

HST 353: Germany since 1870



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MWF 1:00–1:50 p.m

The proclamation of the Second Empire in 1870-71 under the “iron chancellor” Otto von Bismarck and Kaiser Wilhelm II marks the beginning of modern German history. Never a truly democratic society until 1919, Germany ascended into a major European power whose involvement in World War One eventually brought an end to the monarchy. The Weimar Republic, despite its democratic and cultural achievements, remained widely unpopular and had to make way for Hitler and the National-Socialist movement in 1933. World War II, the Holocaust, and its aftermath defined Germany’s history and determined its future to the present day.

This course will provide an introduction into the political, cultural, and social aspects of Germany’s past as well as a discussion of Germany’s role in Europe. One of the central questions to pursue will be whether or not Germany took a special path in its historical development.

