

Exhibition

"Bonn the Former Capital"

From 1949 to 1990 the city of Bonn was the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Exhibition

"A Love-Need-Hate Relationship. The Germans and their Cars" The Haus der Geschichte is the Museum of Contemporary History of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Welcome

Use this guide to explore our museum, to learn more about German history and to discuss how the past affects our life today. Enjoy your visit!

Exhibition

"Roman Life in Bonn"

The Federal Chancellors' Pullman Car

The Pullman car was the first object to be placed in this museum. View the video and see how it was done.

Mobile office, meeting room and hotel — the Federal Chancellors use this Pullman car from 1953 to 1974 on state visits and during political campaigns. Originally used by leading NSDAP member Hermann Göring from 1937 to 1945, it is confiscated by American occupying forces after World War II. In 1949, after the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Pullman car becomes the property of the German Federal Railway, which lends it to the chancellors—also for their private use.

Bonn

How do today's politicians travel when they go on state visits? What are the advantages of a Pullman car? Germany's first Federal Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, uses this luxury Mercedes as his official state car from 1951 to 1956. Comfortable and fast with 115 hp and 160 km/h, the "Adenauer 300" represents German economic power and political confidence. The Mercedes accompanies Adenauer on many official domestic trips and foreign state visits, including the visit to Moscow in 1955.

Luxury or necessity what is your opinion on official state cars?

Learn more about state cars in East and West Germany in our exhibition "A Love-Need-Hate Relationship. The Germans and their Cars". Discover the even bigger Mercedes there.

Adenauer's Mercedes

0.0

The Parliamentary Council

Recall what you know about the history of the constitution in your country.

The unconditional surrender of the German armed forces in 1945 ends World War II. The Victorious Powers divide Germany into four zones of occupation. Great Britain, USA and France commission the three Western zones to found a new state. The Parliamentary Council drafts the German Basic Law. In 1949 the Federal Republic is founded as a parliamentary democracy with Bonn as its capital. The communist GDR is established in the Soviet occupation zone in the same year.

Explore the former government district in Bonn. The "Path of Democracy" takes you to important historical sites. Get a flyer at the information desk or visit: http://www.wegderdemokratie.de/

Returning to the World Stage Willkommen in Deutschland

The international community hesitantly initiates diplomatic contact with the young Federal Republic. The official state visit by Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia in 1954 is the first step out of political isolation.

Bienvenue en Allemagne

What message do the photos and films convey? Describe the mood of the events.

Look at the photos and compare them to state visits today: What is the same, what is different?

Press and Politics

Discuss: Do you think that the press has too much influence on politics? Give an example!

Journalists are not just neutral reporters of events, they also influence public perception. The role of the press is ambivalent: On the one hand, it often exercises a control function, on the other hand it can exert excessive pressure on politicians.

Name an instance when the press has exercised positive control over politicans!

Recall what you know about the reunification of Germany! Name a big event in your home country that you will always remember. How would you compare these two events?

WDR

Studio

Bonn

German Reunification

Discuss Germany's reputation in your home country. How has it changed after reunification?

Since 1961 the Berlin Wall divides the city of Berlin in West and East Berlin. Almost 30 years later massive protests in the GDR, hundreds of thousand people fleeing the country, and political change in the Soviet Union lead to the fall of Wall on 9 November 1989. One short year later, on 3 October 1990, the GDR and the Federal Republic of Germany are formally reunified.

The New Bonn

ndesstadt Bonn

Why do you think Bonn is selected to be a UN-location? Discuss!

Berlin becomes the capital of reunited Germany. Bonn is given the special status of a Federal City. Five Federal Ministries remain here. After the move, many government-related buildings in Bonn need a new function. The United Nations, with offices in Bonn since 1951, locates more and more of its institutions here. The UNcampus opens in 2006.



Imagine if there is a new capital in your home country, what do you think would change in the former capital?

Discover more!

Exhibition "Roman Life in Bonn"

Romans built military camps to secure the borders of their empire. One camp was located north of today's city of Bonn. Traces of a nearby civilian settlement from the first century were found right here during construction of the museum.

Do youlove, ...need ...or hate cars? Bitte wählen Sie Ihr Programm Geliebt Gebraucht Gehasst Exhibition "The Germans and their Cars"

