

Germans Helped Build America And How Has America Replaced Them?



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Germans Helped Build America

- and how has America replaced them?

Part 1: Preface



Twice in this century, within a span of only 24 years, the rulers of America felt called upon to combat an alleged threat to democracy and world peace by waging a "holy war" in Europe, against the will of their people. Twice they repudiated their own founding ideals and drew on their inexhaustible resources to stand by the side of powers who had divided the world amongst themselves in brutal colonial wars - joining forces against a nation that had no possessions beyond its own borders after the First World War, and from which they had only gained benefits in the past.

In costly battles Germans had once contributed to winning young America's independence from the British Crown. The nation's subsequent development from primitive beginnings to a position of world leadership in industry and trade is unthinkable without the hard work, efficiency and high moral virtues of the German immigrants.

But the Germans, as numerically the largest ethnic group in the United States, were not only the driving force in America's material development. Germans set the tone in education and research, and insofar as one can speak of American culture and American intellectual life, it was the enrichment brought by the Germans, with their naturally cheerful way of life and particularly their unparalleled patronage of music, that helped overcome the sterile Puritanism of Anglo-Saxon life, to the benefit of the entire nation.

The following accounts, which are based on the reports of well-known emigrants, shall give an idea of the scope of German achievements in America - and also of the betrayal committed by a power-hungry financial and political clique against the most honest, loyal and decent among their citizens, and against their native land.

Part 2: A New World in the Making



It already began with the choice of name. It has become the custom to credit the mariner Amerigo Vespucci, even though the accounts of his travels discuss only South America and he never saw the northern continent. It was a German geographer named Waldseemüller who published the first map of the "New World" in 1507, under the title AMERIKA. In time "America" came to mean only North America, and ultimately only the United States.

But in any case the Germans had no part in the discovery of America - or did they? Aside from the fact that North Germanic people landed their longships in Greenland long before the time of Columbus, settled there, sailed on to Newfoundland and were thus the first Europeans to set food in the New World, the famous Portuguese would never have succeeded in his risky adventure across the Atlantic if he had not had the benefit of the maps and charts and most of all the navigational instruments and good advice of a German from Nuremberg.

The first Germans arrive in the New World at about the same time as the English - but not like them as colonizers! They contribute independently to the exploration and opening of the new land. In 1614 Hendrik Christiansen from Cleve explored the Hudson River, and Germans from the Central and South German region can be found in the Dutch town of New Amsterdam. In 1626, making one of the most remarkable investments in history, Peter Menuit from Wesel traded the Indians 60 Dutch guilders for the area surrounded by the Hudson and East Rivers - Manhattan, which would later become the gigantic metropolis New York.

Germans as well as Dutch, who after all were also part of the German Empire once, are jointly called "Dutch" by Anglo-Saxon immigrants. In 1629 one Captain John Smith of Jamestown in Virginia, the oldest of the English colonies in North America, directed a request to London to send him some more "damn Dutch", since they made excellent colonists, as a group of glass workers from Bohemia had shown him. Just like the illegal immigration recruits today, who make their money from the flow of

refugees and migrants, convincing dissatisfied citizens to emigrate to the "Promised Land of America" was a lucrative and often underhanded business in Europe even in those early days.

In 1653 wine-growers from the region around Heidelberg settled in New Netherlands. In 1669 Johann Lederer from Hamburg advances into the southern part of the Alleghenies. Swiss Baptists follow him. In 1676 Nikolaus de Meyer, also from Hamburg, becomes Mayor of New York. In 1684 a Calvinist-Protochristian sect of labadists led by the theologian Peter Schlüter from Wesel founds a settlement on the Bohemia River in Maryland, drawing further German immigrants.

If one inquires into what prompted the German emigrants to leave their homeland in search of a seemingly promising, but no less dangerous and uncertain future, one finds many different reasons. It was rarely a longing for adventure. Most often, the motivating factors were religious intolerance, bureaucratic harassment, high interest and tax burdens, and sometimes also bitter poverty and despair. Mandatory military service or contributions also at times prompted the decision to emigrate, and while this choice did net the jackpot for some few lucky souls, it led many more out of the frying pan and into the fire and cost them their health and often their life.

German emigration to America is heightened further by a "Handbook" for people willing to emigrate, published in 1702 by Professor Daniel Falckner, which condemned Germany in multifarious ways and which, together with similar writings, triggered a veritable Exodus across the Atlantic. The authors did not hesitate to make the wildest promises to eager America candidates: "Wild pigeons fly so low here that one can knock them out of the sky with sticks. Wild turkeys are big and fat, some as much as 46 pounds. The Indians often bring gifts of six or seven deer at a time..." Small wonder that in the face of such images people who knew only hunger and hardship were readily ensnared by man-hunting agents.

The German Southwest experienced the greatest degree of depopulation by emigration to the Promised Land of America, whereas Prussia and Austria had wisely passed a ban on emigration at that time. The emigrants were primarily Protestant peasants, who crowded into William Penn's

"holy experiment, the model of religious and personal freedom" with little more than their faith in God and their willingness to work.

The British saw their vested interest in increased German immigration to their new colonies not only in the counterweight to French Canada, for which they even promised "free" passage, but also in the marshaling of new German arrivals as "border guards" against the Indians. And so 30,000 Germans from the Palatinate appear in England to set out on the transport overseas - people so poverty-stricken that the English mock and ridicule them for it.

In light of the long, six- to eight-week trips on the slow and unreliable sailing ships of the time, conditions on the migrant ships were often even worse than in the emigration camps. "More than 17,000 Germans from the Palatinate who wanted to emigrate had died (by 1710) in England or at sea," the German-Canadian Bernd G. Längin reports in his highly informative booklet *Germans become Americans*. The teacher Gottlieb Mittelberger, who travelled to the colonies in 1750, writes: "During the trip a dreadful misery comes about in the ships, stench, dampness, horror, vomiting, fever, dysentery, headache, heat, constipation, tumours, scurvy, cancer..." Not to forget a poor, barely edible diet, and added to it all, maltreatment by the crew of the overcrowded ships! Regarding the "freight" that finally arrived at America's shores, Friedrich Kapp writes: "If there were crosses and grave markers at sea, the routes taken by the migrant ships would have begun to look like overcrowded graveyards long ago."

It is a mistaken assumption that the distress that awaited so many emigrants was restricted to the first few waves of migrants. Even in the late 19th century many migrants suffered the fate of the "white slaves". According to Joachim Fernau, "children usually end up in the weaving mills, after having been brutally separated from their parents... We have disturbing photographs showing the 10-year-olds in the machine halls. There were two million children who had to work in industry." Poor immigrants who could not pay for their passage themselves are bound by a sort of indentured servitude. On their arrival in Philadelphia the poor immigrants are not allowed to disembark until a buyer has purchased their freedom. "Many parents are forced to barter their children themselves, and to sell them like livestock."

Germans Helped Build America

As of 1710 German and Swiss Mennonites as well as Huguenots from the Palatinate settle in Pennsylvania's Lancaster County, followed later by the Amish, the descendants of a division of Swiss and South-West German Baptists. This religious sect, whose black-robed members with their horses and buggies are acknowledged as honest and efficient farmers despite their rejection of all modern tools and machinery, has made Lancaster County one of America's special tourist attractions to this day. In cultural and linguistic terms as well, these "Pennsylvania Dutch" have persisted as one of the oldest enclaves of Germanness in the midst of the American melting pot all around them.

In 1734, along with Silesians and Saxons, Protestants from Salzburg arrive who had been driven out of their home for being "heretics and rebels". These Salzburger head for the American South, into Georgia, into the "pure wilderness" along the Savannah. As before in Germantown, west of modern-day Washington, this settlement becomes a bastion of sharp protest against slavery, here under the leadership of Father Boltzius. So it was first and foremost Germans who spoke out against the keeping of Black slaves on the large Southern plantations - and their protests were not always to their own advantage. What motivated these people to emigrate is once again oppression by their secular and ecclesiastical masters - which prompts the economist Friedrich List to say: "Our governments are to blame, they have to go!" Regarding the German princes, he said: "Germany is a detention room, with detainees that are allowed walk around free only for as long as the government feels like letting them!"

