state has votes, but is under no obligation to do so; it can restrict the state delegation even to one single delegate. The number of members or delegates representing a particular Land does not matter formally since, in stark contrast to many other legislative bodies, the delegates to the Bundesrat from any one state are required to cast the votes of the state as a bloc since the votes are not those of the respective delegate. Even with a full delegate appointment of 69, the Bundesrat is a much smaller body than the Bundestag with over members. It is unusual for the two chambers of a bicameral system to be quite so unequal in size. The Bundesrat has the power to veto legislation that affects the powers of the states. The Centre-Right grouping comprises two political parties that operate in different parts of the country so that there is no direct electoral competition between them. These parties are most popular among rural, older, conservative and Christian voters. This the oldest party in Germany and it is strongest in industrial western Germany. It is led by Martin Schulz. In the last federal election, it only won seats which was the poorest result for the party since The other parties now represented in the Bundestag are: The Alternative for Germany in German: It is led by Christian Lindner and gained 80 seats. The electoral system in the German political system means that coalition governments are very common. Unusually political parties in Germany receive significant public funds and the costs of election campaigns are substantially met from the public purse. There are 16 judges divided between two panels called Senates, each holding office for a non-renewable term of 12 years. Half the judges are elected by the Bundestag and half by the Bundesrat, in both cases by a two-thirds majority. Once appointed, a judge can only be removed by the Court itself. The cities of Berlin and Hamburg are states in their own right, termed Stadtstaaten city states , while Bremen consists of two urban districts. Furthermore there is a strong system of state courts. Each Land has a unicameral assembly or parliament called the Landtag. Politics at the state level often carries implications for federal politics. The great strength of the system - a deliberate feature of the post-war constitution - is the consensual nature of its decision-making processes. The Bundesrat serves as a control mechanism on the Bundestag. On the other hand, it can be argued that the system makes decision-making opaque. Some observers claim that the opposing majorities in the two chambers lead to an increase in backroom politics where small groups of high-level leaders make all the important decisions and then the Bundestag representatives only have a choice between agreeing with them or not getting anything done at all. Germany is increasingly a changing nation demographically and in alone some one million extra migrants

entered the country. It is now a society in which one in five has a "migration background" as German bureaucratic jargon calls all those with foreign roots. The number and nature of these immigrants are having a growing impact on German political thinking. On the one hand, Germans themselves need to take on board these changes by rethinking the current pacifistic approach to world affairs and accepting that the Germany military has a role to play in international peace-keeping.

Chapter 5 : | Timeline of Computer History | Computer History Museum

Designed In Germany Since Electoral system of germany wikipedia, the right to vote is in principle reserved for german citizens and the so called "status germans" who are refugees and expelled.

