

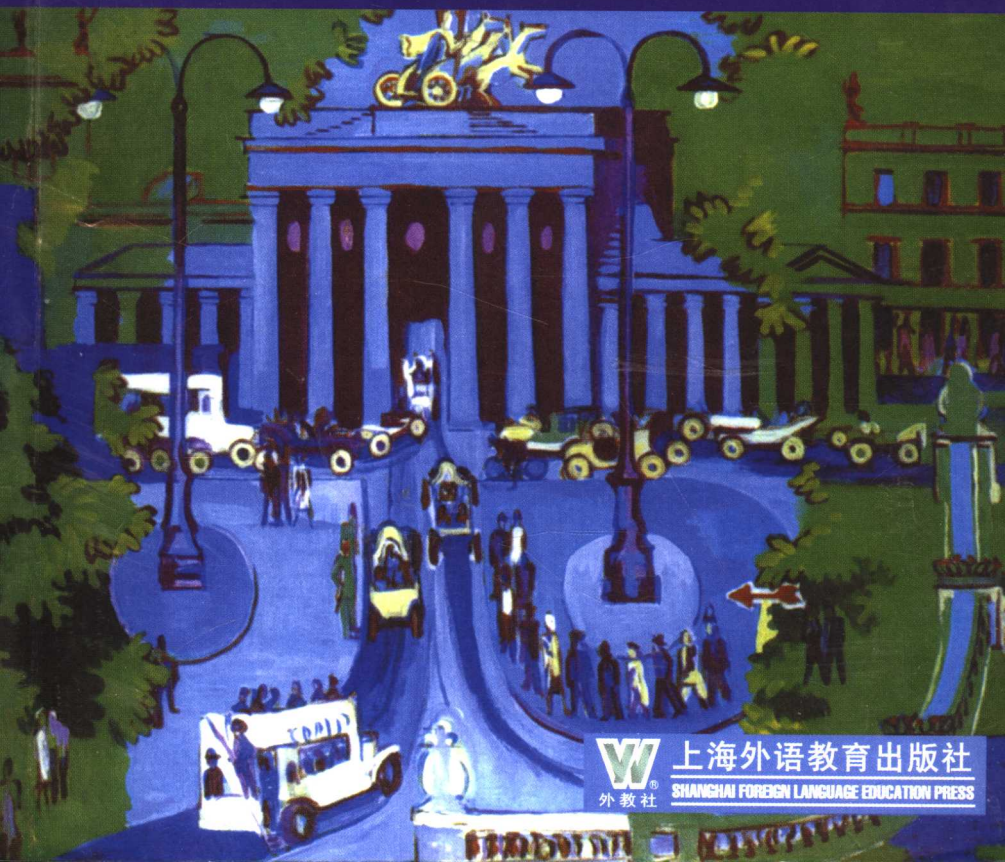
CAMBRIDGE CONCISE HISTORIES • 剑桥国别简史丛书之四

A Concise History of GERMANY 德国简史

Mary Fulbrook

SECOND EDITION

第二版



上海外语教育出版社

SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

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UNIVERSITY PRESS

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

德国简史 / (英) 富尔布鲁克 (Fulbrook, M.) 著. —上海:

上海外语教育出版社, 2006

(剑桥国别简史丛书)

ISBN 7-81095-869-0

I. 德… II. 富… III. 德国—历史—英文 IV. K516

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2005)第125396号

图字: 09-2004-725号

出版发行: **上海外语教育出版社**

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 陈 懋

印 刷: 上海市崇明县裕安印刷厂

经 销: 新华书店上海发行所

开 本: 850×1168 1/32 印张 9.25 字数 308千字

版 次: 2006年9月第1版 2006年9月第1次印刷

印 数: 3 500 册

书 号: ISBN 7-81095-869-0 / K · 029

定 价: 20.50 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

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First published 1991
Reprinted eight times
Second edition 2004

Originally published by Cambridge University Press in 2004
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of the University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England.
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仅供在中华人民共和国境内销售。

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出版说明

跨入21世纪后，全球一体化的发展趋势使世界各国的联系愈来愈密切，不同国家、不同民族之间的交往比以往任何时候都更加频繁和便捷。人们除了了解自己周围或自己国家的事情外，越来越多地把目光投向整个世界，关注其他国家和民族的发展与人们的生活。要了解一个国家、一个民族的现状，我们需要了解它的历史和发展沿革。由此，上海外语教育出版社（简称“外教社”）从英国剑桥大学出版社引进了这套“剑桥国别简史丛书”（*Cambridge Concise Histories*），奉献给我国广大读者，尤其是我国英语专业本科生、研究生以及具有一定英语基础并对世界历史感兴趣的读者。

“剑桥国别简史丛书”是剑桥大学出版社自上世纪八九十年代开始陆续推出的一套插图版国别简史丛书。丛书为一个开放系列，目前已经出版的品种涉及16个国家。作为第一批，我们从中挑选了英国、法国、德国、澳大利亚、希腊、印度、意大利、墨西哥、葡萄牙和南非等10个国家的简史图书，其中既有有关英语国家的，也有非英语国家的。