Where the German emigrants travel to the New World in organized groups, it is churches and sects that lead and look after them. These structures also replace, at least to some extent, the political backing that is lacking due to Germany's division into many small political units, and they contribute to the preservation of the German language, customs and culture. On the other hand, it is precisely these diverse sects that prevent unity amongst the German ethnic group - unlike the English churches, that take a patriotic British stance and promote the Anglo-Saxon identity among their flock!

The weakness caused by this lack of unity makes the Germans, for example German Catholics on the Delaware, vulnerable to spiteful at-

tacks in the regions dominated by the Anglo-Saxons. Others are rejected as being pacifist or politically disinterested. Benjamin Franklin, famous both as an inventor and as statesman, spoke scornfully of the "Palatine hayseeds" and considered them arrogant for "not letting us Anglicize them". The small-scale, keep-to-yourself mentality flourishing in the German regions puts the Germans at a distinct disadvantage towards the Anglo-Saxons, and the German clergy and priests, the actual leaders of the German emigrants, are "politically neutral"; as a rule they are uncritical or helpless in the face of Anglo-Saxon dominance.

Franklin's disparaging remarks are contrasted by the statements of the Governor of then still French Louisiana about the German emigrants from the Upper Rhine who, even after the majority of them had perished on the trip from Europe, nonetheless turned the right-hand shore regions of the Mississippi from a fever-ridden marshland into a "German coast": "What we call the German coast here is the most hard-working, most prolific and most honest part of our population." So German industriousness and German honesty are acknowledged, but the German immigrants neither seek political influence, nor would they be readily granted it if they did. One reason for this is also that "the regular folk", farmers and laborers and perhaps the occasional "revolutionary", are what make up the majority of the German immigrants, whereas the English population includes the rich land owners and the equally influential clergy from the nobility or other prominent circles.

In 1733 one Johann Peter Rockefeller (also known as Roggenfelder) arrives in America from the Rhineland-Palatinate.

In 1740 an ancestor of the future President Herbert Hoover, one Andreas Huber, settles in the German community of Fredericksburg, Maryland.

And in November 1741 a logger named Hans Nikolaus Eisenhauer arrives in Pennsylvania - an ancestor of Dwight D. Eisenhowers, who was later to serve as Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces in World War Two, in which position he would vent his political ambitions in hatred against his ethnic brethren. - Meanwhile, Austria's Emperor Joseph II. has issued a ban on the recruiters' activities, making them punishable by death.

Part 3: The German Ethnic Group During the Revolution



ven before the young colonies' War of Independence, Germans were involved in Anglo-French naval and colonial wars. Almost the entire Royal American regiment, which was used primarily to combat Indians, was composed of Germans from Pennsylvania and Maryland. In the War of Independence, 1775-1783, Germans again played an important part in the battles between the English colonial masters and the American revolutionaries. Nikolaus Herchheimer, whose parents were from Heidelberg, became the "Hero of Mohawk Valley", where he ended a costly losing streak by winning a decisive victory for General Washington. Herchheimer, promoted to Brigadier General, was mortally wounded in the Battle of Oriskany Creek, the turning point of this war.

In December 1777 a man arrived on the French sailing ship "La Flamande" who was to become of fundamental importance to America's fate: the Prussian officer Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben! "He applied his experience in the Prussian General Staff to the American revolutionary army for tactical and operative warfare against the British troops," an encyclopedia states. "The American victory was largely to his credit."

The President of the young American Congress, Laurent Morris, greeted Steuben on his arrival: "In your person, dear Baron, we welcome an outstanding officer who has not only long served the victorious Prussian King but was also his confidante. If you serve the States, the Union - whose lawgiver and government you see in us - as loyally as you served your monarch, you will find that a Republic is no less grateful than a monarch!"

Steuben declared himself willing "to serve a nation that fights such a noble battle for its rights and its freedom." In the camp at Valley Forge he began to teach the undisciplined, motley band of Washington's rebels the fundamentals of modern tactics. Several movies have recreated his irate lectures. The interpreter assigned to him had to translate his curses

into English. Steuben soon realized that he would have to proceed differently with these "backwoodsmen" than with European soldiers, who at that time were still accustomed to carrying out orders without question. Here, in the New World, he had to explain to his men *why* his drills and field training must be done the way he said. In the course of his time of service Steuben wrote the so-called *Blue Book*, a manual of drill and service regulations that was to remain in effect for the later American army for decades to come.

Thanks to the Prussian discipline which he instilled in his troops, combined with the techniques tried and tested in forest battles against Indians, Steuben succeeded in forcing the British to surrender in the Battle of Yorktown. General Washington once said of him: "The Baron shall be our first Master of the Order [an Order newly established together with Lafayette]. One day our children and grandchildren will remember how we swore each other undying loyalty in the most hopeless time of war in these forsaken lands!"

Numerous town and city names still recall the assistance rendered by the Prussians in the War of Independence. The name Berlin alone was to be found 82 times prior to the changes that were made during World War One. But the real gratitude expressed by America, that is so deeply in Steuben's debt, was to look a little different than all the nice phrases. While several American cities are named for him, the lands granted to him in Pennsylvania and Virginia were useless as the funds with which Steuben could have developed the land were withheld from him.

On Steuben's discharge from civil service there was a motion to pay him a \$40,000 settlement. Congress accepted Steuben's resignation, but agreed to a settlement of only \$10,000 and an honorary sword. But even this amount was paid out to him only in many small instalments in the form of Treasury Bonds, whose dwindling worth again reduced the value by two-thirds! Steuben had no other choice than to give his lands to war veterans. "In that way, hundreds of your war comrades and their families are saved from poverty, and a distant wilderness is opened up to culture," Washington advised him.

The saddest chapter of Steuben's life began. Aside from his material impoverishment he even had to defend himself against slander: "I gave up everything to serve the cause of the state, and in return, the state leaves

me in poverty!" Steuben had helped George Washington turn the colonies exploited by England into a free country, and it was not until Washington was elected the first President of the Union that Congress finally yielded to his pressure to grant Steuben a steady, if modest, annual stipend.

Another competent General of German extraction was the peasant son Johann Kalb, who commanded the American troops in Delaware and Maryland and also played an important role in gaining the support of the French Court for the young Union. Kalb died a hero's death in South Carolina.

A German woman named Maria Heis, née Ludwig, christened Molly Pitcher by the Americans, was also to become famous, indeed to become a national symbol. After her husband was wounded she intervened "quick as lightning" in the battle, of which it was afterwards said that "a woman won the Battle of Monmouth".

In the style of classic German fate, this war between England and its rebellious colonies became a fraternal war between the Germans fighting on the side of Washington and those whom greedy German princes sold to England as cannon fodder for thirty pieces of silver, as it were. In this way, some 30,000 German mercenaries were sold by their primarily Hessian princes into English service, in a dirty deal for 200 pounds each. The Prince of Hessen-Kassel once wrote to his commanding officer: "The English Court does not pay me as much for my mercenaries when they are only wounded as it pays me when they die. So I don't wish to hear again that only such small numbers of my good Hessians are falling in battle!"

Under such circumstances, it is quite understandable that where Germans meet as "enemies" they often end up as allies, consistently to the benefit of the colonies. In an unjust misinterpretation of these facts, this results in both the English and the Americans beginning to use the term "Hessian" as a synonym for cowardice and desertion. But it was Germans such as Steuben, Kalb and Mühlenberg whose service as leading military heads helped the American cause gain victory in this long and bloody battle for freedom! The best regiments of American freedom fighters were recruited from among the German peasants. And it was a German pastor from Pennsylvania who had been the first to preach independence from England.

George Washington's initial official residence was Germantown, which 439 signers of a 1783 petition requested as the capital city of the United States. The aforementioned Friedrich August Mühlenberg was a member of four US Congresses and was twice the Speaker of the House of Representatives. One Michael Hillegas from Heidelberg became the first Minister of Finance, and founded the "Bank of North America". German was the language spoken in the courts of the states New York and New Jersey. In Pennsylvania, German schools taught in German and enjoyed equality with English schools until 1837. The currency of the new Union was the dollar - named for the German thaler, pronounced "daler" by the Pennsylvania Germans.

After the end of the war, Johann Jakob Astor immigrated from Walldorf near Heidelberg. By 1810 he made his first million from the fur trade and real estate investments, making him the wealthiest American of his time. He supported German immigrants, and according to the Brockhaus Encyclopedia he was the "founder of the city Astoria, of the Astor Library in York, and of Astor House (a home for children) in Walldorf".

