

## Chapter 1 : Military history of Germany - Wikipedia

*A Military History of Germany: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present Day* () Krimmer, Elisabeth, and Patricia Anne Simpson, eds. *Enlightened War: German Theories and Cultures of Warfare from Frederick the Great to Clausewitz* ().

The concept of Germany as a distinct region in central Europe can be traced to Roman commander Julius Caesar , who referred to the unconquered area east of the Rhine as Germania , thus distinguishing it from Gaul France , which he had conquered. In the Late Middle Ages , the regional dukes, princes and bishops gained power at the expense of the emperors. Martin Luther led the Protestant Reformation against the Catholic Church after , as the northern states became Protestant, while the southern states remained as the Catholics. After the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars from 1806, feudalism fell away and liberalism and nationalism clashed with reaction. The German revolutions of 1848 failed. The Industrial Revolution modernized the German economy, led to the rapid growth of cities and to the emergence of the Socialist movement in Germany. Prussia, with its capital Berlin , grew in power. German universities became world-class centers for science and humanities, while music and art flourished. The new Reichstag , an elected parliament, had only a limited role in the imperial government. Germany joined the other powers in colonial expansion in Africa and the Pacific. Germany was the dominant power on the continent. Defeated and partly occupied, Germany was forced to pay war reparations by the Treaty of Versailles and was stripped of its colonies as well as areas given to re-established Poland and Alsace-Lorraine. The German Revolution of 1918 deposed the emperor and the various kings and princes, leading to the establishment of the Weimar Republic , an unstable parliamentary democracy. In the early 1930s, the worldwide Great Depression hit Germany hard, as unemployment soared and people lost confidence in the government. The Nazi Party then began to eliminate all political opposition and consolidate its power. Hitler quickly established a totalitarian regime. Beginning in the late 1930s, Nazi Germany made increasingly aggressive territorial demands, threatening war if they were not met. First came the remilitarization of the Rhineland in 1936, the annexing of Austria in the Anschluss and parts of Czechoslovakia with the Munich Agreement in 1938 although in 1939 Hitler annexed further territory of Czechoslovakia. Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941. Racism, especially antisemitism , was a central feature of the regime. In Germany, but predominantly in the German-occupied areas , the systematic genocide program known as The Holocaust killed six million Jews, as well as five million others including German dissidents, gypsies, disabled people, Poles, Romanians, Soviets Russian and non-Russian , and others. In 1945, the German invasion of the Soviet Union faltered, and after the United States had entered the war , Britain became the base for massive Anglo-American bombings of German cities. Germany fought the war on multiple fronts through 1944, however following the Allied invasion of Normandy June 1944, the German Army was pushed back on all fronts until the final collapse in May 1945. Under occupation by the Allies, German territories were split up, Austria was again made a separate country, denazification took place, and the Cold War resulted in the division of the country into democratic West Germany and communist East Germany. Millions of ethnic Germans were deported or fled from Communist areas into West Germany, which experienced rapid economic expansion , and became the dominant economy in Western Europe. West Germany was rearmed in the 1950s under the auspices of NATO , but without access to nuclear weapons. In 1955, Germany was one of the founding countries of the eurozone. In the early 1960s, Germany played a critical role in trying to resolve the escalating euro crisis, especially with regard to Greece and other Southern European nations. In the middle of the decade, the country faced the European migrant crisis , as the main receiver of asylum seekers from Syria and other troubled regions. For more events, see Timeline of German history.

*Maps of the military history of Germany* (3 C, 85 F) *Military of the German Democratic Republic* (15 C, 1 P, 1 F) *Military of Germany by state* (19 C).

