From the Reichstag to the Bundestag

Dates. Pictures. Documents.



The Reichstag building has a turbulent history. It was built at the end of the 19th century for the German Reichstag.

Today it is the seat of the German Bundestag.

Selected photos and documents tell the story of the building from its origins to the present day.

The exhibition takes you further, to other sites of German parliamentary history in Berlin, Weimar and Bonn. It also informs you about suffrage and the role assigned to Parliament in the various constitutions of Germany since 1871.

Further information on the history of parliamentarianism in Germany can be discovered in the German Bundestag's exhibition "Milestones – Setbacks – Sidetracks" in the Deutscher Dom at Gendarmenmarkt, here in Berlin.



Das deutsche Volk.

Inscription

The initial enthusiasm for the war has been replaced by war weariness and protests. The First World War ends in 1918 with the defeat of Germany. © Scherl / SZ Photo to the top

In 1916, in the midst of the First World War, the

are inscribed on the Reichstag building.

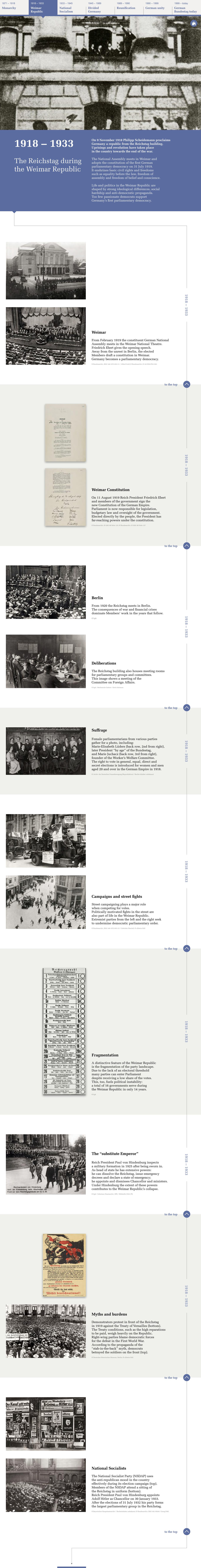
words Dem Deutschen Volke (To the German people)

At the outset of war in 1914, Emperor William II

The parties initially assure him of their support.

calls for national cohesion and loyalty.

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Mr. 50

Einzeln 10 Pf. Sonntags 15 Pf.

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Dienstag, 28. Februar 1933

Melbungen wichtiger Art find zu jeder Tages-und Rachtzeit erwünscht und werden angemessen bezahlt. Unverlangte Manuffripte werden nur zurudgesandt, wenn Rüdporto beiliegt.

74; Grachftr. 12; Rottbusser Str. 14; Adlershof: Bojadowsthktr. 3/5; O: Andreasstr. 34; Krantf. Alee 28, 195 u.334; Köpenid: Grünstr. 3; Karlshorst: Tressowallee 99; Lichtenb.: Türrschmidtstr. 1; Oberschöneweide: Wilhelminenhofstr. 16; NO: Greisswald. Str. 194; Landsberg. Al.; Landsberg. Alee 125; Weißeusee: Berlin. Alee 243; N: Badstr. 8; Brunnenstr. 118 u. 172; Wedd. Pl.; Invalidenstr. 33; Müllerstr. 544; Schönhauf. Alee 90 u. 146; Panlow: Bollantstr. 2a; Reinidend.: Marstr. 45; Provingstraße 29; Scharnweberstr. 16; Tegel: Berliner Str. 95; NW: Alt-Wood. 123; Altonaer Str. 25 (Hanjapl.); Turmstr. 72; Unt. d. Linden 47; Königswusterhaus. Bahnhofstr. 17; Brandenburg. a.d. h.: Haupstr. 84; Breslau: Schweidenburgerstr. 27; Fransfurta. d. D.: Residenverstr. 36; Stettingsburgerstr. 36; Stettingsburgerstr.

10 Vfennia

The Reichstag during National Socialism

1933 - 1945

The National Socialists destroy democracy: they rescind basic rights and establish a dictatorship led by Hitler. Terror and propaganda dominate politics and daily life in the "Third Reich".

Arson: on the night of 27/28 February 1933,

Enabling Act at the Kroll Opera House.

fire ravages the Reichstag's plenary chamber. In March 1933 the Reichstag adopts Hitler's

Parliament thus deprives itself of its powers.

I sift an analouft at a mad continue dies.

The National Socialists systematically persecute, arrest and murder millions of people. The Second World War unleashed by the German Reich claims over 50 million lives. It ends with the unconditional surrender of the Wehrmacht on 8 May 1945.



Der Reichstag

in Slammen!

© Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin

Reichstag fire

The National Socialists blame political opponents

for the fire in the Reichstag in February 1933. The actual course of events remains unclear.



