



# Germany

Culture  
and  
Environmental Activism  
(Fridays for Future)

By Julia Augsburg, Oktober 26, 2019

# About me

- Hello, this is me, Julia



Stuttgart



Nicky

Traveling with  
my mum

- Please tell me about yourself!  
Have you been to Germany?

# Table of Contents

- Seasonal Festivals of Germany
- Hard Facts
- Discussion
- History of Environmental Activism in Germany
- Fridays for Future
- Discussion



# Autumn

- Thanksgiving
- Saint Martin's Day November 11
- Corn Maze



# Winter –Advent, Christmas New Year–

- Advent
  - Counting 4 Sundays before Christmas
  - Christmas Markets
- Christmas
  - Religious Holiday
  - Jesus' Birthday
  - Shops are closed for 2 days
- New Years' Eve
  - bring your own firework



# Winter –Carnival/5th season–

- During February
- Last celebration before 40 days of fasting
- Different in every region of Germany
  - South: Fasching
  - Rhine Area: Karneval
  - Parody of politicians



## Spring –Easter, 1st of May, Festivals–

- Easter
  - religious holiday
  - celebration of Jesus' resurrection
  - breaking of 40 days of fasting
- 1st of May
  - May Tree
  - love confession
  - International Workers Day



## Spring/Summer –Festivals–

- all kinds of festivals and parties
  - mostly outdoor
  - fireworks
  - markets
- Summer: less religious holidays because farmers were busy
- End of summer
  - Oktoberfest



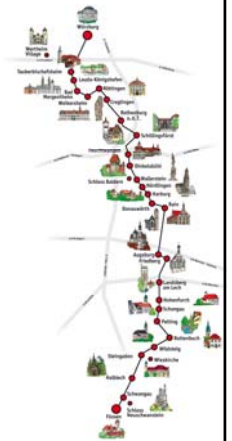
## Cuisine

- Farming tradition
  - grains → bread
  - meat
  - vegetables
  - fruits
  - herbs
- 'Coffee and Cake'



## Tourism

- 7th most visited country in the world
- 30.4 million international tourists
- Tourist routes
  - Romantic Road
  - Wine Route
  - Castle Route
  - German Timber-Frame Road



## Timber-frame house



## Hard facts

- Federal Republic of Germany
- 16 states
- Population: 83 million
- Area: 357400 km<sup>2</sup>  
(Japan: 378000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Capital: Berlin
- Currency: Euro



## Politics

- Federal Parliamentary Republic
- President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Chancellor: Angela Merkel
- Upper house and lower house
- multiple parties



## Economy

- Social market economy
- highly skilled workforce due to vocational education and training
- 99% small and medium-sized family-owned enterprises
- car industry (Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Volkswagen)
- renewable energy transition



## Discussion

- What do you think is similar in Germany and Japan?
- Did the stereotypes you have about Germany change after this presentation?

## Environmental Activism

- beginning of 1970s: anti-nuclear protest
- 1980 Green Party was founded
- 2010: Energy Transition, use of renewable energy (wind, water, sun-energy)
- 2011: after Fukushima, deactivation of 8 nuclear plants
- 2018: Protests after decision to deforest 100 hectare to build a new coal mine
- Climate goals for 2020 (Paris Agreement) will not be reached
  - greenhouse gas emission drop only 32% not 40%
  - cut of only 43-56 million tons of CO2, not 62-78 million tons)



Fridays for Future



## Protest against coal mining



## How Fridays For Future begun

- Greta Thunberg from Sweden  
„School strike for climate change“
- Started in August 2018 at 15 years
- Demonstrating every Friday in front of the Swedish Parliament
- Reason: heatwave 2018
- „Why should I be studying for a future that soon may be no more, when no one is doing anything to save that future?“ Greta Thunberg



## Fridays for Future Germany

- Student movement, FFF grows worldwide
  - Greta Thunberg as initiator
- Background in Germany
  - 2018 discussion about coal mining: stop until 2038 too late
  - 2018 heatwave
- Students fear the future of earth
  - Many smaller demonstrations in the name of FFF
- June 2019: International demonstration, about 40000 people from 17 countries
- September 2019: 1.4 million people demonstrate in Germany

## Protests in Berlin

–We are here, we are loud, because you steal our future–

## Organization

- more than 500 local groups
- since 2019: official organisation
- student camps about environmental protection
- discussions with researchers
- ➔ Scientists for Future: 27000 researchers in Germany, Switzerland and Austria sign open letter to back FFF



## Their goals

- Paris Agreement 2016
  - stop of coal mining by 2030
  - ‚Nettonull‘, net zero: cutting net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2035
  - 100% renewable energy by 2035
- Temperature rise only up to 1.5 degrees by the end 2019
  - Stop of subsidies for coal mining
  - Stop of 1/4 of coal-fired power plants
  - Tax on greenhouse gas: 1 ton CO2 180€



## Their demands

- Act now!
  - Today's policies make it impossible to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement
  - It is also impossible to stay within a global warming of 1.5 degrees
  - Against human rights
- For a world future generations can live in
  - Objective education, total transparency
  - Specialists, researchers and youth shall be included in the process
- Strike continues until politicians take responsibility



## Question

- What do you think how politicians and the public react to such demonstrations?



## Reactions

- No addressing of climate change, but school skipping
- Political
  - Support: Chancellor Angela Merkel, Chairwoman of Left Party Katja Kipping: „It’s lived democracy“
  - Oppose: Middle to right-wing parties
- Public
  - Support: Left, Green and Social voters
  - Oppose: Majority of Right and business-friendly voters
- Students: School strikes necessary



## Reactions

### –Fridays for Horsepower–

- Facebook group with more than 540,000 members
- Movement for „concerned motorists“
- Climate demonstrations: assault on their way of life
- Keywords: Cars, Car Industry
- Politicians fear backlash: opponents are able to vote



## Impact?

- Constantly in the news
- Bigger demonstrations
  - Families
  - Elderly
- Many students cannot vote yet, but young people lose trust in politicians



## Discussion

- Do you think it is okay for students to strike?
- Can you think of more impacts such demonstrations can have in the future?
- Do you think such a big movement is possible in Japan?

## Fridays for Future Japan



Thank you for listening and  
discussing!