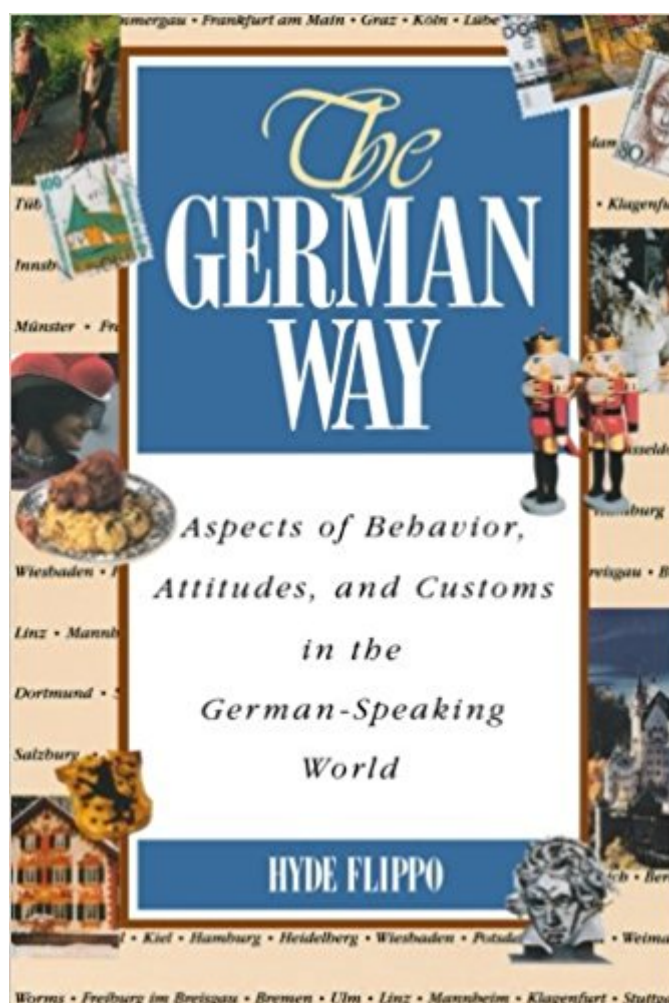


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The German Way : Aspects Of Behavior, Attitudes, And Customs In The German-Speaking World



Synopsis

For All Students Ideal for a variety of courses, this completely up-to-date, alphabetically organized handbook helps students understand how people from German-speaking nations think, do business, and act in their daily lives.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The German Way is a handy guide to understanding how people from every corner of the German-speaking world think, do business, and act in their daily lives. Organized alphabetically for ease of use, The German Way is an indispensable reference to the common as well as the divergent cultural traits of German-speaking people. Included are 77 key traits, representing German-speaking people from all walks of life and from the following countries where German is spoken: Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Familiarity with the varied ways in which these people celebrate holidays, interact with one another, eat, dress, and so on will increase your ability to communicate with German-speaking men and women everywhere. Complete with a bibliography and index, The German Way provides keen insights into the rich variety of customs and attitudes found in German-speaking countries. Whether you are a student, tourist, or business traveler, this book will help you break the cultural barrier - and appreciate the way things are done in the German-speaking world. The following are selected topics taken from the A-to-Z format in The German Way. The 77 cultural topics in the book include: Abbreviations and acronyms, Advertising and marketing, American influences, Angst, Arrival, The Autobahn, Beer and wine, Business

(Wirtschaft) in the German-speaking world, Cinema: German-language film production, Crime and punishment: the law, Dialects, Dining, Ecology and the environment, Education (Bildung), Family, Fashion and design, The German Past, Greetings and common courtesies, Holidays and celebrations, House and home, The identity card (der Ausweis) and other red tape, Money, banks, and credit, Patriotism and nationalism, Police, Privacy, Radio and television, Shopping, Sports, Switzerland (die Schweiz), Trains, The Wall, The WC (die Toilette), Women in society. -- From the Publisher

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I lived in Germany for over three years. My German acquaintances in general liked Americans; but they greatly disliked our cultural ignorance. I also did part-time work as a tour guide and a portion of "tour guiding" is to educate people on the culture, and saw the extent of this ignorance first-hand. While German/Austrian/Swiss society is in a "big picture" sense similar to American, (guilt vs shame-based culture, individuality vs collectivism) there are major differences in personal and business relationships. Anyone who really wants to know Germany or succeed in business dealings with Germans ignores these differences at their peril. This book does an outstanding job of clearly explaining all aspects of German society from Government through economy, consumerism, to social relationships. It also spells out the contrasts between German and American ways of thinking, and between German and Austrian/Swiss world-views. Bottom line is if you want a better vacation experience in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, a better business trip, or are just interested in other cultures, get this book.

This is an excellent book covering many interesting topics that should be useful for those who are traveling there for their first time or their 15th time. It is all arranged very conveniently, alphabetically. Even though I have been there several times, there were many things I still learned. It is not meant to be an encyclopedia, but it is a very handy resource that I highly recommend. I love Germany and Austria, the people are very friendly, and this explains what to expect from business meetings to dining out to the grocery store, and everything in-between. Have a wonderful time, but read this first, and bring it with you as a handy resource.

This is an informative little book written in a very readable style, in which a "foreigner" can learn quite a bit about German behavior, attitudes and customs. Not surprisingly, the less you already know about life in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, the more useful it is. One thing I don't much like is that the 77 brief articles are listed in alphabetical order by title, instead of by subjects or themes. Shouldn't "At the table" (6) and "Dining" (21) be grouped together instead of appearing 25 pages apart? And why not put something like "Greetings and common courtesies" (36) at the beginning of the book? Another problem is that some of the information has become dated. The introduction of the Euro has pretty much killed the discussion on currency, for example, and the abolition of customs and passport controls among the EU countries has advanced considerably since the book was published. The same is true for things like store opening hours and rules about having sales and giving discounts. These things are inevitable, of course, but they do affect the usefulness of the book. Nevertheless, this is an entertaining way to learn more about the people who live in the German-speaking countries of Europe, and it even boasts some humor. My favorite line is: "On a sweltering train the window remains closed because Germans seem to think that a draft will kill you quicker than heat prostration." How true!!

If you're planning on visiting Germany or want to know about Germans and "how they are", then this book is for you, It is well written and extremely informative

This slim volume presents dozens of aspects of German culture. For example, why do Germans value privacy? Why do they always close windows when they feel a draft? I definitely learned a lot from this book. My only complaints is that it could have gone a little more in depth about the causes of German behavior. Also, this book is a little out of date. It was published in the 90's, so there is a lot of talk about Marks rather than Euros, and you read a lot about the reunification of Germany,

which is not as hot a topic as it was in the 90's. Even with these weak points, I think you'll be able to learn a lot. I wish that the author would release a more up-to-date version, though.

Okay, we get that they are industrious, meticulous, parsimonious people, organized, clean. That's a pamphlet, not a book. It could do more. It depends on what you are looking for in this field. Don't buy this if you are looking for mores and habits and family life, it is more general than that

This book is almost 20 years old now. It is difficult to discern what is still current from what is outdated.

I love this book! I am taking a German language class just for the fun of it, and I have since become more interested in Germany and German culture. This book is very interesting and has quite a bit of factual material. It is organized well (alphabetically by subject), and each section is short enough to read a few at a time, or a section or two while waiting in line or on my lunch break. The material presented is fascinating and gives you a look at a culture that appears similar to our own on the outside, but on the inside has many differences, and just as many 'idiosyncrasies' as our American culture.

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