Antique Welmar China Makers of Antique German China With the success of Meissen came the opening of dozens of porcelain factories as the rulers of different German states and regions vied to dominate the European and American markets. Many well-known names in the porcelain industry got their start in Germany at that time. Frankenthal porcelain was founded in in Frankenthal, Germany and was famous for its elaborate figurines. The factory flourished in the 18th century, and while some copies of original pieces have been issued, the original Frankenthal factory is no longer in operation. The figures are recognized by their doll-like faces and arched bases. The backstamp includes a lion or crown, in honor of the royal house. Konigliche Porzellan Manufaktur is also known as K. The company was founded in by Frederick the Great who was determined that the finest porcelain in the world come from Germany. The backstamps vary from plain lines to scepters, crowns, and orbs. The company made tableware, figurines, and pieces from the 18th century which were delicately molded and hand painted. For almost a century, Meissen china produced the finest quality porcelain in Europe. Interestingly, there are no onions in the blue and white design , only stylized asters, peonies, peaches, and pomegranates which were mistaken for onions. Meissen backstamps take years of study to master since there were many variations of the "crossed swords," and there were even more copies and forgeries. The artiFacts website has some excellent examples of the authentic marks. By the beginning of the 19th century, many of the original German china factories had ceased production. After large kaolin deposits were discovered in the area of Selb, Bavaria, a new chapter in the history of German porcelain factories began. The china made in Germany at this time was designed for the general population rather than for nobility and aristocrats. Many of the companies founded in the mid-to-late s still produce beautiful German china with well-known names such as Goebel, which was founded in and is best known for the Hummel figurines of German children. The Goebel backstamps included the name, a crown, the moon, and a bee. Identifying German china takes research, patience, study, and practice. A piece may have a certain color, shape or design element that offers a hint to the factory that made it, but the most dependable way to determine if a piece of china is made in Germany is the backstamp. Backstamps are marks that appear on the underside of a ceramic to identify the manufacturer. Backstamps can also tell you the year of production, based on the shape of the stamp, and companies changed the stamps often to reflect new ownership or updates. However, once " Made in Germany " was stamped on the porcelain, buyers looked for that as a mark of excellence and often preferred it since it typically meant a piece was well designed and well priced. Another problem to consider when identifying German porcelain is that Germany consisted of different states through the centuries. Bavaria, Saxony, Prussia, and other regions also represent china made in Germany. You may not see a "Made in Germany" mark, but the piece could have been manufactured there. At the height of production in the late 19th century, Germany had hundreds of porcelain factories and workshops. Many of their names used "royal," or they reused names when forming new factories. It can be very confusing when trying to sort out who made what, and where and when they made it. One of the best sources for information like this is the website, Porcelain Marks and More , which provides a complete list of early German states, the manufacturer names, an overview of each manufacturer, and an image of every mark used by a company. There is also a section on later German manufacturers with the same information. If you are looking for an antique piece of porcelain that was "Made in Germany," you need to purchase something at least years old, according to the US Customs Service. A piece of porcelain under years old may be called an antique which is a fairly flexible term , but for legal reasons, the century mark is official. Spotting Fakes and Copies Since some German porcelain is rare and valuable, the market has been flooded with fakes and copies which can fool new collectors. There is no single way to tell whether a piece of German china is old or new, but here are some tips to help avoid a bad bargain. Antique German china generally shows signs of wear. Look for scuffs on the bottom edges or some glaze crackle. Each era had different aesthetic tastes, so colors that are used today on

German china may not be the same as colors used in If the piece feels very light or unusually heavy, it may be a reproduction. The best way to date a piece of porcelain is through knowledge, and that takes research, time, and effort to acquire. Visiting museums, antiques shops and shows will give you an opportunity to see examples up close, and this can help you learn what to look for from a certain factory. Keep in mind - even the experts get fooled sometimes. Identification and Price Guides Gerold Porzellan Collectors website contains valuable information and photographs of rare and collectible German porcelain. There are excellent pictures for identification and study. The International Ceramics Directory has numerous links to German porcelain websites, along with backstamp listings, history, and other information about old and new factories. The Directory of European Porcelain by Ludwig Danckert is a classic reference source if you want to track down factories, history, and marks. Although out of print, there are many copies available through online sources, like Amazon or American Book Exchange. It is available in an online, free edition. The following price and identification guides are available through online booksellers: Meissen Porcelain Identification and Value Guide by Jim Harrison and Susan Harran includes a company history, descriptions of pieces, and listings of artists who worked for Meissen. McCaslin discusses the pieces produced by a company known for its elaborate porcelain decorations and deep blue backgrounds. Rontgen has excellent photographs and descriptions of rare antiques from the Meissen factory. Clear photographs and exhaustive lists of backstamps will help you date a piece or identify a manufacturer. Enjoy Collecting German porcelain, for all its delicate looks, has lasted for nearly years. Instead, spend time getting to know the factories that produced porcelain and enjoy learning about the designers, styles, and stories behind these fragile creations. Was this page useful?