Until the German Empire was founded in 1871, the German immigrants had no national backing at all. In view of the deep lack of German unity, the immigrants could hardly be expected to have national German sentiments. All they had retained from their homeland was a sentimental sort of attachment, mixed with church ties. The despotism of the local princes, at times reaching the point of open oppression, had contributed much to the immigrants' lack of self-confidence. According to Heinrich Heine, the dissatisfied German chose to give up his homeland and move to America, whereas the dissatisfied Frenchman preferred to start a revolution!

The German immigrant was politically naive. He did not feel himself to be a German, but rather a Prussian, a Palatine, a Saxon, a Mennonite, Amish, Herrnhuter etc. What a glaring contrast to the closed settlements of German ethnic groups such as once existed on the Balkans under Prince Eugen, or among the Volga Germans that were brought to Russia by Katharina II.!

Part 4: The Westward Movement



Among the Germans who contributed to opening up the regions farther to the west, we find Jakob Böhm from Swabia and Knüseli from Switzerland. The industrial development of the West was influenced by Martin Baum from Alsace, who built the first iron foundry, the first sugar refinery, and the first steam-powered grain mill in Cincinnati.

At this time, Pennsylvania was the only state in which more or less closed German settlement areas remained. Farther westward, the Germans scattered more widely than other ethnic groups throughout the vastness of the newly opened lands. As Gottfried Duden said: "If ever a town were founded with the intent to serve the German-Americans as their focus of culture, we would soon see the emergence of a rejuvenated Germania, and the Germans would have a second Fatherland in America just as the British do." But it was the British who had the money and the experience in global politics. Their "gentlemen adventurers", often members of wealthy families, had the advantage over the generally poor immigrants from German lands not only in terms of self-assurance but also where the ruthless drive towards profit was concerned. "Egotism is the basic drive of a healthy people," Walter von Molo quotes a British publisher in his novel about Friedrich List. "Ethical theories are for the powerless nations!"

In his 1847 history of the Germans in America, Franz Löhner laments: "Germany has done nothing for her immigrants. Future history will note this failure as a moral crime, and this crime will weigh all the more heavily if the course of world history fails to make up for the political error this represents. If the German emigrants vanish into the masses of foreign peoples, Germany will have sustained an incredible loss." And in view of the participation of millions of Germans on the enemy side in two world wars, he was clearly right in this assessment!

In the summer of 1843 some 1,000 German immigrants arrived in America every week. Minnesota, admitted to the Union in 1858, initially had a majority of German immigrants. But Wisconsin, admitted in 1848, was considered the "most German state in the Union." Thanks to the establish-



Monument to the German immigrants, erected in 1920 in Germantown.

ment of Milwaukee as a diocesan town, Wisconsin also becomes particularly attractive to Catholics. With its breweries, beer gardens, theater groups, athletics and choral societies it was considered the most typically German city in America.

The new firearms (called "widow makers") that were a deciding factor in the winning of the West were a product of the German workshops of Lancaster County. The gunsmiths of the "frontier" were Germans. The "Conestoga wagon", or "prairie schooner", with its red wheels and white canvas hood, had evolved from the German peasant wagon.

Unlike specifically the Anglo-Saxons, whose westward urge was marked by the chase after ever-new adventures and riches,

the German tended to settle on the land he had made arable by the sweat of his brow. Of all the immigrants, the Germans were least involved in the American government-sponsored ousting of the Indians, which culminated in their extermination.

Around 1820 the first Germans arrived in Texas. In this state, the largest in the Union, some one million Americans of German extraction were counted in 1990. Since 1839 the "Germania Society", founded in New York, tried to create a focal point for the Germans in Texas, with a unified Church, a German Society and a German university. In Gillespie County a nobleman who became famous as John O. Meusebach founded the city of Fredericksburg, which became the "peach capital of Texas". In 1840 San Antonio was still 100% Mexican, but already 50% German only ten years later. Even today one can still find some 150 German street names there.

After the founding of the German League in 1815, emigration was liberalized even further. Germany gradually became covered by a tight net of profitable emigration agencies. One of the best-known of these was the Hamburg-based agency of the Ballin family, one of whose scions is

Albert Ballin, founder of the North German Lloyd and advisor to Emperor Wilhelm II. In the wake of the reactionary epoch beginning in 1815, 20,000 immigrants arrived on the American shore in 1816-1817. After the 1832 Hambach Festival and the Frankfurt putsch of 1833, fully seven million Germans left their homeland in several waves. In 1882, the peak year, there were 250,000 of them! Even now, a large part of the emigrants were religious separatists, such as the Harmonites, whose colonies in Pennsylvania became model settlements admired far and wide. - Strengthened in their lack of ethnic identity by their Christian church and sect leaders, the Germans increasingly came to believe that "in a hospitable country" it is unthinkable to be anything other than American! Other ethnic groups, whether they were Italian, Polish or Ukrainian, were somewhat less sensitive in this regard - they all retained their national identity without a second thought.

Meanwhile, Metternich's suppression of liberalist efforts resulted in political emigrants joining the stream of mostly economically motivated refugees.

According to the novelist Karl Postl, who became famous as Charles Sielsfield, "the Germans are the bulwark of freedom... wherever they settle, life begins to smile." But Heinrich Heine, who seems to have been thinking of a different kind of emigrant, warned against the "goddamned land in which the most odious of tyrants, the rabble, exercises its coarse rule." And the poet Nikolaus Lenau lamented: "These Americans are petty-minded, dead as doornails to all intellectual life," and, cured of many illusions, proceeded to turn his back on the New World. Friedrich Kapp, editor-in-chief of the newspaper *New Yorker Abendzeitung*, commented in a similar vein: "The United States are the country for the small, ignorant farmer who has no other ideal than to eat bacon every day, and for the businessman who wants to grow rich at any cost."

One prominent emigrant, the German Follen, saw it his duty "as a good American, a good German and a good Christian" to fight against slavery. Since the Germans rejected slavery on moral grounds, the cultivation of the swampy land in Missouri claimed the lives of many of them. In this state the German Senator Münch and his 8,000-man militia of St. Louis played an important role for the North in the Civil War.

One of the foremost German immigrants was the professor of economics Friedrich List from Reutlingen. He had been imprisoned in Hohenasperg fortress on a flimsy pretext, as "rebel", and was released only on his promise to emigrate. Like so many others, List first became a farmer on his arrival in America, but then he took the position of editor at the nonpartisan *Reading Adler*. In Pennsylvania he discovered coal, which could be open-cast mined there. To facilitate its mining he established a railroad and canal company, and this, along with his public support of his friend and presidential candidate Jackson, made him a successful and respected man. But List found that he could not permanently forsake his own homeland, despite all the bitterness, humiliation and persecution he had experienced there. With new realizations and all the practical experience he gained in the New World, he returned to his homeland - but not without first giving the Americans some valuable advice based on his brilliant view of economics:

"You must impose tariffs on the imports of British goods, to make yourselves independent of foreign countries! You've thrown England out the front door, but she has crept in again through the back door." And more: "It is the British theory that anyone who does not believe that there is eternal peace among all the nations, is an idiot. But then, why did England wage war against America twice in recent years, and for more than 20 years with France? When England speaks of world peace, she means that no-one in the world shall dare stand up against her.... It is very clever of England to speak of humanity and eternal peace and think all the while only of her own advantage. But common sense requires that one does not judge a nation's motives by the pretexts it invents in order to conceal its intentions."

The *Adler* became so successful a paper that all prominent Americans read it, and Andrew Jackson, America's most respected statesman, publicly congratulated List, saying: "Herr Professor List has shown us that a country can only be healthy if agriculture and industry, man's two main inclinations, stand in balance to each other... We hereby decide to publish Herr List's essays in anthology form and to bring them into circulation in our nation's libraries."

As German patriot, List himself was clear on the fact that the mass emigration to America "is a cancer draining the German body's vitality. What a mighty stream of power Germany allows to flow across the ocean!"