In its long history, Germany has rarely been united. For most of the two millennia that Central Europe has been inhabited by German-speaking peoples, such as the Eastern Franks, the area now called Germany was divided into hundreds of states, many quite small, including duchies, principalities, free cities, and ecclesiastical states. Not even the Romans united what is now known as Germany under one government; they managed to occupy only its southern and western portions. Medieval Germany was marked by division. As France and England began their centuries-long evolution into united nation-states, Germany was racked by a ceaseless series of wars among local rulers. Within the empire, German princes warred against one another as before. The Protestant Reformation deprived Germany of even its religious unity, leaving its population Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Calvinist. During the next two centuries, the two largest of these states—Prussia and Austria—jockeyed for dominance. The smaller states sought to retain their independence by allying themselves with one, then the other, depending on local conditions. From the mid-18th until Prussia, Austria, and Russia defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813 and drove him out of German territory, much of the area was occupied by French troops. Revolutions for Unification and Democracy During the next half-century, pressures for German unification grew. Scholars, bureaucrats, students, journalists, and businessmen agitated for a united Germany that would bring with it uniform laws and a single currency and that would replace the benighted absolutism of petty German states with democracy. The revolutions of 1848 seemed at first likely to realize this dream of unity and freedom, but the monarch who was offered the crown of a united Germany, King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia, rejected it. Otto von Bismarck Despite the opposition of conservative forces, German unification came more than two decades later, in 1871, following the Franco-Prussian War, when Germany was unified and transformed into an empire under Emperor Wilhelm I, king of Prussia. Unification was brought about not by revolutionary or liberal forces but rather by a conservative Prussian aristocrat, Otto von Bismarck. Sensing the power of nationalism, Bismarck sought to use it for his own aims, the preservation of a feudal social order and the triumph of his country, Prussia, in the long contest with Austria for preeminence in Germany. By a series of masterful diplomatic maneuvers and three brief and dazzlingly successful military campaigns, Bismarck achieved a united Germany without Austria. He brought together the so-called "small Germany," consisting of Prussia and the remaining German states, some of which had been subdued by Prussian armies before they became part of a Germany ruled by a Prussian emperor. Prussian hegemony Although united Germany had a parliament, the Reichstag, elected through universal male suffrage, supreme power rested with the emperor and his ministers, who were not responsible to the Reichstag. Supporting the emperor were the nobility, large rural landowners, business and financial elites, the civil service, the Protestant clergy, and the military. The military, which had made unification possible, enjoyed tremendous prestige. In the long term, Bismarck and his successors were not able to subjugate this opposition. By the 1890s, the Socialists had come to have the largest number of representatives in the Reichstag. The Treaty of Versailles, the peace settlement negotiated by the victors Britain, France, and the United States in 1919, imposed punitive conditions on Germany, including the loss of territory, financial reparations, and a diminished military. These conditions set the stage for World War II. Weimar Republic A republic, the Weimar Republic (1918–33), was established with a constitution that provided for a parliamentary democracy in which the government was ultimately responsible to the people. But the Weimar Republic ultimately disappointed those who had hoped it would introduce democracy to Germany. By mid-1930s it had been destroyed by Adolf Hitler, its declared enemy since his first days in the public arena. Hitler was a psychopath who sensed and exploited the worries and resentments of many Germans, knew when to act, and possessed a sure instinct for power. His greatest weapon in his quest for political power, however, was the disdain many Germans felt for the new republic. Many Germans also were affronted by the spectacle of parliamentary politics. Frequent elections failed to yield effective governments. Government policies also often failed to

solve pressing social and economic problems. Hitler as chancellor A modest economic recovery from to gave the Weimar Republic a brief respite. The severe social stress engendered by the Great Depression, however, swelled the vote received by extreme antidemocratic parties in the election of and the two elections of The government ruled by emergency decree. In January , leading conservative politicians formed a new government with Hitler as chancellor. Within a few months, however, Hitler had outmaneuvered them and established a totalitarian regime. Only in did a military alliance of dozens of nations succeed in deposing him, and only after his regime and the nation it ruled had committed crimes of unparalleled enormity known as the Holocaust. One, East Germany, never attained real legitimacy in the eyes of its citizens, fell farther and farther behind economically, and had to use force to prevent its population from fleeing to the West. The other, West Germany, was resoundingly successful. The economy performed so successfully that eventually several million foreigners came to West Germany to work as well. West German and foreign workers alike were protected from need arising from sickness, accidents, and old age by an extensive, mostly nongovernment welfare system. In German unification overcame the geographic separation of the two German states, including an infamous wall between West Berlin and East Berlin, but economic integration still has not been achieved satisfactorily. In the first decade of the twenty-first century, the forces of globalization are posing a renewed challenge to the social-market economy in place throughout the nation.

Chapter 3 : Category: Military history of Germany - Wikimedia Commons

*Military history of Germany. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia While German-speaking peoples have a long history, Germany as a nation-state dates only from*

JPG The Battle of Leyte Gulf in 23â€™26 October , was a decisive American victory that sank virtually the entire remaining Japanese fleet in the largest naval battle in history. Although the Japanese came surprisingly close to inflicting a major defeat on the Americans, at the last minute the Japanese panicked and lost. The battle was a complex overlapping series of engagements fought off the Philippine island of Leyte, which the U. Army had just invaded. The army forces were highly vulnerable to naval attack, and the Japanese goal was to inflict massive destruction. Two American fleets were involved, the Seventh and Third, but they were independent and did not communicate well so the Japanese with a trick maneuver slipped between the two American fleets and almost reached the beaches. However the Japanese communication system was even worse, and the Japanese army and navy did not cooperate, and the three Japanese fleets were each destroyed. The grueling re-capture of the Philippines took place from to and included the battles of Leyte , Luzon , and Mindanao. Iwo Jima Main article: Battle of Iwo Jima The Americans did not bypass the small island of Iwo Jima because it wanted bases for fighter escorts; it was actually used as an emergency landing base for Bs. The Japanese knew they could not win, but the devised a strategy to maximize American casualties. Learning from the Battle of Saipan they prepared many fortified positions on the island, including pillboxes and underground tunnels. The Marines attack began on 19 February Initially the Japanese put up no resistance, letting the Americans mass, creating more targets before the Americans took intense fire from Mount Suribachi and fought throughout the night until the hill was surrounded. Over the next 36 days, the Japanese were pressed into an ever shrinking pocket, but they chose to fight on to the end, leaving only 1, of the original 21, defenders alive. The Marines suffered as well, suffering 25, casualties. The battle became iconic in America as the epitome of heroism in desperate hand-to-hand combat. Marines and soldiers landed unopposed on 1 April , to begin an day campaign which became the largest land-sea-air battle in history and was noted for the ferocity of the fighting and the high civilian casualties with over , Okinawans losing their lives. Japanese kamikaze pilots caused the largest loss of ships in U. The fierce combat and high American losses led the Navy to oppose an invasion of the main islands. An alternative strategy was chosen: The first efforts were made from bases in China, where massive efforts to establish B bases there and supply them over the Hump the Himalayas failed in ; the Japanese Army simply moved overland and captured the bases. Saipan and Tinian, captured by the U. The Boeing B Superfortress boasted four 2, horsepower Wright R supercharged engines that could lift four tons of bombs 33, feet high above Japanese flak or fighters , and make 3, mile round trips. However, the systematic raids that began in June , were unsatisfactory, because the AAF had learned too much in Europe; it overemphasized self-defense. Arnold, in personal charge of the campaign bypassing the theater commanders brought in a new leader, brilliant, indefatigable, hard-charging General Curtis LeMay. In early , LeMay ordered a radical change in tactics: Much fuel was used to get to 30, feet; it could now be replaced with more bombs. The Japanese radar, fighter, and anti-aircraft systems were so ineffective that they could not hit the bombers. Fires raged through the cities, and millions of civilians fled to the mountains. On 5 June, 51, buildings in four miles of Kobe were burned out by Bs; the Japanese were learning to fight back, as 11 Bs went down and were damaged. A firestorm burned out 8. Although damage to big factories was slight, approximately one-fourth of some 4, lesser factories, which operated hand-in-hand with the big factories, were completely destroyed by fire Moreover, owing to the rising fear of air attacks, workers in general were reluctant to work in the factories, and the attendance fluctuated as much as 50 percent. The Japanese army, which was not based in the cities, was largely undamaged by the raids. The Army was short of food and gasoline, but, as Iwo Jima and Okinawa proved, it was capable of ferocious resistance. The Japanese also had a new tactic that it hoped would provide the bargaining power to get a satisfactory peace, the Kamikaze. Kamikaze In late the Japanese invented an unexpected and highly effective new tactic, the Kamikaze suicide plane aimed like a guided missile at American ships. The attacks began in October and continued to the end of

