

# GERMANY



1900



## **1914 1 August**

**Night of 1/2 August: By marching into Luxembourg, the German Empire ignites the First World War**

The murder of the successor to the Austrian throne and his wife by a Bosnian-Serbian nationalist in Sarajevo plunges Europe into a diplomatic crisis. Mutual alliance obligations took effect when Austria-Hungary sought to punish Serbia militarily with the support of the German Empire. After several weeks of negotiations, threats and, ultimately, mobilisations, German troops marched into the neutral states of Luxembourg and Belgium. The First World War began.

## **1917 9 April**

**With German support, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin travels to Russia**

## **1918 9 November**

**Philipp Scheidemann (SPD) proclaims the German Republic**

## **1919 28 June**

**Signing of the Versailles Peace Treaty**



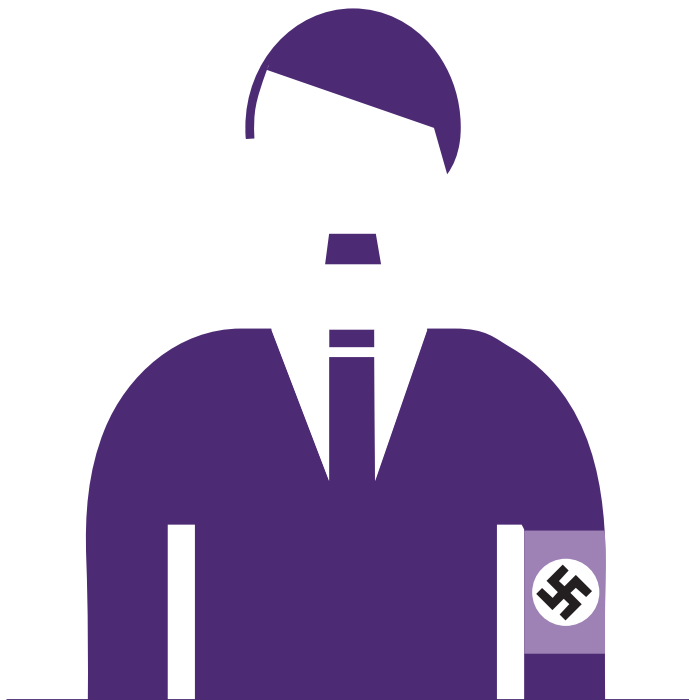
**1923** 11 January

Start of the  
'Occupation of the Ruhr'

**1923** 9 November

Hitler unsuccessfully  
attempts to gain power  
in a putsch





**1933 30 January**

President of the Reich,  
Paul von Hindenburg,  
appoints Adolf Hitler  
as Chancellor of Germany

**1935 15 September**

Proclamation of  
the 'Nuremberg Laws'  
at the 'Nazi Party Rally'

**1938 29 September**

**Signing of the 'Munich Agreement'**

The victorious First World War powers were not yet ready to fight for freedom and justice. Following the successful annexation of Austria in March, Hitler also sought to bring German-speaking Sudetenland, a part of the Czechoslovak Republic (ČSR), 'home to the Reich' under the threat of violence. At the Munich conference, England, France, Italy and Germany agreed to German occupation of this territory. The ČSR had to comply with this resolution. Western politicians trustingly announced 'Peace for our time'.

**1938**

**8-10 November**

Organised pogroms  
against the German Jewish  
population

**1939 1 September**

Germany begins  
the Second World War  
with its invasion of Poland



**1941 22 June**

**With the invasion of the Soviet Union, Hitler launched a racist war of extermination for 'Lebensraum in the East'**

Although Hitler and Stalin worked together in the division of Poland despite their ideological differences, the true nature of Nazism was soon revealed. In the East, Lebensraum, or living space, was to be created for the German 'race'. Hitler wanted to kill or enslave millions of so-called 'sub-humans'. In the wake of initial victory, 'special task forces' of the SS and police killed hundreds of thousands of civilians. The German onslaught only came to a stop at Stalingrad.