With leaders such as List, Münch or Follen, who worked for the preservation of the German language and culture, it should really have been possible to create a national consciousness among the immigrants. If this failed, the failure was primarily due to those who had attained wealth and status in the New World and neglected, in their new prominence, to preserve their German nature and German customs. While they may have maintained certain cultural traditions, such as the German *Gemütlichkeit*, in political respects these newly "established" immigrants were all too willing to adapt to the political structure, which already bore the Anglo-Saxon stamp. And in that light, it was useless to make appeals such as, for example, that made by the German Society of Missouri to the ethnically German Governor of Pennsylvania, Ritner, to make the state officially bilingual, since "after all, only German industriousness and German uprightness had laid the foundations for Pennsylvania's wealth and made the wilderness arable." While a bill was passed in 1837, stating that laws in Pennsylvania must also be published in German, the established German press focused primarily on intellectual rather than on politically national issues. It was this kind of petty-minded sectarianism, a reflection of the small-state mentality dominant in the Motherland, that drove the Germans helplessly into the arms of the politically superior Yankee machinery.

The church of Martin Luther, for example, instead of sticking together, split into ever more and new factions, resulting in a fateful self-dissection and thus also in the political disenfranchisement of the Germans - one reason for Bismarck's press secretary Moritz Busch to remark with acid scorn on the "German impotence in America"!

But in the revolutionary year 1848 the Germans in the United States did for once act as a unity in their "Address to the German People": "No Austrians, no Prussians! A united Germany! A prince spoke these words and they remained empty sound - a people demand it and it becomes fact! God bless Germany!" That sounded like the impassioned cry of the Central Germans before the Berlin Wall fell: WE ARE THE PEOPLE!

Part 5: The Forty-Niners



In September 1852 Carl Schurz, the son of a teacher, and his young wife arrived in New York harbor. As member of a liberal student fraternity he had participated in the Baden Uprising in his homeland. From Philadelphia he moved first to Wisconsin, to be a farmer, but even here his public speeches, perfect in both vocabulary and diction, made him so well-known that Lincoln is said to have been envious of this German. Schurz was later to be praised as "the greatest immigrant Germany ever provided", or "a gift from Germany to America".

As a German who, like most of his countrymen, supported the liberation of the slaves, Schurz joined the Republicans. Lincoln once greeted him with the flattering words, "Within the framework of our brief acquaintance, I must say that no man is closer to my heart than you are."

Lincoln officially defended the Abolitionist Cause, but the words he spoke in 1858 in one of his famous debates with Stephen A. Douglas are not well known: "I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races... I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people... and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."

President Lincoln, whose stepmother Sarah Bush was of German descent, posted Schurz to Madrid as Ambassador. During the Civil War Schurz took command of a Union Army division consisting primarily of Germans. After the end of the war, Schurz became Senator of Missouri and, in 1877, Secretary of the Interior under President Hayes. As journalist and politician he had advocated a quick reconciliation between the North and the South. At the same time, he also wished to see an improvement in the living conditions of Negroes and Indians, which concerns again netted him considerable opposition.

Regarding these and his other efforts to reform the civil service, Joachim Fernau writes ironically: "All in all, one can imagine how unpopular Schurz quickly made himself... His attempts to clean up the higher offices

were perceived as most impudent. Schurz introduced testing, screened the candidates according to their expertise and their respectability, and mercilessly exposed every shortcoming. The New York Customs Office proved to be a particularly smelly hornet's nest. When he opened that up, the entire Republican Party turned away from him... Oh for the good old days under Grant! The days when Vanderbilt was rewarded for each and every kilometer of railroad track with ten miles of land to either side of it! The days when Philip Armour made a million dollars in only three months by supplying meat to the army, even though the maggots were already crawling out of the meat barrels..."

The tragic inner conflict typical of German immigrants to America is expressed in rare form in Schurz's famous statement: "I love Germany like my mother and America like my wife. If one must choose, one stays with one's wife, but the love for one's mother lasts a lifetime." Bismarck admitted: "As a German I am proud of Schurz." But how would the German-Americans reconcile Schurz's words with their actions in the event of a war against their homeland? Their ready adjustment to and ultimately their assimilation into the pre-set Anglo-Puritan society brought the Germans disadvantages almost without exception. Those who set the tone among the Germans were god-fearing Christians. What they lacked in practical life was the ability to assert themselves politically!

Another dedicated champion of the liberation of the slaves was the Mannheim lawyer Friedrich Hecker, who is also credited with establishing the first German athletics society in Cincinnati. In 1896 Adolph Ochs (whose father was from Fürth) founded the *New York Times*. In Manhattan in 1853 Heinrich Engelhard Steinweg from Wolfshagen, together with his son Henry, founded the company Steinway & Sons, whose concert pianos would soon become world-famous. Dr. Abraham Jacobi, an escapee from the Minden prison, opened up a medical practice in New York, pioneered pediatrics in the United States, and gained world fame through his publications.

The watchmaker and optician Heinrich Göbel, an immigrant from Springe on the Deister Mountain, invented the lightbulb - with a charred bamboo fiber in a vacuum glass bulb - in 1854, 25 years before Edison picked up on this invention. Heinrich Gustav Hilgard, known as Henry Villard, made a name for himself in the construction of the Northern

Pacific Railroad. He financed the enterprise in part with credits from Germany, as thanks for which the state capital of North Dakota is named Bismarck. Together with Edison, Villard-Hilgard founded the Edison General Electric Company. He also acquired the majority of shares in the *Evening Post*, one of New York's major newspapers, and appointed Carl Schurz as its editor-in-chief.

In his book *Halleluja* Joachim Fernau is less taken with Villard's methods. He describes Villard as a major participant in the method of luring cheap labor to America via European recruiting agencies. "They canvassed the poor districts all the way to Naples and Sicily and deep into the heart of Russia." Consequently, for example, of 25,000 steel workers in the smoke-drenched Pittsburgh region, 15,000 were immigrants.

Between 1852 and 1854, some half a million immigrants from the German-speaking regions arrive in America. Among the "nativists" who feared the new competition on the labor market, these waves of immigrants prompted considerable resentment. The immigrants tended to be better qualified, dominated specialized professions, and on the whole exhibited a superior work ethic, far removed from the otherwise common desire to make "fast money" in any way possible.

But what the old-established Puritans held against the Germans in particular was their custom to use Sundays not only to piously read the Bible but also to recover in their own way from the strain of the week, with music and dancing and beer. Hundreds of associations of nativists, East Coast Puritans, teetotalers or Messianic Templenzers - usually with especially strong representation by the fairer sex - crusaded against this "German vice" that threatened the nation's salvation. President Kennedy once stated that it was thanks particularly to the influence of German immigrants that "our everyday life was rid of the strict and overly pious Puritan character." In 1793, in his book *The Age of Reason*, the American freedom hero and first Foreign Minister of the United States Thomas Paine wrote about his countrymen: "If the taste of a Quaker could have been consulted at the creation, what a silent and drab-coloured creation it would have been! Not a flower would have blossomed its gayeties, nor a bird been permitted to sing."

The Germans, insulting as they did the purity of American morals, were attacked, stoned, even murdered by the fanatical mob. The German

Theater in New Orleans was turned into a sea of flames. In Chicago a regular battle ensued in 1855 when the German pubs were to be closed on Sundays. But for once these radical proceedings by the Puritans achieved the opposite of their intent. The attempted discrimination against the Germans rather became an impetus for them, true to the principle that pressure creates counter-pressure! But unfortunately this chance was wasted. If the Germans had founded a party of their own, this budding self-confidence might have lasted!

On the occasion of Schiller's 100th birthday in 1859, lavish Schiller Festivals were celebrated throughout the nation. Friedrich Kapp considered that the Germans were "at the apex of their development and intellectual importance to the United States" at this point. But when this Schiller Year was also the first time that a German was elected Sheriff of Chicago, the Anglos howled in outrage: "How disgraceful it would be," the *Times* wrote, "if it should come about that an American is hanged by a German!"

Part 6: The Germans in the Civil War, and Immigration After 1870



In the American Civil War (1861-1865, when eleven Southern states had announced their secession from the Union), the German population was predominantly on the side of the Northern states. Some 200,000 Germans, approximately one-tenth of the entire Union Army, actively participated in the battle, among them 500 German officers including 9 Generals and several Brigadier Generals. More than 10,000 Germans fought on the side of the Confederates. - In this bloody conflict, just as in the War of Independence, Germans again fought against Germans. Franz Lieber, the German teacher of international law on Lincoln's side, had three sons involved in the fighting; his oldest fell in battle for the North, while his youngest died in the Southern army under General Lee in the Battle of Gettysburg.