the war. Experienced pilots were used to lead a mission because they could navigate; they were not Kamikazes, and they returned to base for another mission. The Kamikaze pilots were inexperienced and had minimal training; however most were well educated and intensely committed to the Emperor. The dive brakes are extended and the port wing tank is trailing fuel vapor and smoke 25 November Kamikaze attacks were highly effective at the Battle of Okinawa as kamikaze sorties sank 38 US ships and damaged more, killing 4, sailors. These attacks were generally by single or few aircraft making their approaches with radical changes in course and altitude, dispersing when intercepted and using cloud cover to every advantage. They tailed our friendlies home, used decoy planes, and came in at any altitude or on the water. The Navy called for more fighters, and more warning, which meant combat air patrols circling the big ships, more radar picket ships which themselves became prime targets , and more attacks on airbases and gasoline supplies. Japan suspended Kamikaze attacks in May , because it was now hoarding gasoline and hiding planes in preparation for new suicide attacks if the Allies dared to invade their home islands. The Kamikaze strategy allowed the use of untrained pilots and obsolete planes, and since evasive maneuvering was dropped and there was no return trip, the scarce gasoline reserves could be stretched further. Since pilots guided their airplane like a guided missile all the way to the target, the proportion of hits was much higher than in ordinary bombing. However, the quality of construction was very poor, and many new planes crashed during training or before reaching targets. Expecting increased resistance, including far more Kamikaze attacks once the main islands of Japan were invaded, the U. Operation Downfall As victory for the United States slowly approached, casualties mounted. A fear in the American high command was that an invasion of mainland Japan would lead to enormous losses on the part of the Allies, as casualty estimates for the planned Operation Downfall demonstrate. President Harry Truman gave the order to drop the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

*Early Military History of Germany. The first Germans to win reputations as fearsome adversaries in combat were members of the various tribes who fought the encroachment of Roman legions upon their territories.*

