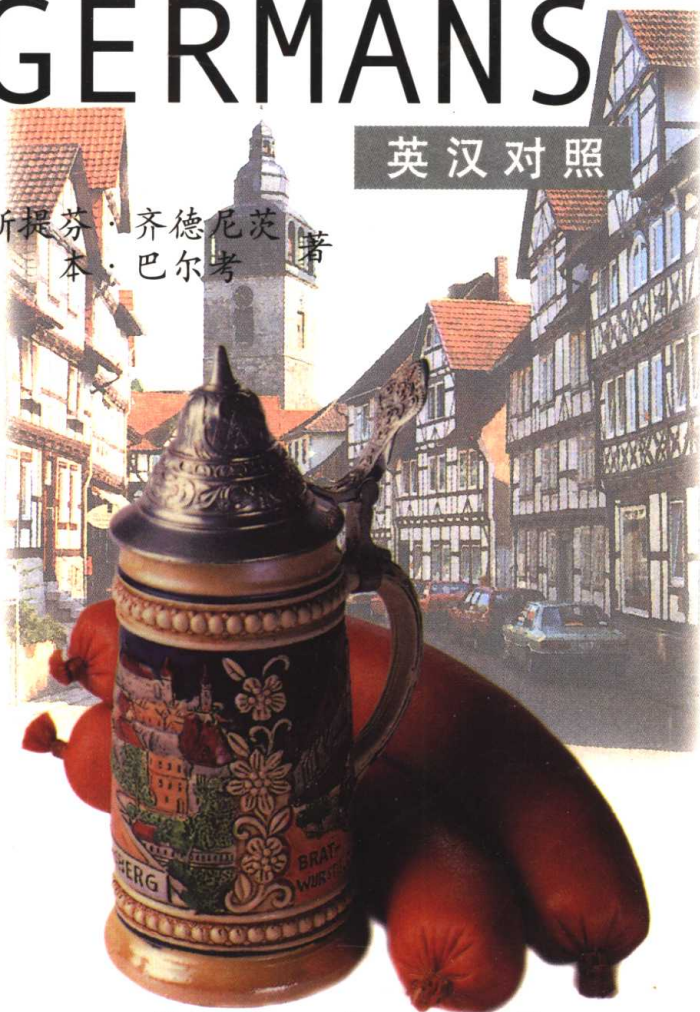


Xenophobe's  
guide to the

# 德国人 GERMANS

英汉对照

斯提芬·齐德尼茨 著  
本·巴尔考



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# The Xenophobe's Guide to The Germans

## 德 国 人

斯提芬·齐德尼茨

(Stefan Zeidenitz)

本·巴尔考

(Ben Barkow)

著

李 彦 译

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## 德国人

作 者 斯提芬·齐德尼茨 本·巴尔考

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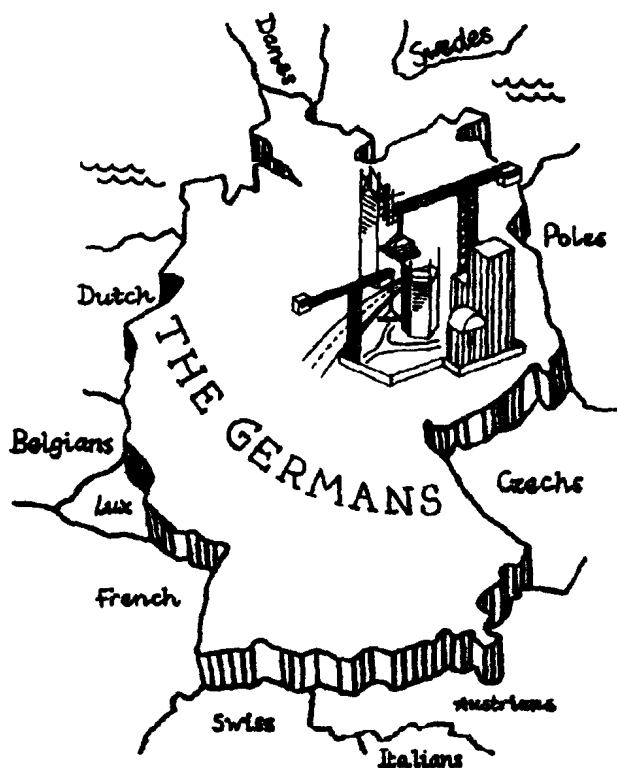
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‘Cementing two nations together doesn’t come cheap ...’