The cartoonist Thomas Nast - among whose lasting contributions are the two American Parties' political symbols, the "donkey" and the "elephant" - accompanied the war as a forerunner of today's photojournalists. Joseph Keppler from Vienna followed Nast's tradition and in 1876 became the co-founder of the magazine *Puck*, the largest American humorist publication.

But the German lack of unity in matters of politics persisted even after the war was over. It was again typical that the German churches put up next to no resistance against the moves towards Anglicizing. Another aspect fateful for the Germans was that the Civil War, which claimed a total of 600,000 lives, had also cost them a great many of their own leading men. And so the Germans in America remained without an able elite. Except in academic matters they never acted as a closed unit, but remained divided into special interest groups. Their spiritual leaders consistently placed their special principles above their ethnicity. Instead of forming an independent unit, the Germans fragmented themselves amongst the existing parties, the Democrats and the Republicans.¹

This absence of political ambition resulting from the lack of political instinct was to have devastating consequences later on. Even though great numbers of Germans fought for America and against their homeland in both world wars, they - unlike the Poles and Czechs - had no influence whatsoever on the borders determined in the Dictates of Versailles and St. Germain by the Allies and their Eastern satellites!

The lack of their own party was already reason enough for the weakness of the German ethnic group. No less devastating a factor was their underestimation of the significance of their own language. Whereas other minorities often still speak their mother tongue even in later generations, the German immigrants have almost always been ready and willing to learn the English language as quickly as possible and to either abandon their own language entirely or to let it degenerate into an unholy mess of "pidgin English". In general, mastery of the English language was a vital prerequisite for economic success. But the renunciation of one's own language even in the circle of family and friends was more the consequence of laziness and thoughtlessness, which was intensified by the fact that the newly arrived labourers and farmers did not have the benefit of a pre-existing German leadership elite. Accordingly, the historian Kapp

commented sadly: "That which we call the German element in the United States is little more than the generation that has just immigrated and is now becoming extinct within itself."

The 1871 founding of the German Reich by Bismarck after the Franco-Prussian War became a new high point for the Germans in the USA. The glory of victory, and the identification with an Empire that is now powerful and united, prompted enormous parades by the German athletes, singers and marksmen. And with this new Germany as their backing, a pride in the land of their forefathers finally began to stir.

This new spirit found expression in Cincinnati in 1888 on the occasion of the inauguration of the "Germania Hall", in an address by Wilhelm Kaufmann which unfortunately also contained a few awkward phrases which Yankees in the audience did not exactly take kindly: "We cannot render our Fatherland any better service than by preserving the German people's cultural spirit, the spirit that permeates the entire globe and has proven itself a thousand times. It is the German genius, the lively effervescent fount of German idealism, paired with hard work, endurance and bravery, that makes the Germans the leading nation that now conquers the entire world." While the latter was by no means meant literally, an Englishman or an American might have come up with such ideas, though never with such words.

After the 1866 Prussian victory over the Austrians at Königgrätz, immigration from Austria-Hungary increased. By 1919 some 1,500,000 citizens of the Dual Monarchy had landed on the eastern American shore, almost 140,000 of them in 1907 alone. 300,000 Russian-Germans settled in the American Midwest, Germans from the Black Sea in the Dakotas, and Volga-Germans in Nebraska. As a rule these ethnic German groups were more strongly conscious of their Germanness than the Germans from the Empire. In this way the Russian-Germans, who already knew how to preserve their ethnicity in a tough struggle with a foreign environment, perhaps contributed more to America and its German element than many another group of immigrants. Among other things, the Russian-Germans introduced "kubanka", the world's hardest variety of wheat, which is rust and drought resistant and would make the Prairies one of the greatest bread baskets of the world.

Like the Mennonites and the Amish, the Hutterites - a sub-group of the Russian-Germans - have managed by means of social isolation, a strict moral lifestyle and the special form of their religious faith to preserve their autonomy as a pure ethnic group to this very day. These three groups are the only true linguistic enclaves remaining in North America, and are popular tourist attractions and highly respected for their people's honesty and competence.

Part 7: The German Element Around the Turn of the Century



"Hermann", a settlement established in Missouri, is named in honor of the most significant figure in German history, Hermann the Cheruscan. Arminius, the liberator of Germania, stands symbolically for the longing for a new, strong Germany.

One of the greatest areas of interest among the German-Americans is gymnastics, whose social function as expressed in the various clubs and groups goes far beyond mere exercise. For a long time, gymnastics clubs contributed to a unification, albeit a loose one, of the German immigrants, though they lacked an umbrella organization. By the beginning of the First World War, another amalgamation, the "Deutsch-Nationale Bund", represented an association of some 10,000 clubs in 45 states with a total of 2.6 million members, making it the largest ethnic organization in America.

Thanks to its scholarly elite, Cincinnati was the stronghold of intellectual life in America in the late 19th century. In 1890 57% of the 300,000 registered inhabitants of this city are Germans. St. Louis and Milwaukee were also cities with a strong German population, as was the rapidly growing city of Chicago, which the *London Times* called "America's German miracle". Around 1900, the German share in American economic life was fully one-third. In the vicinity of Chicago there were more than

100 towns with names such as Strassburg, Vienna, Baden, etc. A lesser-known fact is that the largest "German" city at that time was New York, which had a larger German population than Munich. Around 1900 there were German enclaves in virtually every state of the Union, and as a survey showed, the German immigrants continued to be the group most desired by the communities as new citizens!

In California, San Francisco was the intellectual centre of the German-Americans until World War One. In 1901 a copy of the Goethe-Schiller-Memorial that stood in front of the Weimar National Theatre was erected in Golden Gate Park. Commenting on its unveiling, Charles Bundschuh wrote: "Proud and noble, Germany's most magnificent monument stands on the Pacific coast as the most profound glorification of the Germanic spirit, the spirit to which this developing American nation owes so immensely much."

Even as late as 1911, the American Congress gave a copy of the Steuben Monument in Washington as a gift to the German Emperor and the German people, "as a symbol of unwavering friendship" between the two peoples! In 1913 a great Wagner Festival, involving more than 1,000 singers, took place in New York. To the Americans, Germany was synonymous with Goethe, Beethoven, Mozart and Bach until just shortly before the war. Americans went to study in Göttingen or Heidelberg, and "all boys and girls read the German poets and philosophers."

The German immigrants helped shape the New World in every aspect of life. "He builds, tills the soil, tends the forests, fights, discovers, collects, develops, teaches, plants and heals. He makes the German language a symbol for entire professions. He opens up vast wilderness regions, introduces entire industries, founds the greatest banking and merchant houses, and plays an enormous role in academe and in medicine. Among his ranks there are titans of business, economic leaders and the founders of dynasties such as Studebaker, Wurlitzer, Heinz, Steinway, Villard, Guggenheim or Strauss, such as Spreckels (the 'Sugar King'), Weyerhäuser (the 'Lumber King'), or Kreiser (the 'Cattle King' of the USA)."

The Brooklyn Bridge in New York, built by Johann Augustus Roebling and his son, may be regarded as a cultural symbol and an emblem of the German spirit transplanted into the New World. Gustav Lindenthal and Ottmar Amman are two other important pioneers of bridge construction.

Ottmar Mergenthaler invented the Linotype system, which first permitted the cost-effective mass printing of newspapers and books - a marvel of printing technology. In the service of "General Electric", the inventor Charles Proteus Steinmetz became a "modern Jupiter, hurling lightning bolts". Cyrus Eidlitz built the New York Times building, Henry Hardenbergh the old Waldorf Astoria, Henry Koch the City Hall of Milwaukee. The iron cupola of the Capitol in Washington was designed by Thomas U. Walter. Rudolph Dirks created the first American comics ("The Katzenjammer Kids", based on "Max und Moritz"), and Charles Schultz made the "Peanuts" world-famous. Oscar Hammerstein I. founded six opera houses, and Oscar Hammerstein II. wrote the musicals "The King and I", "South Pacific" and "Oklahoma".

From all this, one may conclude that the Germans were active primarily in the cultural and creative branches, while politics and the press, which were governed by high finance, were shaped by Jews and Anglo-Saxons - as are almost the entire media nowadays.