Comment One of the central exhibitions in the post section of the Military History Museum in Dresden includes an actual German vehicle that was heavily damaged by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. The display, he said, challenged him to think about who was responsible for the violence in Afghanistan. Ultimately it altered his perspective on warfare and made him realize that from political and military leaders down to the average voting citizen, "We are all responsible for what happens" when German soldiers go to war. Afghanistan, where 52 German soldiers have died, has arguably been the most formative fighting experience for the contemporary German military. Situated in a former army barracks from the late 19th century, the museum was reopened after a dramatic redesign by US architect Daniel Libeskind. An Evolving Bundeswehr However, when Rogg enlisted in the German military 30 years ago, it was "impossible" to think he would ever be sent into battle. At that point, the postwar German armed forces, or Bundeswehr, had no real combat experience and no plans to play a larger role in the global defense arena. A lanky and bookish history professor, Rogg came of age during the height of the Cold War. His decision to join the Bundeswehr in was spurred by a lofty desire to actively support the defense of a free and democratic West Germany. But, perhaps more concretely, he also believed the Bundeswehr would allow him to grow professionally and develop a sustainable career. For young soldiers like Rogg, then aged 20, military engagement was an abstract concept. Deadly warfare, he said, "was out of my vision. Rather than simply remind soldiers of names and dates, the permanent exhibitions -- divided into sections labeled, " , " "" and "Present" -- often help them to engage introspectively with German history and, more broadly, with the idea of warfare. It helps one understand a new, abstract dimension of war, beyond the technical components," said Lt. Patrick Ruppert, 43, during a recent tour of the museum. Ruppert, a Cologne-based lawyer and active reservist, visited the museum with a group from the Munich-based Medical Corps Academy of the Bundeswehr, where he is participating in a semi-annual military reserve training course. The tour leader, a military history teacher from the Academy, gave the group a general overview of the building before focusing extensively on World War I. With the 100th anniversary of that conflict just around the corner, Ruppert, whose grandparents and other relatives served in the German Wehrmacht during World War II, was particularly struck by the importance -- and responsibility -- of passing down an accurate historical record to the current generation. The German military is no longer politicized and is now constrained by the rule of law, so it "cannot even be compared to what it was during the First World War," added Capt. Michael Wolf, 39, a career officer from the Medical Corps Academy, who also participated in the museum tour. On a personal note, Wolf explained, he was struck by how the role and importance of medics, like himself, had shifted so dramatically since WWI, suggesting that the contemporary German military places a much greater premium on taking care of individual soldiers on the front line. Even if the culture of the military has evolved drastically, the atrocities of war have perhaps only gotten worse. Still, Ruppert and Wolf remain prepared to serve on the battlefield when needed. Wolf, who has been deployed twice to Afghanistan and twice to the Balkans, added: Indeed, the Bundeswehr is still in the process of determining its 21st-century role on the world stage. Ruppert suggested the Bundeswehr should continue to play a more "self-confident" role in global affairs. But, returning to the WWI exhibition, he cautioned: Even within German society, the role of the Bundeswehr is still evolving.

**Chapter 5 : Short History of Germany - Nations Online Project**

*Military history of Germany during World War II (16 C, P) Pages in category "Military history of Germany" The following 62 pages are in this category, out of 62 total.*

Ancient times[ edit ] Roman limes and modern boundaries. During the ancient and early medieval periods the Germanic tribes had no written language. What we know about their early military history comes from accounts written in Latin and from archaeology. This leaves important gaps. Germanic wars against the Romans are fairly well documented from the Roman perspective, such as the infamous Battle of the Teutoburg Forest. Germanic wars against the early Celts remain mysterious because neither side recorded the events. Germanic tribes are thought to have originated during the Nordic Bronze Age in northern Germany and southern Scandinavia. The tribes spread south, possibly motivated by the deteriorating climate of that area. The Romans recorded one of these early migrations when the Cimbri and the Teutons tribes threatened the Republic itself around the late 2nd century BC. In the East, other tribes, such as Goths , Rugii and Vandals , settled along the shores of the Baltic Sea pushing southward and eventually settling as far away as Ukraine. The Angles and Saxons migrated to England. The Germanic peoples often had a fraught relationship with their neighbours, leading to a period of over two millennia of military conflict over various territorial, religious, ideological and economic concerns. Middle Ages[ edit ] The Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation also referred as the First German Empire emerged from the eastern part of the Carolingian Empire after its division in the Treaty of Verdun of , and lasted almost a millennium until its dissolution in . It was never a unitary state; from the beginning it was made up of many ethnicities and languages and would at its height comprise territories ranging from eastern France to northern Italy. Its unifying characteristic was its Carolingian heritage and strong religious connotations, its claim to "German-ness" the ethnicity of most of its subjects and rulers. For the first time, the term Kingdom of the Germans "Regnum Teutonicorum" was applied to the Frankish kingdom. In , the Hungarians Magyars were decisively defeated at Lechfeld by his son Otto the Great , ending the threat from the Eurasian steppes for four centuries. In , partly on the strength of this victory, Otto went to Rome and was crowned the first Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by the pope. Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa managed to restore peace through diplomacy and skillfully arranged marriages. He claimed direct imperial control over Italy and made several incursions into northern Italy, but was ultimately defeated by the Lombard League at Legano in . In , Frederick embarked on the Third Crusade. After a few initial successes against the Turks , notably at the Battle of Iconium , Frederick died when trying to cross a river. Leaderless, panicked and attacked on all sides, only a tiny fraction of the original forces continued onward. Their conflict of interests with the Polish-Lithuanian state lead in to Battle of Grunwald Tannenberg where a Polish-Lithuanian army inflicted a decisive defeat and broke its military power, although the Order withstood the following Siege of Marienburg and managed to retain most of its territories. The inciting action of the war was the First Defenestration of Prague , in which the mayor and the town council members of Prague were thrown from the windows of the town building. Emperor Sigismund , a firm adherent of the Roman Catholic Church, obtained the support of Pope Martin V who issued a papal bull in proclaiming a crusade. In all, four crusades were launched against the heretics, all resulting in defeat for the Catholic troops. Whenever a crusade would end, the Hussite armies go on "Beautiful Rides" and would invade the lands where the crusaders were from. One such place was Saxony. The Hussites repeatedly invaded central German lands, though they made no attempt at permanent occupation, and at one point made it all of the way to the Baltic Sea. The Hussite movement was ended in , however, at the Battle of Lipany. The rebellion ultimately failed in the end and Emperor Charles V became much harsher. The war resulted in large areas of Germany being laid waste, causing general impoverishment and a loss of around a third of its population; it took generations to recover. It ended with the Peace of Westphalia , which stabilized the nation states of Europe. By the closing years of the 17th century, he was already famous for securing Hungary from the Turks, and soon rose to the role of principal Austrian commander during the War of the Spanish Succession. During the early part of the war, the French were successful until Camille de Tallard was victorious in the Palatinate. Later, in , the Germans took

