



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



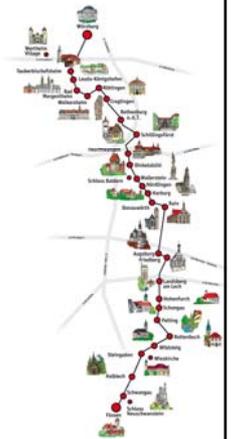
Cuisine

- 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 km²
(Japan: 378000 km²)
- 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!