The Germans were credited with the talent to "get things going", to find new methods, solutions to problems, and to be able to adapt quickly to any given situation. On the other hand, this unsolicited admiration was often accompanied by a considerable portion of envy. Even though they were particularly esteemed as farmers and artisans, the Germans were rejected and not infrequently the target of open enmity in the predominantly Anglo-Saxon regions of the country. The trait of clumsy helplessness - the complex suffered by a newcomer from an insignificant little principality, by a plain honest fellow who does not have the self-assurance of an Englishman - increased the rejection he was made to feel, rather than reducing it. Anglo-Saxons have only ever respected strength!

The aforementioned Franz Lieber won the hearts of generations of American students for the German arts. He also published the New World's first encyclopedia. The impressive pictures painted by Albert Bierstadt from Solingen brought the "Wild West" to life, and Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze's "George Washington Crossing the Delaware" was to become America's most famous historical painting.

Germans Helped Build America



*The United States of America
and its 52,000,000 citizens of German extraction.
Source: 1980 Census, Ethnic Origin by State.
US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.*

But it is in the field of music that the German-Americans gained by far their greatest influence. The artistic mastery of German musicians became the cornerstone for the founding of numerous choirs and orchestras. This musical creativity first had to prevail against the hysterical doctrine of Puritanism, which even banned music - but then the annual Bach Festivals in Pennsylvania became a musical event that put the entire nation under its spell.

In 1783 the country's first musical band was founded in Philadelphia. A century later, the towering influence German composers have had on American music is undeniable. In 1890, 89 of the 94 musicians in the New York Philharmonic Orchestra were Germans. A year later, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra was founded by Theodor Thomas. In 1903 Heinrich Conried from Bielitz assumed the leadership of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, to which he summoned Gustav Mahler in 1907.

But all these great cultural achievements were to bolster the German-Americans' self-confidence only for a short time. Once America entered the world war on the Allied side, a devastating relapse occurred - very

quickly and very thoroughly. Even the most illustrious names such as Steuben, Astor or Steinway were soon equated only with power or wealth, but no longer with German achievements.

Note: ¹The German refugees expelled from their Eastern homelands after the Second World War suffered a similar fate. The pressure to adapt to the *status quo* - in this case, the pressure exerted by Allied and neo-German re-education efforts and by the persecution of those who remained politically steadfast - was no less comparable to the conditions in America than the end result was similar: the expellees worked hard and built up the country and its infrastructure and, guided by a soft leadership, cared more about cultural matters than about politics. After 50 years of "trusting" in the politicians in Bonn, their fate has concluded in the same way as that of their American parallel: sold out - betrayed - forgotten. _

Part 8: The First World War and its Consequences



The outbreak of the war in 1914 prompted enormous rallies and parades by the German-Americans. Almost without exception, the approximately 500 German-language newspapers advocated American neutrality. "German-American Literary Defence Committees" were organized in a number of cities. The New York association "American Women of German Heritage" called for action against the anti-German agitation. Collection points are set up by Germans for Germany, where "gold for iron" is donated for the benefit of the German homeland.

But despite its numerical strength, the politically unorganised German ethnic group proved not be up to the task of combating the anti-German incitement in the press, which was under the control of economics and high finance. The German Emperor, listening to poor advice, unwittingly supplied the agitators with ammunition when he overestimated his influence in the USA and announced: "Three million German-Americans vote according to my wishes."

Wilson officially declared America to be neutral. "Well, had he gone mad?" writes Joachim Fernau. "A neutral America which would have had to discontinue its supplies shipments to the Allies would have come to the edge of ruin! The entire country was already in war production mode! If the President failed to see it, high finance did not!

"The war party (the mighty coalition of politics and high finance) decided to take a desperate measure to teach the President better. The First Lord of the British Admiralty, Mr. Winston Churchill, had been notified.... The British passenger steamship 'Lusitania' with 1,000 passengers, among them 128 Americans, was studded with cannons and stuffed full of ammunition to right beneath the passenger cabins! And this weapons transport had been 'leaked' to the German secret service!..." It was the year 1915. On February 4, the German Foreign Office declared the waters surrounding England a war zone, and newspaper notices from the German Embassy warned the passengers of the 'Lusitania' accordingly. On May 7, a German torpedo launched within the English war zone hits the ammunition stores of the passenger ship. "This incident strengthened Theodore Roosevelt's war party in the United States over the peace party of Jennings Bryans, who stepped back as Foreign Minister," states the book *Politisches Geschehen des XX. Jahrhunderts*.

Längin describes with impressive vividness the incredible, almost overnight downfall of the Germans that occurred with America's entry into the war. "The Germans are turned from 'Jerry' into 'kraut' into bloodthirsty Huns... A crusade of annihilation begins in the 'Land of the Free', and the world's oldest democracy falls victim to its hatred... The press is saturated with allegations of German atrocities. Organized denouncers make more than three million reports to the police. There are mass dismissals of German workers [incentive for them to go into military service instead?! ed.], monuments of Goethe and Schiller are razed or covered up. Eventually, teaching in the 'tongue of the Huns' is prohibited. The chorals of the Reformation must be translated into English, and Mozart and Wagner are banned from the concert halls. The German Theatre in New York must close down... German shepherds [i.e. the dogs; trans.] are killed, German books are burned, German companies set afire... sauerkraut changes its nationality and becomes 'liberty cabbage', and the Frankfurter sausage is turned into a 'hot dog'. The word 'kindergarten' is abolished."

This insanity culminates in the prayer which the American Congress jointly prayed "in pharisaical self-adulation", in order, as Wilson put it, "to make the world safe for democracy" - a prayer of which we quote only the conclusion here, for the sake of brevity: "We entreat Thee, bare Thy mighty arm and beat back the massive pack of hungry wolfish Huns, from whose fangs drip blood and slime. We entreat Thee, let the stars in their courses and the winds and waves fight against them... And praise be to Thee for evermore, in Jesus Christ. Amen."

The Germans were torn in their feelings and loyalty. While their hearts still beat faster at every German victory, their pious "leaders" had taught them well that their loyalty now belonged to their new homeland.

"In order to make the American population ready for war," writes H. J. von Leesen, "the British set up a special propaganda office under Sir Gilbert Parker, financed by the British secret service... Atrocity propaganda played a preeminent role... supported by Lord Northcliffe, the owner of the London newspapers *Times* and *Daily Mail*. Allegedly 75,000 speakers in 5,000 American cities gave such anti-German propaganda speeches to audiences totaling more than 300 million listeners."

Some ten million German-Americans surrendered to this concentrated campaign of hate. They submitted out of fear and mute despair. "America's entry into the war took place within only a few hours," writes Richard O'Connor. "In this short time, the German-Americans disappeared forever as a political factor."

In his poem "The Hour of German Destiny" Walter Flex addresses this Germanophobia, fuelled by unscrupulous enemy propaganda throughout the world. We quote only three stanzas here (unfortunately the rhyme is lost in translation):

"We are the target of the world's hatred,
whether man, woman or child.
But whatever shall come of it,
we remain what we are!

Only pride can serve us
as the elixir of strength.
A fool is he that gawks
at foreign eyes and mouths!

Germans Helped Build America

We stand united before God
and share both right and blame,
and throw the foreigners' hate
and adulation alike to the dogs."

True to the German tradition of adaptability (the Germans fell gullibly for the propaganda aimed against them even in those days!), most of the German-Americans vied with each other to prove their American patriotism. Newspapers who until shortly before had still stood in for the German cause now suddenly struck an anti-German note. Even the German National Association declared shortly thereafter: "We, as American citizens of German blood, declare wholeheartedly that we shall stand together against the inner and outer enemy."

As so many times before in their history, Germans once again bleed *en masse* for foreign interests. Seen proportionally to the number of its inhabitants, the city "Hermann" on the Missouri made the greatest blood sacrifice of all American cities. "With stamina such as only Germans are capable of," the Baden Catholics of St. Nazianz manufactured more than 300,000 replacement parts for the American aircraft industry, as "sign of their loyalty"!

Germans became the most successful American fighter pilots - such as Edward Rickenbacher, Frank Luke and Joseph Wehner. John Joseph Pershing, the great-grandson of the German Lutheran preacher Friedrich Pförschin, became Commander-in-Chief of the American expedition corps.