back their land with the help of the Dutch and the English. The Austrians pushed the French back in North Italy and the coalition scored several successes in the low countries. At that time, half of the Dutch or the British armies were composed of German mercenaries. The German states that participated in the war were Austria which contributed the most, Prussia and Hanover. During the reign of Frederick William I (1713-1740), the military power of Prussia was significantly improved. He organized the government around the needs of his army, and produced an efficient, highly disciplined instrument of war. Peasants were drafted into the military and trained for duty, but were sent home for ten months out of each year. Frederick the Great [edit] Main article: Frederick the Great Frederick the Great, king of Prussia from 1740, modernized the Prussian army, introduced new tactical and strategical concepts, fought mostly successful wars and doubled the size of Prussia. Frederick had a rationale based on Enlightenment thought: The goal was to convince rival kings that it was better to negotiate and make peace than to fight him. Prussia had survived the combined force of its neighbours, each larger than itself, and gained enormously in influence at the cost of the Holy Roman Empire. It became recognised as a great European power, starting a rivalry with Austria for the leadership of the German-speaking lands. Frederick would then invade Bohemia, the Prussians besieged Prague, but they were defeated at Kolin. Since Prussia looked vulnerable, the Austrians and French invaded Prussian lands. However, the French were defeated at Rossbach and the Austrians at Leuthen. In 1757, Frederick the Great tried to invade Austria, but he failed. Now, the Russians tried to defeat the Prussians, but the Prussians earned a pyrrhic victory at the Zorndorf. The Swedes, however, fought the Prussians to a draw at Tornow. However, Austria gained a victory against the Prussian main army at Hochkirch. In 1762, the Prussians lost at Kunersdorf to the combined Russians and Austrians. Berlin itself was taken for a few days in 1761, but its army could not be destroyed. It was thanks to this "miracle of the House of Brandenburg" and to the unshakable will of Frederick that Prussia survived. Napoleon I of France reorganized many of the smaller German-speaking states into the Confederation of the Rhine following the battle of Austerlitz in 1805. Neither of the two largest German-speaking states were part of this confederation: Unfortunately they retained the tactics of that period and still relied heavily on foreign mercenaries. The lack of military reforms would prove disastrous. Prussian defeats at Jena and Auerstedt led to a humiliating settlement that reduced the size of the country by half. The reforms of the Prussian military were led by Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, and converted the professional army into one based on national service. They brought in younger leaders, increased the rate of mobilisation and improved their skirmishing and unit tactics. They also organized a centralized general staff and a professional officer corps. Under the leadership of Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, Prussia united the German states and defeated both Austria and France, to 1871, allowing the formation of a powerful German Empire, which lasted until 1918. Bismarck after dominated European diplomacy, and set up a complex system of balances that kept the peace. He was replaced in 1890 by the young Kaiser Wilhelm II, who built up a powerful Navy to challenge the British, and engaged in reckless diplomacy. Clausewitz [edit] Carl von Clausewitz (1780-1830) was the most important German military theorist; he stressed the moral and political aspects of war. Clausewitz espoused a romantic or Hegelian conception of warfare, stressing the dialectic of how opposite factors interact, and noting how unexpected new developments unfolding under the "fog of war" called for rapid decisions by alert commanders. Clausewitz saw history as a complex check on abstractions that did not accord with experience. In opposition to his great rival Antoine-Henri Jomini he argued war could not be quantified or graphed or reduced to mapwork and graphs. Clausewitz had many aphorisms, of which the most famous is, "War is not merely a political act, but also a political instrument, a continuation of political relations, a carrying out of the same by other means," a working definition of war which has won wide acceptance. Bismarck then set about making Prussia the undisputed master of northern Germany, weakening Austria and the German Confederation. This eventually led to a German civil war, the Austro-Prussian War, in which in the Battle of Langensalza the last battle between Germanic states on German soil Hanover won a victory, but was so weakened by it, that it could offer no resistance to the occupation by Prussia and ceased to be an independent state. The result was the dissolution of the German Confederation, and the creation of the North German Confederation one year later. Unlike in the war only a few years ago, the Germans turned not against each other, with the first emergence of a strong German national sentiment in the background. Within the first