由于作者都是来自英国、美国、澳大利亚等国的历史学教授和知名专家，所以该丛书具有很高的学术价值和较强的权威性；作者又能采用浅显通俗的语言描述这些国家的政治、经济、文化、社会和历史，丛书信息量大、可读性强。该丛书在英国出版以后，深受读者欢迎，有的品种已重印多达10余次。

我们衷心希望该丛书的引进对我国读者学习、研究历史，了解世界有所帮助和参考作用，对掌握更多的历史文化知识有所裨益。

上海外语教育出版社

PREFACE

A book such as this is infinitely easier to criticise than to write. The attempt to compress over a thousand years of highly complex history into a brief volume will inevitably provoke squeals of protest from countless specialists, who see their own particular patches distorted, constrained, misrepresented, even ignored. Yet a brief history of such a large topic can make no attempt at comprehensiveness. At best it can provide an intelligent guide to the broad sweep of developments.

These limitations are indeed partly inherent in the nature of historical writing, which cannot be a simple matter of recounting an agreed narrative, but rather must be a process of imposing an order on the mass of material – and on the interpretations of that material – which comes to us from the past. But it is particularly the case for a concise history of Germany that some brutal decisions about selection and omission have had to be made. While readers will all have their own views on the matter, the author has had to make particular choices. In terms of space devoted to different periods, the book operates on the landscape principle: things nearer to the observer loom larger, are perceived in closer detail, than the mistier general views of the distant horizons. Thus chapters generally deal with progressively shorter periods of time as the present is neared. Within the general landscape surveyed some features appear more important than others. The problem of ‘teleology’ is well known to historians: there is a tendency to notice particularly features pointing towards the present, explaining developments partly in terms of

their consequences (whether or not participants were aware of their 'contributions' to historical 'progress'), and to ignore turnings that led nowhere. While there has been a healthy reaction against this in recent historical writing, it is still the case that certain developments appear more important from the point of view of current concerns than do others. And all authors inevitably have their own particular interests, enthusiasms and blind spots, however hard they try to be balanced and objective in coverage. There is also the particular problem, in relation to the history of 'Germany', of the limits of what is held to be its proper subject matter. In this volume the history of Austria has had to be considered only insofar as it was an integral part of 'Germany' at different times, or interrelated with the history of modern Germany since 1871. Austria, while perhaps the most obvious, is not the only area to suffer in this way: the boundaries of 'Germany' have been extremely changeable over the centuries.

A wide-ranging work such as this must rely heavily on researches undertaken by others, and represent a synthesis of existing knowledge and often quite conflicting views, while yet developing a coherent overall account. The author is painfully aware of gaps and inadequacies in the present analysis, but hopes at least that in presenting a broad framework which spans the centuries two useful purposes will have been accomplished. This book may present a basis and stimulus for subsequent more detailed exploration of particular aspects; it may also serve to locate existing knowledge and interests of readers within a wider interpretive framework. The book is intended as a form of large-scale map which can be used as a context for finer investigation of details along the way.

I am tremendously grateful to my colleagues and friends who have read and made valuable comments on parts of the manuscript, saving me from factual errors and inappropriate interpretations. I would like in particular to thank the following for their painstaking efforts to improve the text: David Blackbourn; Ian Kershaw; Timothy McFarland; Rudolf Muhs; Hamish Scott; Bob Scribner; Jill Stephenson; Martin Swales. Obviously, I alone am responsible for the inadequacies which remain. The work benefited from a small grant from the UCL Dean's Fund enabling me to spend some time combing libraries, museums and archives for suitable illustrative

material. The choice of appropriate illustrations was almost as difficult as the construction of the text, and raised as many problems of selection, interpretation and omission. Discerning readers will notice that illustrations of personalities and familiar sights have generally been demoted in favour of representation of broader themes and more remote periods or places. Finally, I would also like to thank my husband and my three children for being willing to spend innumerable summers wandering around central Europe in search of aspects of the German past.

PREFACE TO THE UPDATED EDITION (1992)

First of all, I would like to thank Dr Werner Schochow of Berlin for pointing out to me some errors of detail which crept unnoticed into the first edition, and for suggesting certain amendments to the index. I am extremely grateful to him for his close and careful reading of the text, and the trouble he took in providing detailed comments and suggestions.

I have also taken the opportunity to put discussion of West Germany into the past tense (East Germany having already suffered that fate at the time of the first edition). While much of what was 'West Germany' has of course passed over into the enlarged Federal Republic after unification in 1990, nevertheless united Germany is a new entity, and it would be prejudging its development in a quite a-historical fashion to suggest that what was true of the pre-1990 Federal Republic will continue to obtain in the new, rather lop-sided united Federal Republic, which faces both new domestic challenges and a changed European context.

Mary Fulbrook
London, October 1991

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION (2004)

For the Second Edition, I have made a number of minor changes throughout the text, to reflect the changing viewpoints of the present, and the implications of recent scholarship. A new chapter

has been added on Germany since 1990. The bibliography has been drastically pruned and substantially updated. But I have chosen not to tinker dramatically with the main body of the book, which has now proved its usefulness as an accessible overview for a wide range of readers across the English-speaking world and in a number of foreign translations.

Mary Fulbrook
London, March 2003

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