

German Lands and Historical Regions

By Roger Kennedy January 2003

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- 1648 At the end of the Thirty Years' War what is now known as Germany was part of the Holy Roman Empire
- 1687-97 France Invades the Palatinate
- 1742 Silesia becomes part of Prussia during the war with Austria
- 1805 End of the Holy Roman German Empire
- 1815 Known as the German Confederation
- 1866 Schleswig-Holstein annexed by Prussia
- 1871 Known as the German Empire and Austrian Empire depending on the region
- 1872 Alsace-Lorraine added to the German Empire

It should be noted that Prussia, Charolles and Savoy, while usually independent, sometimes were considered part of Germany as well.

Various other parts of Germany often exchanged hands with France and Austria alternatively.

From a genealogical standpoint, German research is difficult due to the historical lack of political centralization. Records were kept on a territorial and regional basis, as opposed to being sent to a central capital.

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