month of war the German army encircled big French armies, at Gravelotte , Metz , and Sedan and destroyed them. The war culminated with the defeat of the French army during the Siege of Paris , and was followed by the proclamation of the German Empire in 1871. German naval arms race The results of these wars was the emergence of a powerful German nation-state and a major shift in the balance of power on the European continent. The Imperial German Army now was the most powerful military in Europe. Although Germany now had a parliament, it did not control the military, which was under the direct command of the Kaiser Emperor. The German economy was rapidly growing, as was German pride and intense nationalism. After 1871 , Germany made a major effort to build up its navy, leading to a naval arms race with Britain. Germany also sought coaling stations because the coal-burning warships had to be refueled frequently, and Britain had a large worldwide network. Efforts to gain coaling stations in the Caribbean or west Indies failed. They were beaten back at the First Battle of the Marne. Three years of stalemated trench warfare on the Western Front produced millions of casualties with one-third killed. New tactics in opened up the war, but a series of massive German offensives failed in spring 1918 , and Germany went on the defensive as fresh American soldiers arrived at the rate of 10, a day. Militarily defeated, stripped of allies, and exhausted on the homefront, Germany signed an armistice in November that amounted to a surrender. The German Fleet spent most of the war bottled up in port; the great Battle of Jutland in 1916 showed superior German tactics could not overwhelm the more powerful British fleet. Submarines – the U-boats- were used by the Imperial German Navy to sink merchant ships bringing supplies to England. This strategy alienated the United States, which declared war in April 1917. Shipments of food and munitions to Britain and France were increased, as the convoy system largely neutralized the U-boats. These formations were then deployed to the Western front to counter the British tank attack at the Battle of Cambrai. The offensive stalled as the British and French fell back and then counterattacked. The Germans did not have the airpower or tanks to secure their battlefield gains.

## Chapter 6 : Military History Museum, Berlin - TripAdvisor

*The German infrastructure was severely damaged, but not totally destroyed. So recovery took less time than expected. Much of the surviving German industrial machinery was taken away and given to the Germany was a very literate "educated" country. The war was a disgusting cost on young lives.*

Visit Website The assassination of Franz Ferdinand set off a rapidly escalating chain of events: Austria-Hungary, like many in countries around the world, blamed the Serbian government for the attack and hoped to use the incident as justification for settling the question of Serbian nationalism once and for all. The Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary then sent an ultimatum to Serbia, with such harsh terms as to make it almost impossible to accept. World War I Begins Convinced that Austria-Hungary was readying for war, the Serbian government ordered the Serbian army to mobilize, and appealed to Russia for assistance. On August 4, German troops crossed the border into Belgium. In the first battle of World War I, the Germans assaulted the heavily fortified city of Liege, using the most powerful weapons in their arsenal—enormous siege cannons—to capture the city by August. Leaving death and destruction in their wake, including the shooting of civilians and the execution of a Belgian priest, whom they accused of inciting civilian resistance, the Germans advanced through Belgium towards France. First Battle of the Marne In the First Battle of the Marne, fought from September, French and British forces confronted the invading Germany army, which had by then penetrated deep into northeastern France, within 30 miles of Paris. The Allied troops checked the German advance and mounted a successful counterattack, driving the Germans back to north of the Aisne River. The defeat meant the end of German plans for a quick victory in France. Both sides dug into trenches, and the Western Front was the setting for a hellish war of attrition that would last more than three years. Particularly long and costly battles in this campaign were fought at Verdun February-December and the Battle of the Somme July-November. German and French troops suffered close to a million casualties in the Battle of Verdun alone. This increased hostility was directed toward the imperial regime of Czar Nicholas II and his unpopular German-born wife, Alexandra. Russia reached an armistice with the Central Powers in early December, freeing German troops to face the remaining Allies on the Western Front. America Enters World War I At the outbreak of fighting in, the United States remained on the sidelines of World War I, adopting the policy of neutrality favored by President Woodrow Wilson while continuing to engage in commerce and shipping with European countries on both sides of the conflict. In, Germany declared the waters surrounding the British Isles to be a war zone, and German U-boats sunk several commercial and passenger vessels, including some U. Widespread protest over the sinking by U-boat of the British ocean liner Lusitania—traveling from New York to Liverpool, England with hundreds of American passengers onboard—in May helped turn the tide of American public opinion against Germany. Germany sunk four more U. Gallipoli Campaign With World War I having effectively settled into a stalemate in Europe, the Allies attempted to score a victory against the Ottoman Empire, which entered the conflict on the side of the Central Powers in late. After a failed attack on the Dardanelles the strait linking the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean Sea, Allied forces led by Britain launched a large-scale land invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula in April. The invasion also proved a dismal failure, and in January Allied forces were staged a full retreat from the shores of the peninsula, after suffering, casualties. The young Winston Churchill, then first lord of the British Admiralty, resigned his command after the failed Gallipoli campaign in, accepting a commission with an infantry battalion in France. British-led forces also combated the Ottoman Turks in Egypt and Mesopotamia, while in northern Italy, Austrian and Italian troops faced off in a series of 12 battles along the Isonzo River, located at the border between the two nations. British and French—and later, American—troops arrived in the region, and the Allies began to take back the Italian Front. The biggest naval engagement of World War I, the Battle of Jutland May left British naval superiority on the North Sea intact, and Germany would make no further attempts to break an Allied naval blockade for the remainder of the war. Second Battle of the Marne With Germany able to build up its strength on the Western Front after the armistice with Russia, Allied troops struggled to hold off another German offensive until promised reinforcements from the United States were