The German-American novelist Kurt Vonnegut recounts that his parents were so shamed by the anti-German hatemongering that they refused to speak German with him and to share German literature, German music or even the family's own chronicle with him. The result was that later on he felt "purely American in cultural respects, but German-American by the standards of the dog breeder's association!"

In order to escape hateful attacks, countless German-Americans changed their names. Braun is changed to Brown, Müller to Miller, Schmidt to Smith, Becker to Baker. As a rule the double n, as in Hollmann, disappears and becomes the Americanized Hollman! Therefore the ancestry of most German-Americans is no longer apparent from their names.

After the end of the war the Germans were nearly wiped out as a culturally independent group. As Wilbur Keegan said at a Schurz Memorial Festival in Chicago: "The German element in America has fallen from the highest heights to such a depth that not even the lowliest still shows it any respect. No further retreat is possible, save into slavish submission. Men who otherwise will march towards a loaded cannon and look death fearlessly in the eye, shudder when they are recognized to be a German."

In 1919 the Steuben Society was founded with the aim "to thoroughly Americanize the relics of formerly independent Germanness." Once more, associations and clubs revived, especially in the field of sports. Heritage and ethnic costume clubs also became active, at least as tourist attractions. But once again, dissent arose amongst them (as though it had been deliberately sown) when Catholics came into conflict with Protestants or the "successful" intellectual and economic circles strove to distance themselves from their German heritage.

Even if not much of the rich German tradition was permitted to survive, there is one product that would continue to own its German origin. The largest breweries, such as Schlitz, Papst or Anheuser-Busch, retained their leading positions. With 94 breweries, the largely German city of Milwaukee proudly called itself "the Beer Capital of the World". Cincinnati also has a proud beer tradition, with eight breweries as early as 1840, and 36 by 1860. A master brewer named Austerlitz, formerly an NCO in the Austro-Hungarian army, also became famous - though less for his brew than through his son Fred, who made a name for himself in Hollywood, as Fred Astaire.

Prior to the outbreak of World War Two, the United States again had more than 1,000 German clubs, among them the "American-German Alliance" led by Fritz Kuhn from Munich. Certain circles subjected Kuhn to hateful persecution because he openly professed his support for the Third Reich. In 1939 the Alliance had more than 100,000 members, including a considerable number of Ukrainians who decidedly preferred Germany to life under Comrade Stalin.

Once again the United States became the target nation for political emigrés. Approximately 105,000 of them emigrated from Germany and Austria, some 75% of them Jews. Jews had already been emigrating to

America since the 18th century, and family dynasties such as the Seligmans, Warburgs, Belmonts, Strauss, Guggenheims, Loeb and Schiffs had amassed mighty fortunes. Albert Einstein as well was taken in by Princeton University. Ultimately, the dedicated "pacifist" Einstein was the one who urged Franklin Roosevelt, early in the war, to construct the American atom bomb!

Part 9: World War Two and Afterwards - Critical Voices



Meanwhile the Germans of America have become so disenfranchised that they displayed the Stars and Stripes even in their own clubs, and sing the American national anthem there louder than anywhere else!

There were no longer any clubs or associations that retained their German character or consciousness. American historians find that no more than one percent of the German-Americans were "fanatical National Socialists" during and since the war; in 1940 a political periodical described America as the "mass grave of the German emigrant".

German industrialists contributed extensively to the production of arms against their country of origin. "In the Seattle assembly plants of the entrepreneur Boeing, whose origins are in Hohenlimburg, the Flying Fortresses are built that drop 640,036 tons of bombs on Germany. The Bechtels arm the navy. Dwight D. Eisenhower, whose ancestor was driven out of the Odenwald for his pacifist views, is the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces, and Chester D. Nimitz, whose grandparents were from Bremen, becomes Fleet Admiral. Generals Krüger and Eichelberger lead two armies, General Spaatz commands the bomber fleet, and hundreds of thousands of soldiers of German extraction fight for America. Additionally, after the war, the financiers Bernard Baruch and Henry Morgenthau Jr. compete in the development of ideas for Germany's ultimate annihilation. Baruch's ancestors were from East Prussia, the Morgenthau from Mannheim!"

Regarding America's entry into the war under the leadership of Roosevelt, the President who according to the unanimous verdict of all Revisionists 'tricked America into the war with lies', Joachim Fernau writes: "The 'Lusitania' had once cost 128 Americans their lives, but Roosevelt's Pearl Harbor cost 4,000!" These were lives which this ambitious and cynical warmonger sacrificed in cold blood in order to finally force his reluctant people "through the back door" and into the war against the Axis powers!

In his 1947 book *The Crime of Our Age* about America's war politics, war aims and political morals - a book which circulated widely in America even in the highest political circles, including President Truman's - the American Reverend Dr. Ludwig A. Fritsch writes: "In the presence of God I ask our nation, I ask you, ministers of the Gospel: Did the Germans in all our histories ever inflict such injuries on us as we did in the two World Wars and still do inflict on them? What wrong did the German nation do to us Americans that we punished them twice in a generation in the most cruel and inhuman way such as history never saw before? Do you call that American gratitude for all the hard work and faithfulness by which German people here built up our country and won our victories?"

Of the German scientists and engineers who worked under Wernher von Braun in Peenemünde to develop the V2 rocket and who surrendered to the Americans in 1945, some 120 went to America "voluntarily" as intellectual war booty. Among them was the noteworthy scientist Dr. Rudolph, who was later - after he had served his purpose! - banished again from the United States, even though he held American citizenship! Working in Huntsville, Alabama within the framework of NASA, von Braun invented the propulsion system for the Saturn V, making the 1969 "Apollo" trip to the moon possible. Martin Schwarzschild, a professor who had immigrated from Potsdam in 1937, had contributed substantially to this success. And even Neil Armstrong, "the first man on the moon", was of German extraction - his ancestors were from Ladbergen in Westphalia.

Between 1951 and 1960 a new wave of immigrants arrived in America: almost 478,000 Germans and some 104,000 Austrians - and these were not a negative selection, such as would be the case later on, in a different

country, but the cream of the crop, selected according to strict criteria! Additionally, the American occupiers of post-war Germany brought several thousand German women home as "war brides". Most of these immigrants were people with special qualifications, who no longer saw a future for themselves in their homeland, destroyed as it had been by Anglo bombs. Another reason for the hopelessness experienced by these unemployed Germans is to be found in the post-war dismantling of vital German industries, as well as in the influx of millions of Germans fleeing from Stalin's Red hordes.

Reverend Fritsch comments on this post-war situation: "The extradition and presentation of entire countries and nations to the Russians by Roosevelt; the senseless and deliberate destruction of the most magnificent cities; the most cruel expulsion of millions of Eastern-Germans from their century old homes; the development and the execution of the Eisenhower-Morgenthau-Roosevelt plan, the most inhuman act of revenge since there is a recorded history; the slow and painful murdering of 20-30 million human beings by starvation, cold and privation. Those are not political 'mistakes' as our leaders now want us to believe; they are conscious, deliberate, premeditated crimes!"

In 1987 the American Congress declared October 6 to be "German American Day", an empty gesture since the Germans continue to be the States' only, yet largest, minority with no voice. But at least at that time reference was still made to the countless contributions Germans made to America's development (a subject which is now an absolute taboo again). According to Längin, there was a certain recollection that "Walter Chrysler (Kreisler) had founded the automobile manufacturing company that is named for him; that Martin Brill from Kassel had established the largest manufactory of street cars, Johann Bausch and Heinrich Lomb the foremost manufactory of optical lenses, and Karl Pfizer from Ludwigsburg a leading drug company. Charles Schwab and Henry Flick are regarded as giants of the steel industry, and the Viennese Charles Bluhdorn was co-founder and President of Gulf & Western Industries. Frank A. Seibeling, a descendant of immigrants from Stuttgart, was the founding father of the company Goodyear, and the ancestors of his main competitor Harvey Firestone (these are the two largest American rubber manufacturers; ed.) were Austrians who had immigrated via Alsace. Hermann Hollerith introduced the first electric calculating machine in his adopted

homeland, and in 1942 the Viennese woman Hedy Lamarr (actually Hedwig Kiesler) received the patent for a torpedo guidance system."

"The opinion of history remains divided," adds Längin. "The German sickness, namely a lack of group consciousness, is the formula that facilitates a rapid and thoughtless assimilation into the host society, which quickly turns the German into the 'Anglo monkey' and the United States into the 'graveyard of the Germans'." The historian Lamprecht comments in a similar vein: "The Germans have failed as Germans," and no Oktoberfest with lederhosen, chamois hat decorations, yodeling and beer can whitewash that!