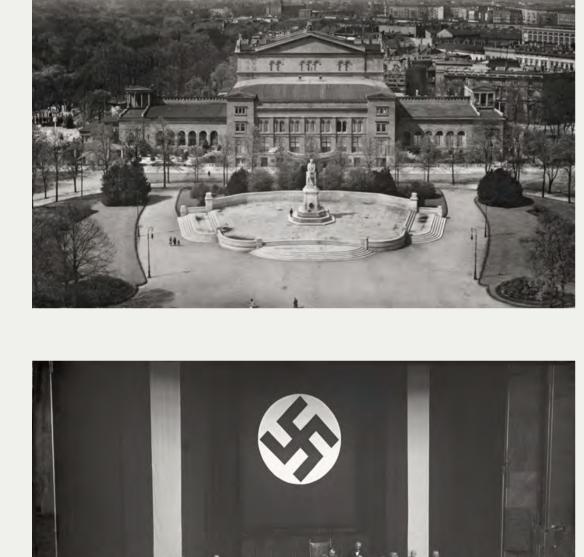
Other parts of the building continue to be used, during the war as a hospital and maternity ward.

and is not reconstructed.

Destruction

The plenary chamber is destroyed by the fire

© bpk / Kunstbibliothek, SMB, Photothek Willy Römer / Willy Römer



The SPD unanimously rejects the law. Communist Members are excluded from the vote. The Reichstag is now a sham parliament.

Sham parliament

© akg-images; © Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-14439 / Georg Pahl

After the fire Parliament meets in the Kroll Opera.

It is here that the Enabling Act submitted

Parliamentary democracy is cast aside.

by Adolf Hitler is passed on 24 March 1933.



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Reichstagswahl

Wahlkreis Schleswig-holftein

Nationalfozialiftifche Deutsche Arbeiterpartei

(Bitlerbewegung)

Adolf Bitler

Sham election

Voters no longer have a choice:

with the introduction on 14 July 1933 of a law

banning the creation of new political parties, the

NSDAP becomes the sole party permitted in Germany.



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The Second World War

National Socialist war propaganda:

to the top

with the invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939

It ends with the unconditional surrender of

the German Reich unleashes the Second World War.

the Wehrmacht on 8 May 1945 and the downfall of

the National Socialist dictatorship in Germany.

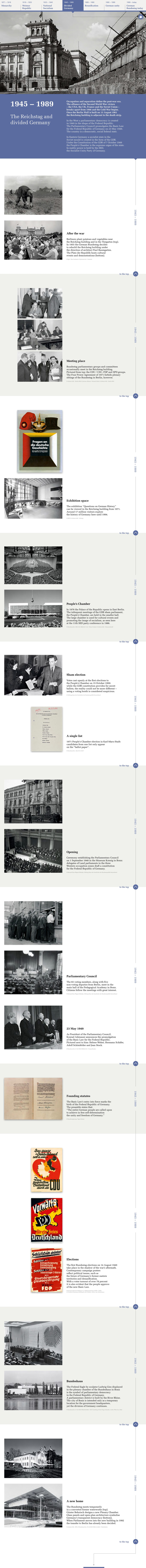




The Reichstag building is severely damaged. Red Army soldiers occupy the Reichstag Building as a symbolic act, mistakenly regarding it as the political centre of the Third Reich. Soviet soldiers leave their permanent mark with graffiti on the walls of the Reichstag building. © bpk / adoc-photos; © bpk / Voller Ernst – Fotoagentur / Jewgeni Chaldej

Rubble and ruin

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Two parliaments

1989 - 1990

and reunification

On 18 March 1990 the first democratic elections are held in the GDR. The People's Chamber votes for accession of the GDR to the area of application of the Basic Law.

Peaceful Revolution in the GDR in autumn 1989.

The Wall comes down on 9 November 1989.

"We are the people" is the slogan of the

The Bundestag and the Federal Government in Bonn set the course for German unity. The Allied powers of the Second World War give their approval in the Two Plus Four Agreement: the road to reunification is clear. On 31 August 1990 representatives from both

German governments sign the Unification Treaty.

against the dictatorship also grows in the GDR. Throughout the country people gather together

communist states in Eastern Europe, resistance

The Peaceful Revolution in the GDR

Encouraged by political reforms in other

for peace prayers and public protest. They call for freedom and democracy. Many people are arrested. Faced with huge numbers of peaceful demonstrators, the state authorities ultimately surrender. The Wall falls on the evening of 9 November 1989.