able to arrive. On July 15, , German troops launched what would become the last German offensive of the war, attacking French forces joined by 85, American troops as well as some of the British Expeditionary Force in the Second Battle of the Marne. The Allies successfully pushed back the German offensive, and launched their own counteroffensive just three days later. The Second Battle of the Marne turned the tide of war decisively towards the Allies, who were able to regain much of France and Belgium in the months that followed. Toward Armistice By the fall of , the Central Powers were unraveling on all fronts. Despite the Turkish victory at Gallipoli, later defeats by invading forces and an Arab revolt had combined to destroy the Ottoman economy and devastate its land, and the Turks signed a treaty with the Allies in late October Austria-Hungary, dissolving from within due to growing nationalist movements among its diverse population, reached an armistice on November 4. Facing dwindling resources on the battlefield, discontent on the homefront and the surrender of its allies, Germany was finally forced to seek an armistice on November 11, , ending World War I. Treaty of Versailles At the Paris Peace Conference in , Allied leaders would state their desire to build a post-war world that would safeguard itself against future conflicts of such devastating scale. As the years passed, hatred of the Versailles treaty and its authors settled into a smoldering resentment in Germany that would, two decades later, be counted among the causes of World War II. Civilian casualties caused indirectly by the war numbered close to 10 million. The two nations most affected were Germany and France, each of which sent some 80 percent of their male populations between the ages of 15 and 49 into battle. The political disruption surrounding World War I also contributed to the fall of four venerable imperial dynastiesâ€”Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Turkey. World War I brought about massive social upheaval, as millions of women entered the workforce to support men who went to war, and to replace those who never came back. The severe effects that chemical weapons such as mustard gas and phosgene had on soldiers and civilians during World War I galvanized public and military attitudes against their continued use. The Geneva Convention agreements, signed in , restricted the use of chemical and biological agents in warfare, and remains in effect today.

**Chapter 7 : Dresden Military History Museum an Important Site for German Soldiers - SPIEGEL ONLINE**

*Here is the complete information about German history - starting from the early times to medieval history, the Thirty Years War, the Age of Enlightened Absolutism, German Confederation, Bismarck's Unification of Germany, and the events of the 20th century.*

Koblenz Fortress Its defensive works are extensive, and consist of strong forts crowning the hills encircling the town to the west, and the citadel of Ehrenbreitstein on the opposite bank of the Rhine. The old city was triangular in shape, two sides being bounded by the Rhine and Mosel and the third by a line of fortifications. The latter were razed in 1794, and the town was permitted to expand in this direction. The Koblenz Hauptbahnhof central station was built on a spacious site outside the former walls at the junction of the Cologne-Mainz railway and the strategic Metz-Berlin line. In April 1871 Koblenz-Stadtmitte station was opened in the inner city to coincide with the opening of the Federal Garden Show. The Rhine is crossed by the Pfaffendorf Bridge, originally the location of a rail bridge, but now a road bridge and, a mile south of town, by the Horchheim Railway Bridge, consisting of two wide and lofty spans carrying the Lahn Valley Railway, part of the Berlin railway referred to above. The Moselle is spanned by a Gothic freestone bridge of 14 arches, erected in 1285, two modern road bridges and also by two railway bridges. Since 1802, the city has consisted of the Altstadt old city and the Neustadt new city or Klemenstadt. Of these, the Altstadt is closely built and has only a few fine streets and squares, while the Neustadt possesses numerous broad streets and a handsome frontage along the Rhine. Other sights Edit In the more ancient part of Koblenz stand several buildings which have a historical interest. Prominent among these, near the point of confluence of the rivers, is the Basilica of St. Castor or Kastorkirche, dedicated to Castor of Karden, with four towers. The church was originally founded in 680 by Louis the Pious, but the present Romanesque building was completed in 1100, the Gothic vaulted roof dating from 1250. Not long after, Russian troops occupied Koblenz; and St. Priest, their commander, added in irony these words: Also notable is the church of St. The former Jesuit College is a Baroque edifice by J. Sebastiani which serves as the current Town Hall. The city is close to the Bronze Age earthworks at Goloring, a possible Urnfield calendar constructed some years ago. Electoral Palace Koblenz In the modern part of the town lies the palace Residenzschloss, with one front looking towards the Rhine, the other into the Neustadt. It was built in 1700 by Clement Wenceslaus, the last elector of Trier, under design by the French architect P. In 1802, the palace was used as a barracks, and became the final depot for the optical telecommunications system that originated in Potsdam. From it some pretty gardens and promenades Kaiserin Augusta Anlagen stretch along the bank of the Rhine, and in them is a memorial to the poet Max von Schenkendorf. A fine statue to the empress Augusta, whose favourite residence was Coblenz, stands in the Luisenplatz. But of all public memorials the most striking is the colossal equestrian statue of the emperor William I of Germany, erected by the Rhine provinces in 1875, standing on a lofty and massive pedestal, at the point where the Rhine and Mosel meet. The architect was Bruno Schmitz, who was responsible for a number of nationalistic German monuments and memorials. The German Corner is since associated with this monument, the re foundation of the German Empire and the German refusal of any French claims to the area, as described in the song "Die Wacht am Rhein" together with the "Wacht am Rhein" called "Niederwalddenkmal" some 30 kilometres 19 miles upstream. The French occupation administration intended the complete destruction of the monument and wanted to replace it with a new one. A Flag of Germany waved there since. The Saarland was added four years later after the population had voted to join Germany. In the 1930s, a movie of the monument was often shown on late night TV when the National Anthem was played to mark the end of the day, a practise which was discontinued when nonstop broadcasting became common. On 3 October 1990, the very day the former GDR states joined, their signs were added to the monument. As German unity was considered complete and the areas under Polish administration were ceded to Poland, the monument lost its official active purpose, now only reminding of history. In 1995, the flag was replaced by a copy of the statue, donated by a local couple. Incorporated villages Formerly separate villages now incorporated into the jurisdiction of the city of Koblenz Date.