The question remains whether the demise of America's most numerous, efficient and probably also most decent ethnic group with the lowest crime rate of all is the consequence primarily of German naiveté and lack of political ability, or of a large-scale, clever exploitation of German energy and expertise by the politically savvy Anglo-Saxon leadership elite.

Regarding the crimes committed by America against the Germans as well as other peoples in both world wars and since, Reverend Dr. Fritsch expresses the educated German-American view thus: "All these tremendous might and power and profits were achieved at the lowest price in comparison to the appalling damage and the irreparable loss we inflicted on our 'enemies.' Hitherto we were in our whole history the lucky winners of all our aggressive wars against the Indians, the English, Spaniards, Mexicans, Japanese and twice against the Germans. In this last gigantic struggle of nations we have lost only as many human lives as we have at home by accidents. The American Red Cross in 1945 reported officially that '99 per cent of the American prisoners of war in Germany have survived and are on their way home!' (In contrast to this fact we have sent not 1 per cent of our German prisoners of war home, but we traded them as slaves to France and England!) Concerning the 260 billions - the cost of Roosevelt's war - it is more than paid off through the patent secrets and art treasures and scientists stolen and kidnapped from the Germans. Thus we have only profited from all the wars we waged while at the same time we inflicted on mankind unspeakable misery and bitter disappointments. The greatest of all sins in the presence of God and in the light of history that we as a nation have committed is making ourselves

guilty of matricide. Europe is our physical and spiritual mother. But most of all we should appreciate and honor that nation whose sons' and daughters' blood and sweat mostly had flowed for our country: the German. Is it not true that in every third American's veins flows Teutonic blood?"

And as for the possibilities of a Germany left in peace, Reverend Fritsch writes: "In my opinion the Germans would have broken the eccentricities of Hitlerism after they had reached their goal - unification of all Germans. Their unique ability to organize would have created order and tranquillity in Europe and in the World in the shortest possible time. They would have created the United States of Europe without bloodshed. They would have placed their great capabilities in the fields of science, arts and technology to the disposition of the whole world as they did before. Their deep spiritual life would have enriched and ennobled mankind, as for example the unique German music and hymns heretofore did."

With regard to the jealous fear of competition that characterizes England, the nation Hitler (oddly enough) admired so much, he writes: "Germany was at that time at the zenith of her might, fame and reputation. She built the greatest and most luxurious ships of the world with which she gained the world market, because she was able to supply the best and cheapest production. In the realm of science Germany was ahead of all nations of the world. Her scientists had more Nobel-Prizes in all spheres of science than all the other nations combined. From all countries of the globe the seekers of knowledge and lovers of art came to the famous universities of the 'people of poets and thinkers.' But the might and greatness of Germany was at the same time envied and suspected. England, feeling that she was put back to play the second fiddle in world affairs, in her insatiable greediness worked so hard and so long until she succeeded in surrounding Germany with enemies. Europe became a powder keg. Only the spark was necessary to make her explode. The world became ablaze."

For the second time! For even regarding the earlier great European fraternal war, Fritsch observed: "When our soldiers returned home and after they had seen the sad consequences of our intervention in the European quarrel they cried out: 'We fought on the wrong side!'"

To conclude, we will quote another prominent American, Austin J. App, who writes in his pamphlet *History's Most Terrifying Peace*: "Any

German who feels guilty towards the Allies is a fool. Any American who expects it, is a crook."

Part 10: In Closing



Germans settled not only in America but also in a number of other countries, preferentially in Canada, where some 100,000 people of German extraction live in Toronto alone. Germans also moved to South Africa, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil. Germans also contributed greatly to the development of Russia, as Leo Sievers describes in detail in his book *Deutsche und Russen*. His readers can easily conclude that without the numerous Germans - doctors, scientists, inventors, engineers, diplomats, civil servants and architects, not to mention the scions of German dynasties who became members of the czarist families - Russia would probably never have attained its later significance and extent.

In all these countries, Germans contributed with outstanding achievements. With the exception of the Soviet Union, where an insane political system crushed and devoured a culture that had evolved over the centuries, the fruits of German labour and German diligence continue to benefit their host peoples.

Only in their own country, the Germans have wasted their strength and their abilities more than once in internal conflicts, beating each other's heads in in bloody religious wars over abstract theories instead of applying themselves to their own unity and greatness with steadfastness and determination.

Friedrich Hebbel once wrote that the German possessed all the qualities he needed to gain Heaven but not one with which to assert himself on Earth.²

Instead of "gaining Heaven", raining blessings on half the world and reaping nothing but ingratitude for it, it would no doubt have been better for our people to develop a streak of realistic egotism and to ensure our

own survival on this earth! To learn a lesson from the English, who did not set out in the world with the goal of serving the betterment of other nations! No, *they* wanted to remain English, not to assimilate themselves into other cultures but to self-confidently preserve their own language, customs and traditions!

Clearly the Germans, who managed to achieve such great things in foreign lands under foreign rule, lacked a leadership elite in their own country that understood how to direct the German people's creative potential wisely into channels that would benefit their own country rather than far-distant continents - in accordance with the old maxim that our Latin teacher always reminded us of before we would write a test: "Everyone for himself, and God for everyone!"

Part 11: Typesetter's Epilogue

[i.e. typesetter of the original German-language printed edition]



his booklet leaves an open question: What does the German-American history mean for Germany, for every other nation, and for America herself? Is the displacement of our language, our history etc. due to our own negligence, to purposeful counterforces, or to both?

Of the 5,000 languages spoken in the civilized world, most are becoming extinct. In 1999 one third of the courses offered at the University of Greifswald were held in the English language. From July 31 until August 27, 1999, the Free University of Berlin offered a summer seminar about "Berlin, Germany and Europe"; the language of instruction? English! (DLF, 4.2.99, 14:50.) In entire faculties at German universities it is considered normal for doctoral dissertations to be written in English now. When a Bundeswehr officer reported on German radio about the developments in the Kosovo, some of his vocabulary was in English - with nary an explanation of the meaning. In their "German" publications, a number of specialized fields leave many words in English or go so far as to invent

English-sounding terms. In Denmark there is a Danish factory whose Danish executives speak English amongst themselves. And the official language of the new Daimler-Kreisler Association: English!

Perhaps this is an inevitable development, like a spring thaw; but perhaps not - after all, the languages in Europe are not disappearing at nearly as fast a rate as they are in the United States; evidently there is still considerable interest in the preservation of our languages.

Language shapes thought. Personally, I would rather not switch to a language that has no word of its own for *Heimat*³ and whose speakers, as history has shown, behave accordingly.

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Notes

²We shall quote Friedrich Hebbel (born on March 18, 1813 in Wesselburen, died on December 13, 1863 in Vienna) more completely here; on January 4, 1860 he wrote in his *Diaries*: "It is possible that the German may yet be eradicated from the world's stage; for he has all the qualities he needs to gain Heaven but not one with which to assert himself on Earth, and all the nations hate him as the Evil One hates Good. But if they should one day actually succeed in displacing him, conditions will ensue in which they will wish they could dig him out of his grave again with their very fingernails."

³*Heimat* - one of those problematic words that are not easily translated. Partial synonyms or approximations, depending on the context: home, homeland, native land, roots, land of one's ancestors,... (trans.)



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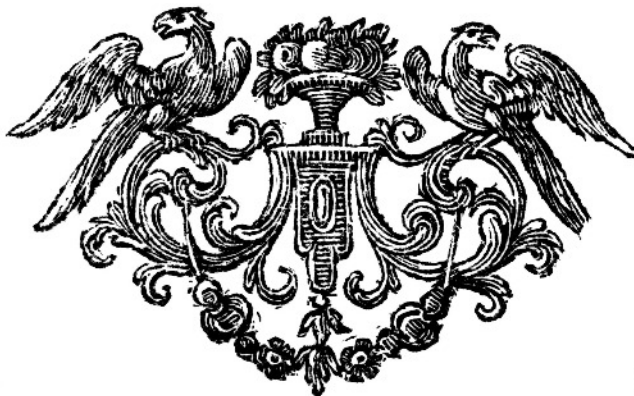
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