**1942 20 January**

**Meeting of the so-called 'Wannsee Conference'**

**1944 20 July**

**Conspirators linked with Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg attempt to overthrow the Nazi dictatorship'**

When it became clear that the Reich was losing the war, a conservative circle drawn from the military, aristocracy and officials planned Hitler's murder and a coup. Colonel Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg placed a bomb in the 'Wolf's Lair' (Wolfsschanze), a command post in East Prussia. The bomb detonated but Hitler survived. The putsch quickly faltered after the failed assassination attempt. Conspirators were condemned to death and executed on 20 July, which is now a day of remembrance in Germany.

**1945 27 January**

**Auschwitz liberated by Soviet troops**

**1945 7-8 May**

**Capitulation of the German 'Wehrmacht' armed forces**

**1946 1 October**

**Delivery of judgements against main war criminals in the Nuremberg Trials**

**1949 24 May**

**Proclamation of the 'Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany'**

**1949 7 October**

**The 'German Democratic Republic' (GDR) is established**



**1953** 17 June

The People's Uprising  
in East Berlin and the GDR  
violently suppressed

**1954** 4 June

Germany is football world  
champion for the first time



**1961** 13 August

Building of the Berlin Wall

**1963** 23 January

Konrad Adenauer and Charles de Gaulle sign the 'German-French Treaty of Friendship'

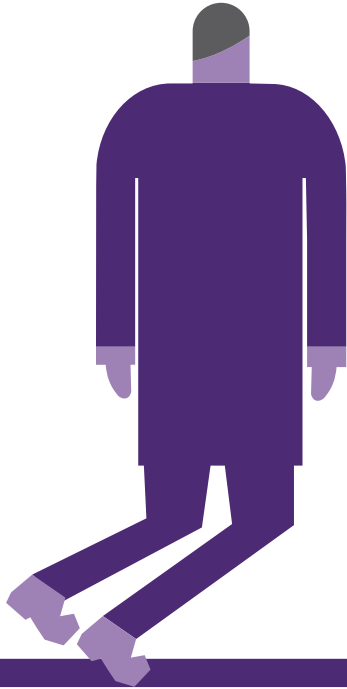
**1967** 2 June

Murder of the student Benno Ohnesorg by the West Berlin policeman, Karl-Heinz Kurras

**1969** 28 October

Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt leads the first social-liberal coalition





## 1970 7 December

Willy Brandt kneels before  
a Holocaust monument  
in Warsaw

## 1977

Night of  
17/18 October

Suicide of RAF terrorists  
Andreas Baader, Gudrun  
Ensslin and Jan-Carl  
Raspe in the Stuttgart-  
Stammheim jail





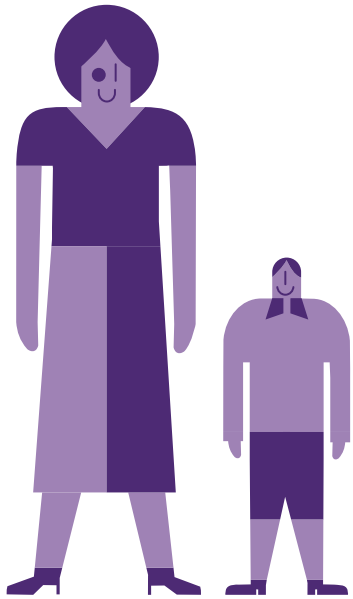
**1983** 29 March

Entry of the 'Greens' into  
the Bundestag

**1989** 9 November

Opening of the Berlin Wall  
and the border between  
the Federal Republic  
of Germany and the GDR





**1990 3 October**

## Reunification of Germany

At midnight on 3 October, German reunification took place with the accession of the former GDR to the Federal Republic of Germany. Hundreds of thousands gathered to celebrate in Berlin with fireworks and celebratory music. With implementation of the 'Two Plus Four Agreement' of 15 March 1991 between the two German states and the former occupation forces, Germany regained its full state sovereignty. Now, 3 October is celebrated as a public holiday, the 'Day of German Unity'.

# NOW

**Written by**  
Prof. Dr. Tobias Arand

**Organiser:**  
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► Contact us at [hi-story@enrs.eu](mailto:hi-story@enrs.eu)