## Chapter 8 : Visit the German War Museum of Military History in Dresden

*In return for German and Austrian support, Italy committed itself to assisting Germany in the case of a French military attack. [ ] For a long time, Bismarck had refused to give in to widespread public demands to give Germany "a place in the sun" through the acquisition of overseas colonies.*

The museum shows how the military, armies, and war influenced politics and society, and vice versa. This museum is one of very few in Germany that actually has German war equipment from the First and Second World Wars on display. The museum follows the current standard German approach to controversial historical buildings and issues: The resulting light and shadows reflect the changing fortunes of the German military history. It has an exhibition space of around 10, sq m spread over five levels. Around 10, items are on display – even a superficial visit easily requires two hours or more. In addition to the changing temporary exhibitions, the permanent exhibition is divided into three main sections: The chronological display of German military history from around to the present is mainly in the old arsenal building. Thematic exhibitions not limited to a specific war or epoch are mostly in the new wedge that links the older parts of the building. Large military vehicles, e. Chronological Display in the German War Museum, Dresden The chronological display in the German military history museum is divided into three main exhibitions: It has the usual items on display: It is a modern museum so ample screens and interactive displays keep visitors of all ages busy. In this period, the divided German states often fought each other and frequently in coalition with France or other non-German states. It was only in and again in the two world wars that France had to face a united German army. However, this period is of course very important in understanding twentieth century history not only in Germany but worldwide. As a result, this physical display of the world wars period is equal in size to the other two chronological exhibitions. For visitors to the Dresden War Museum, this is fortunate, as few other German museums are prepared to delve as deeply into the military history of this period. The museum in no way ignore controversial topics such as the holocaust, the racial policies of the Nazis and violence against civilians but these issues are more comprehensively covered in other German museums especially in Berlin. German military vehicles and equipment from the Second World War are easier seen in the museums of Allied nations. The Allies removed most of the German army equipment after the war or converted vehicles for civilian use. Even the vehicles and parts of plane on show in this museum were often rediscovered only years after the war had ended. See a few links at the bottom of this page for other museums in Germany with Second World War military equipment on display. The museum not only explains in some detail how these armies were formed and functioned but place events in historical context with special emphasis how the West being part of NATO and the East part of the Warsaw Agreement shaped post-war Germany. At its center is the tension of the Cold War period and its influence on armies and society – not only between East and West but also inside German society where anti-war and anti-nuclear armament feelings were often very strong. The display ends with a united German army Bundeswehr after and finally the return of the German army to active duties outside German and European borders. De Gaulle used the Horch at celebratory events and Choltitz action as a basis to built peaceful relations with Germany after the war. Thematic Displays in the German Military History Museum The thematic displays cover a wide range of topics relating to war and the military. Special exhibitions illustrate how the military and war influenced for example fashion, music, games, toys and language. As these thematic displays can cover long periods, it is interesting to see how military technology developed through centuries. How the firepower of weapons increased and how defenses responded. The museum has a full three-stories high V-2 flying bomb rocket, many missiles, and bombs on display. The military museum also deals with the physical and psychological suffering caused by war. A very large section is dedicated to war and remembrance. How should war and the fallen be remembered? This was often a problem in Germany after the Second World War. While many German towns have memorials for the fallen of the First World War similar to what can be seen in for example France and Britain, very few have memorials of any kind for the German soldiers that died 3 to 5. The museum also has a large section on war and toys from early tin toy soldiers to the modern Star Wars Lego toys. Particularly interesting is a model

catalogue for ordering Nazi-uniformed toys. A toy tank destroyed in the air raid on Dresden is shown – less than a decade later the same toy tank model range was again on the German market but sans Nazi emblems. Modern Military Vehicles at the German War Museum Modern military vehicles from the German armies both East and West used mostly during the latter parts of the twentieth century are on display on either side of the museum building. These may also be seen without an admission ticket. The display includes attack vehicles, such as tanks, troop carriers, medical trucks, and most famously a speedboat used by the East German army. The Museum is closed on Wednesday. Children under 18 enter for free. Admission is free for all on Monday after Almost all descriptions in the museum are in both German and English. Audio guides are available while very comprehensive guidebooks are sold in the bookshop, which also has a large selection of books on all aspects of military history. It is easily reached by car or public transportation. Limited parking is available at the museum but also possible in the street leading up to the museum entrance. Two other sections of the Military History Museum are not in Dresden: MHM Flugplatz Berlin-Gatow – military planes and aviation history on display at an airfield in the outskirts of Berlin. Vehicles related to the world wars are rarely seen in Germany but a few museums do have some in their permanent exhibitions: A large collection of military vehicles, including German Second World War vehicles, can also be seen in the Overloon Museum in The Netherlands near Eindhoven only a few miles from the German border.

### Chapter 9 : 10 Significant World War II Sites to Visit in Germany - EscapeHere

*War History Online - The place for Military History News and Views. Tuesday, November 6, Amazing Story of a Daring Escape From German Troops. Nov 5,*