Name

Professor

Course

Date

Country Update: Germany

Germany is regarded as the most industrialized and populous country in Europe. Its formal name is the Federal Republic of Germany. The commonly used languages are German, French, English, and Russian. Berlin is the capital city, and the other major towns include Hamburg, Bremen, Cologne, Munich, Frankfurt, Dortmund, Essen, Stuttgart, Dusseldorf, and Hanover. East Germany obtained independence on October 3, 1990. The flag is a horizontal tricolor composed of three color strips (black, red, and yellow. Some of the celebrated holidays include New Year and Ascension Day. The country is located in Europe's heart and at the crossway between east and west, south and north. Its northern border is created by the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, divided by a small border with Denmark. Besides, the country boarders Austria and Switzerland to the south, Czech and Poland to the east, and Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and the Netherlands to the west. Its land size is 348,560 km2 . Its coastline along the Baltic Sea and the North Sea is 2,389 kilometers. The country has four distinct topographic areas: Alps, Alpine Foreland, Central Uplands, and Northern Lowlands. It has a moderate climate that has no sustained periods of heat or cold. Germany is in the Central European Time (CET) zone, usually one hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). However, in the summer, CET is two hours ahead of GMT

As per the UN data, Germany's population is 83 783, 942 people. The total fertility rate is 1.6 live births per woman. Female’s life expectancy is 84.1 years while males’ 79.6 years. The urban population is 76.4%. The median age in the country is 45.7years. The projected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the country in 2020 is $3400 billion. Its inflation rate was 1.35% in 2019. The country’s most important energy source is coal. Its transportation and telecommunication sectors include roads, railroads, ports, inland waterways, airports, and pipelines. Germany is regarded as a federal democracy whose rights are assured by the constitution or Basic Law. The federal government shares power with sixteen states. Its chancellor is Angela Merkel, while the president is Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who succeeded Joachim Gauck in the 2017 elections.

Reunification continues to affect Germany in different ways, even today. The west has a higher living standard than the east, which tries to improve. The unemployment rates in the east are lower following the lack of money for the past fifty years. The Soviets made Eastern Germany lose money since they took over, resulting in a lack of modernization and lower living standards. Residents of western and eastern Germany have issues with each other. Whenever they get along, it is considered a big deal as they show it in a photo as a unification celebration. The organization for Security and Co-Operation in the country continues to assist in helping citizens to tray to unify themselves with each other. Their histories have exacerbated the division.

The Turkish immigration rates were higher during the 50s and 60s following the new demand for workers due to the economic boom. The Turks were never expected to stay longer in the country, but because of a good government, job openings, and high living standards, they became attracted to staying in the country. They compose 15% of the total population. Since the German government failed to provide citizenship to the Turks or integrate them into Germany society, the Germans and Turks have had a social conflict since the 60s. Approximately 30% of the Turks lack citizenship since Germany law does not allow dual citizenship. Germany citizens feel that Turks are a threat to them by taking their job opportunities. For them to live and work in the country, Turks are being encouraged to be part of the Germany culture.