Chapter 6 : Antique China Made in Germany | LoveToKnow

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Before [edit] A mark had been the currency of Germany since its original unification in 1871. With the outbreak of World War I, the mark was taken off the gold standard. The currency thus became known as the Papiermark, especially as high inflation, then hyperinflation occurred and the currency became exclusively made up of paper money. Early military occupation following WWII [edit] During the first two years of occupation the occupying powers of France, United Kingdom, United States, and the Soviet Union were not able to successfully negotiate a possible currency reform in Germany. Due to the strains between the Allies each zone was governed independently as regards monetary matters. The US occupation policy was governed by the directive JCS in effect until July 1948, which forbade the US military governor "to take any steps to strengthen German financial structure". In addition, each person received a per capita allowance of DM 60 in two parts, the first being DM 40 and the second DM 20. He did this, as he often confessed, on Sunday because the offices of the American, British, and French occupation authorities were closed that day. He was sure that if he had done it when they were open, they would have countermanded the order. Although the new currency was initially only distributed in the three western occupation zones outside Berlin, the move angered the Soviet authorities, who regarded it as a threat. The Soviets promptly cut off all road, rail and canal links between the three western zones and West Berlin, starting the Berlin Blockade. In response, the U. Economics of currency reform [edit] Since the 1930s, prices and wages had been controlled, but money had been plentiful. That meant that people had accumulated large paper assets, and that official prices and wages did not reflect reality, as the black market dominated the economy and more than half of all transactions were taking place unofficially. The reform replaced the old money with the new Deutsche Mark at the rate of one new per ten old. The result was the prices of German export products held steady, while profits and earnings from exports soared and were poured back into the economy. In addition, the Marshall plan forced German companies, as well as those in all of Western Europe, to modernize their business practices, and take account of the wider market. Marshall plan funding overcame bottlenecks in the surging economy caused by remaining controls which were removed in 1948, and opened up a greatly expanded market for German exports. Overnight, consumer goods appeared in the stores, because they could be sold for higher prices. Only after the wage-freeze was abandoned, Deutschmark and free-ranging prices were accepted by the population. In July 1948, a completely new series of East German mark banknotes was issued. The Deutsche Mark earned a reputation as a strong store of value at times when other national currencies succumbed to periods of inflation. In the 1950s, opinion polls showed a majority of Germans opposed to the adoption of the euro; polls today show a significant number would prefer to return to the mark. Despite French pre-referendum claims that a "no" vote would mean that the Saar would remain a French protectorate it in fact resulted in the incorporation of the Saar into the Federal Republic of Germany on January 1, 1957. The new German member state of the Saarland maintained its currency, the Saar franc, which was in a currency union at par with the French franc. German reunification [edit] The Deutsche Mark played an important role in the reunification of Germany. East German marks were exchanged for German marks at a rate of 1:1. The government of Germany and the Bundesbank were in major disagreement over the exchange rate between the East German mark and the German mark. France and the United Kingdom were opposed to German reunification, and attempted to influence the Soviet Union to stop it. The policy was "hard" in relation to the policies of certain other central banks in Europe. The "hard" and "soft" was in respect to the aims of inflation and political interference. From 1990, the inscription Bundesrepublik Deutschland Federal Republic of Germany appeared on the coins. These coins were issued in denominations of 1, 2, 5, and 10 pfennigs. The 1- and 2-pfennig coins were struck in bronze clad steel although during some years the 2 pfennigs was issued in solid bronze while 5 and 10 pfennigs were brass clad steel. In 1991, cupronickel pfennig and 1-mark coins were released, while a cupronickel 2 marks and a. Cupronickel replaced silver in the 5 marks in

The 2- and 5-mark coins have often been used for commemorative themes, though typically only the generic design for the 5 marks is intended for circulation. Commemorative silver mark coins have also been issued which have periodically found their way into circulation. Unlike other European countries, Germany retained the use of the smallest coins 1 and 2 pfennigs until adoption of the euro.