Leipzig, 7. Oktober 1989

Leipzig, 16. Oktober 1989



Leipzig, Nikolaikirche, 9. Oktober 1989

PRESSEFREIHEI

Leipzig, 16. Oktober 1989

Berlin, 4. November 1989



Dresden, 22. Oktober 1989

Magdeburg, 4. November 1989

Leipzig, 4. September 1989





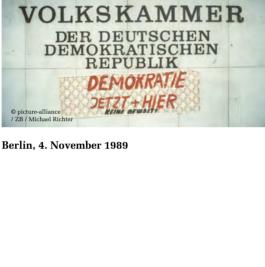


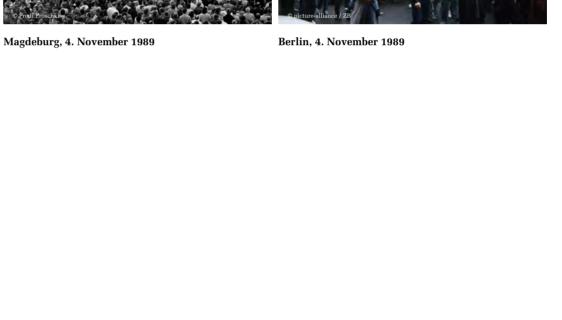
Potsdam, 7. Oktober 1989

Halle/Saale, 15. Oktober 1989













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plan

Programme

Excerpt from a speech manuscript:

presents the Bundestag in Bonn with his

"Ten-point programme for ending the

division of Germany and Europe".

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on 28 November 1989 Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl



AUSGABE A • ISSN 0138-4961 • BERLIN, SONNABEND, 2. DEZEMBER 1989

Führungsrolle der SED nicht

13. Tagung der Volkskammer



The result of the first and only free elections to the People's Chamber of the GDR is

on 1 December 1989.

also a vote for reunification. © bpk / Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin; © Bundesarchiv Bild 183-1990-0214-026 / Ulrich Häßler

The People's Chamber removes the SED's claim

the first democratic elections on 18 March 1990.

to leadership from the GDR constitution

Various parties are now able to stand in



Volkskammer der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik Die Präsidentin

© DBT

Accession

President of the People's Chamber of the GDR

Bundestag President Rita Süssmuth of the

accession decision of 23 August 1990.

Sabine Bergmann-Pohl informs



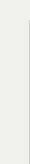
Unification Treaty

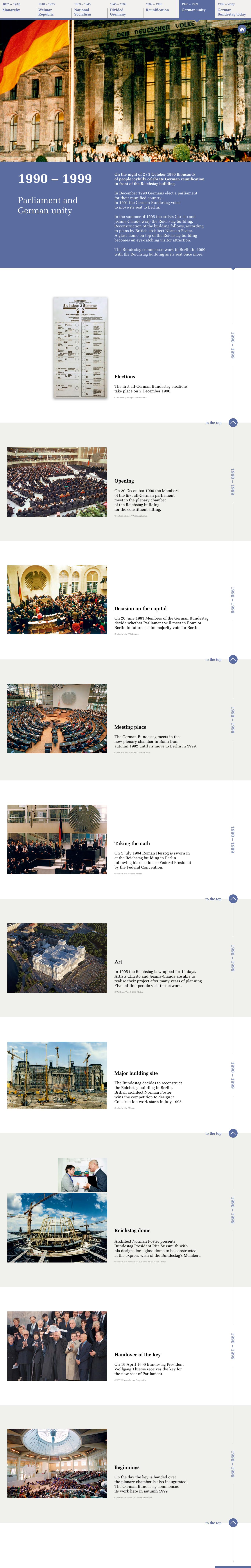
On 31 August 1990 representatives of both German governments sign the treaty on the "Establishment of German Unity". © Stiftung Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

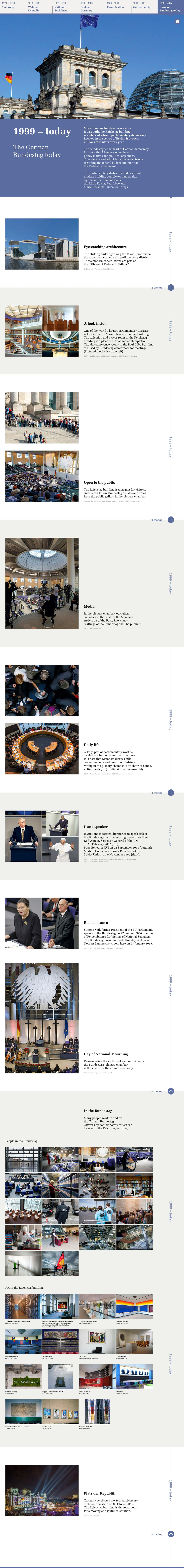
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Legal notice



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The exhibition is located on the roof terrace of the Reichstag building and can be visited free of charge. However, <u>registration in advance</u> is required.