



GERMANY

Federal Republic of Germany

Type of Government

Federal Parliamentary Republic

Government Structure

Executive -

The Chief of State is the President whose duties are mainly ceremonial and is elected for a five-year term by the Federal Assembly (a body which meets only for this purpose and is made up of all members of the Bundestag and an equal number of members from state parliaments). The Chancellor is the Head of Government and is elected by an absolute majority of the Bundestag for a four-year term.

Legislative -

The bicameral Parliament consists of the Bundesrat (upper house) which has 69 members appointed by the different German states and the Bundestag (lower house) which has 620 members that are elected by popular vote.

Judicial -

Germany's principle courts are the Federal Constitutional Court, Federal Court of Justice, and Federal Administrative Court.

The Flag

The flag has three equal horizontal bands of black, red and gold. These colors can be traced back to the banner of the Holy Roman Emperor.

Constitution

May 23, 1949

Capital: Berlin

Independence: In 1949, after WWII, Germany was divided into East Germany and West Germany. On October 3, 1990, Germany was reunified into one country, the Federal Republic of Germany.

Population: 80,854,408 (rank = 18)

GDP per capita: \$46,900 (rank = 28)

Ethnicity: German 92%, Turkish 2%, Others

Religion: Protestant 34%, Roman Catholic 34%, Muslim 4%, unaffiliated or other 28%

Literacy: Male 99%, Female 99%



Coat of Arms



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Civil Rights/Freedoms

Articles 1 through 19 in the German Constitution explain the basic rights for all German citizens. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights also protects citizens' rights.

Suffrage (voting)

18 years; universal.

Political Parties

Social Democratic Party, Christian Democratic Union, Christian Social Union, Alliance 90/Greens, Free Democratic Party, and the Left.

Current Issues

CIA World Factbook: <http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Fact Monster, Countries of the World: <http://www.factmonster.com/countries.html>

Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org/>



CIA World
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