Chapter 7 : Deutsche Mark - Wikipedia

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Oberlandesgericht - state appeals courts Bundesgerichtshof - the federal supreme criminal and civil court There is also a system of specialist courts, that deal with certain areas of the law. These generally have a state court and state appeals court before coming to the federal supreme court for that area of law. The other federal supreme courts are Bundesarbeitsgericht - Labour law Bundessozialgericht - Social security law Bundesverwaltungsgericht - Administrative law. This includes government regulations not covered by one of the other three specialist courts. Unlike the United States , all courts are state courts, except for the top level supreme courts. Bundesverfassungsgericht[change change source] Germany also has another supreme court, the Bundesverfassungsgericht Federal Constitutional Court. The Grundgesetz says that every person may complain to the Federal Constitutional Court when his or her constitutional rights, especially the human rights, have been violated by the government or one of its agencies, and after he or she has gone through the ordinary court system. The Bundesverfassungsgericht hears complaints about laws passed by the legislative branch, court decisions, or acts of the administration. Usually only a small percentage of these constitutional complaints, called Verfassungsbeschwerden are successful. Evenso, the Court is often angers both the government and the law-makers. All that matters is the constitution. The Bundesverfassungsgericht is very high popular with ordinary people, because it protects them from government wrongdoing. Only the Constitutional Court can handle some types of cases, including arguments between government bodies about their constitutional powers. Only the Constitutional Court has the power to ban political parties for being unconstitutional. But the Kohl government was hurt at the polls by slower growth in the east in the previous two years, which meant the gap between east and west widened as the west got richer and the east did not. The first months of the new government had policy disputes between the moderate and traditional left wings of the SPD, and some voters got fed up. The first state election after the federal election was held in Hesse in February The CDU increased its vote by 3. The next election for the Bundestag was September 22, The coalition treaty for the second red-green coalition was signed October 16, There were a lot of new ministers. Conservative comeback[change change source] In February , elections took place in the states of Hesse and Lower Saxony , were won by the conservatives. The latest election in the state of Bavaria led to a landslide victory of the conservatives, gaining not just the majority as usual , but two thirds of parliamentary seats. This included a shakeup of the system of German job offices Arbeitsamt , cuts in unemployment benefits and subsidies for unemployed persons who start their own businesses. These changes are commonly known by the name of the chairman of the commission which conceived them as Hartz I - Hartz IV. Liberals, Greens, conservatives and the far left were the winners of the European election in Germany, because voters were disillusioned by high unemployment and cuts in social security, while the governing SPD party seems to be concerned with quarrels between its members and gave no clear direction. Rise of the Right[change change source] In September , elections were held in the states of Saarland , Brandenburg and Saxony. In the Saarland, the governing CDU was able to remain in power and gained one additional seat in the parliament and the SPD lost seven seats, while the Liberals and Greens re-entered the state parliament. Two weeks later, elections were held in the eastern states of Brandenburg and Saxony: The rise of the right to far-right worries the ruling political parties. German federal election [change change source] On May 22, as predicted the SPD was defeated in its former heartland, North Rhine-Westphalia. After success in the state election for Saxony , the alliance between the far right parties National Democratic Party and Deutsche Volksunion DVU , which planed to leapfrog the "five-percent hurdle" on a common party ticket was another media issue. The election results of September 18, were surprising. They were very different from the polls of the previous weeks. The left party alliance reached 8. Coalitions involving the Left Party were ruled out by all parties including the Left Party itself , although the combination of one of the major parties and any two small parties would mathematically have a majority. Of these combinations, only a red-red-green coalition is politically even

imaginable. Angela Merkel is the first woman, the first East German and the first scientist to be chancellor as well as the youngest German chancellor ever.

Chapter 8 : Federal Republic of Germany is established - HISTORY

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Bottom left: In , Konrad Adenauer became the first Chancellor of West Germany after World War II. Bottom right: Helmut Kohl held the office during the period of German reunification. The Chancellor of Germany [1] is the political leader of Germany and the head of the Federal Government.