The population of the reunified Germans is 81 million (67 million in the West and 14 million in the East) compared with 58 million French, 38 million Poles, 15 million Dutch, 10 million Belgians, 10 million Czechs, 8 million Swedes, 8 million Austrians, 7 million Swiss and 5 million Danes.

## Nationalism and Identity

### Forewarned or Worst Case Scenario

The prospect of the Germans may cause even the devoted xenophobe to break stride. Viewed by some as a nation of square-jawed robots whose language sounds like something awful in the drains, whose cars outperform all others and whose football team seldom loses, the Germans seem unassailable.

But behind the façade lies a nation distinctly uncertain about where it is, where it is going, even how it got there. Seeking refuge from the world's uncertainties, on the one hand they rely on order and system, the State and the Bundesbank; on the other they retreat into the *Angst* of the soul, psychoanalysis and high culture.

None of this anxiety should be mocked; humour is a quite separate category to be viewed in a serious light.

For the Germans, life is made up of two halves: the public and the private. The public sphere of jobs, officialdom, business and bureaucracy is radically different from the private one of family, friends, hobbies and holidays. What is fitting in the one is quite impossible in the other. In public, po-faced propriety is the order of the day. In private, shell-suited eccentricity abounds.

As a foreigner you will, almost by definition, en-

# 民族性和特性

## 导言

哪怕你从心底厌恶外国人，碰到德国人的时候也难免驻足一看。在某些人眼中，德国人就像一群方下巴的机器人，德语听起来就像下水道里发出的难听声音；而德国造的汽车，其性能又远远超出别国品牌，德国足球队也很少输球，所有这些印象似乎都无可争议。

然而在这一切表象的背后，这个民族显然对自我全无把握，既不清楚如今的地位，也不明了前途方向，甚至如何走到今天这一步也含糊不清。为了在不肯定的世界中寻求逃避，他们一方面依赖于秩序与系统，依赖于政府与联邦银行，另一方面则退而陷入心灵躁动、精神分析和高层次文化生活。

绝不可以针对这些忧虑冷嘲热讽；幽默与忧虑不是同一类概念，应该严肃对待。

就德国人而言，生活是由两大部分组成的：即公众生活与私人生活。公众生活领域包括职业、政府、商场与官场；私人生活则事涉家庭、朋友、爱好与假期，二者截然相反，适于其一者必不适于其二。在人前板着脸面孔按规矩办事是当今社会的要求，而私下里，平日隐藏其中的怪僻却比比皆是。

你要是位国外来客，首先遇到的几乎肯定是公众

counter public Germany first, and may never see more. This explains something of their reputation abroad. All those sausages, all that beer.

Now that German consolidation has become a reality, even non-xenophobes fear for the future. The Germans themselves are not so much fearful of foreigners as fearful of any foreign country getting a bad impression of the Germans. After all, their economy heavily depends on export markets.

## **How They See Others**

The Germans generally adore England and have suffered in the past from unrequited love. England used to be the ultimate role model with its amazingly advanced political, social, industrial and technological achievements. The Germans regard the English as being very nice and mostly harmless. Almost German.

They admire Americans for their (un-German) easygoing pragmatism and dislike them for their (un-German) superficiality. For the Germans, the United States is the headmaster in the school of nations, and accorded due respect if not always affection. Germans are strong believers in authority. 'If you know how to obey then you too can be a master' runs the refrain.

With the Italians Germans have a close understanding because they have so much history in common. Through wars, invasion and other forms of tourism, a deep and lasting friendship has been established. Ital-



生活中的德国人，而后就可能再也无缘看到其余形象了。这一事实可以解释为什么德国在海外的大名全是香肠，全是啤酒。

由于两德统一已然实现，即使那些对外国并无恐怖情绪的人也不免要为世界未来担忧。不过，德国人本身对外国人的恐惧，并不及其担心外国对自己有任何不良印象那么大。毕竟，德国经济倚重出口贸易。

德国人普遍对英格兰怀有敬慕之情，在以往的岁月里，这份“单思”始终苦无回报。英格兰曾经是世界顶级模范，其政治、社会、工业以及技术等各方面取得的成就令人惊叹。德国人把英国人看作一个非常亲切高雅、大体上温和无害的民族，好得几乎和德国人自己一样。

他们欣赏美国人那种（非德国式的）随和自在的实用主义；同时讨厌美国人的（非德国式的）肤浅。在德国人看来，美利坚合众国是万国学校的校长，对校长如果不能给予相应的热爱，那么就给予尊重吧。德国人是权威的忠实信徒，他们盛行一句口头禅：“懂得如何服从，你就同样可以成为主人。”

德国人对意大利人理解颇深，因为两国的历史有相当长的一段是相同的。通过战争、侵略，以及各种形式的旅行，二者之间早已建立起深厚而持久的友情。

ian art treasures, food and beaches are thoroughly appreciated.

There is also a connection arising from the fact that Italy and Germany both achieved nationhood in the last century, and are still not entirely sure that this was a good thing.

The French are admired for their sophisticated civilization, and pitied for their inferior culture. The French may have higher spirits, but the Germans have deeper souls. Despite this, Francophilia is widespread among Germans, especially those living close to the French border.

Like a wistful child looking over the garden fence, Germans envy Mediterranean people for their more relaxed attitudes, cultural heritage and warm climate. But only when they are on holiday.

The only people to whom the Germans readily concede unquestioned superiority of Teutonic virtues are the Swiss. No German would argue their supremacy in the fields of order, punctuality, diligence, cleanliness and thoroughness. They have never been to war with the Swiss.

If experience has taught them one thing, it is that there is no future outside the community of nations. No other nation has a stronger sense of the importance of getting along with others. Tolerance is not only a virtue, it's a duty.

意大利的艺术珍品、珍馐美味,以及海岸风光在德国是普遍为人所欣赏的。

德国与意大利之间还有一重联系在于,这两个国家都是在十九世纪取得了主权地位,而究竟这是不是一件好事,二者迄今依然无法完全肯定。

法国人因为拥有微妙深奥的文明而赢得羡慕,同时也因其文化不足而遭怜悯。相比之下,或许法国人的精神层次较高,但德国人的精神更为深邃。尽管如此,有亲法情绪的德国人还是比比皆是,尤以贴近法国边境地区为最。

德国人就像一群不知足的孩子,喜欢隔着花园的篱笆向外张望。他们嫉妒地中海地区的居民具有更轻松的生活态度、更多的文化遗产,以及当地温暖的气候。不过,这点妒忌心也只是在度假时才油然而生。

德国人对其日耳曼民族的美德怀有强烈的优越感,他们只肯承认比瑞士人稍逊一筹。面对瑞士人无与伦比的美德,诸如讲求条理、守时、勤恳、清洁和严谨等,没有任何一个德国人会持有异议。而且,他们从没和瑞士人打过仗。

如果以往的经验曾给他们一个教训的话;那就是他们认识到脱离了国际社会,就没有前途。没有哪一个国家像德国人那样,对与外人交往的重要性具有如此强烈的意识。宽容何止是一种美德,它还是一种责任。

## How They See Themselves

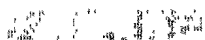
Generally speaking, the Germans regard themselves as modest, rather ordinary sort of people. Give them a beer, a wurst, a bit of *Gemütlichkeit* (cosiness) and another German with whom to argue politics or bemoan the stress of life, and they will be content. They are not greedy, do not expect something for nothing, and pay their bills on time. Simple, honest *volk*.

The Germans like to dream, see themselves as romantic. Not in a Mediterranean flowery-compliments-and-bottom-pinching way, but in the stormy genius mode.

In every German there is a touch of the wild haired Beethoven striding through forests and weeping over a mountain sunset, grappling against impossible odds to express the inexpressible. This is the Great German Soul, prominent display of which is essential whenever Art, Feeling and Truth are under discussion.

The Germans did not actually invent the Romantic Movement (although they are pretty sure that they did), but they at least kitted it out with a lot of appropriately fraught and complicated philosophy.

They see themselves as profoundly well educated. Contrary to popular belief, the Germans do not know everything, they just know everything better.



一般而言，德国人自认为是一个谦逊朴实，甚至平凡普通的民族。给他们一瓶啤酒，一根香肠，些许安闲时光，再加上一位可与之争论政治话题或者倾吐对生活压力的哀叹的德国同胞，他们就心满意足了。既不贪婪，也不寄望于不劳而获，付起帐单来更是准时准点。他们是一群简单而诚实的百姓。

德国人爱做梦，总认为自己具有浪漫情调。不是那种地中海式的风花雪月的浪漫，而是激烈的、天才横溢式的浪漫。

每个德国人身上都具有一点浪漫气质，类似于头发蓬乱的贝多芬在林中穿行，为山间落日饮泣，紧紧抓住不可能的零星希望去表达难于表达的情感。这就是伟大的德国精神。每当探讨艺术、情感和真理问题时，这种精神必不可少，也格外显著。

事实上，浪漫主义运动并非德国人所开创（尽管他们自己坚信确实是自家功劳），然而他们至少为这一运动提供了许多内容丰富、错综复杂的哲学理论。

他们自视为教育底蕴深厚渊博。有别于普遍看法的是，德国人并非无事不通，他们只是事事了解得更深刻一点而已。

## Special Relationships

Before the 1990s all West Germans were passionately keen on the idea of the two Germanys coming together again. How, they asked themselves and each other, can we find fulfilment as a nation while the great German *Geist* (spirit) is divided by a concrete wall?

All were agreed that reunification was a historical necessity. The same sort of consensus never existed *drüben* (over there), where people generally coveted the consumer durables but had their doubts about life in a society without ideological commitments. Now that unification is a fact, West Germans have their doubts, too.

All Wessies (former West Germans) know that all Ossies (former East Germans) are idle and complaining. All Ossies know that all Wessies are cynical and deceitful. It was ever so.

Cementing two nations together doesn't come cheap, especially when one of them (in estate agent terminology) 'needs attention' and has many 'period details' and 'original features'. In order to cope, the Germans set up The Trust Authority (*Treuhand*), which instantly became the world's largest employer, with 9,000 companies, nearly two million hectares of farm land and two million hectares of forest under its control. Its job was to privatise as much as it could, and shut down the rest.

Needless to say, the work of the *Treuhand* created

二十世纪九十年代以前，每个西德人都疯狂地热衷于两德统一大业。他们扪心自问，也相互探询这样一个问题：作为同一民族，伟大的德意志精神却为一堵坚实的水泥墙所割裂，让我们怎能满足现状呢？

人人赞同统一大业是历史的必然。世界上有些地区的百姓普遍贪恋耐用消费品，却心怀疑虑生活在一个失掉意识信仰的社会里，在那里永远不会存在一种一致性。如今统一已然实现，西德人也疑惑起来了。

韦西人（原西德人）都知道奥西人（原东德人）个个游手好闲、满腹牢骚。而奥西人也都知道韦西人个个愤世嫉俗、虚伪失诚。这种相知一直如此。

将两个国家合而为一并非轻而易举，尤其其中一个还（套用地产业术语）“需要给予关注”，并保留有许多“时代性细节”和“原有风貌”。德国组建了信托局（即 Treuhand），负责处理九千多家公司的业务，它控制了将近二百万公顷农业用地和二百万公顷森林。这家信托局不断发展而成为世界最大的雇佣机构，它的工作就是尽力把各公司收归己有，剩余没有归并的则予以关闭。

无须明言，信托局的工作在东德人心中引起了怀

suspicion among eastern Germans, who felt that their economic assets were being sold at knock-down prices, while they were treated as second class citizens. Tension between the two kinds of Germans remains tangible, with some people now wondering if reunification was such a historical necessity after all, and if the Wall hadn't been the backbone of the great German *Geist* – only the politicians had been too stupid to realise it.

Ever since the Change, Germans have suffered *Angst* like never before, and the soul-searching has taken on epic proportions. The effect has been to deepen German commitment to the ideals of the European Community still further; it offers a stable context for the turmoil within. Secretly some wish they had never embarked on this adventure and yearn for the old days, when life seemed simple and you knew who your enemies were.

## **How Others See Them**

The emotions which Germans arouse in others oscillate between admiration and fear – they are said to be either 'at your knees or at your throat'. They are thought of as efficient, self-obsessed, arrogant and domineering – altogether too good at finance and manufacturing.

The English have always had a high regard for German cleverness and thoroughness, somehow imagining



疑，让他们感到自己的经济资产被人廉价买走了，同时自己也被人当成了二等公民。两德人民之间仍存在实实在在的紧张情绪，如今已经有些人在怀疑国家统一大业是否真的是历史必然，而那堵柏林墙是否也确实成了伟大德意志精神（Geist）的支柱——这一现实只有政客们才愚蠢得无所知觉。

社会巨变之后，德国饱受史无前例的忧虑之苦，自我反省的队伍也发展到极其壮大的规模。其功效在于深化德国人对欧洲共同体进一步发展的信仰，为平息内部混乱提供了一个稳定条件。有些人私下里还企盼不曾实践这一冒险就好了。他们怀恋以往的岁月，那时候生活似乎简单平淡，人们也知道谁是自己的敌人。

### **旁人如何看待德国人**

德国人在外人心中营造的情感介于敬慕与畏惧之间——他们被人说成是“要不很驯服，要不很激烈”那种人。人们认为他们办事效率高、自我着迷、态度傲慢、盛气凌人——这些特色加在一起恰恰有利于处理财政与生产事务。

英国人对他们的聪慧与严谨始终怀有高度敬意，或多或少设想着德国人是所有欧洲民族中与自已最相