

AUTUMN/WINTER 1991/92

It is safe to say that the unexpected and rapid reunification of the two Germanies was almost entirely due to a happy constellation of historical coincidences. The favourable international climate which made it pos-

GERMANY -  
ONE  
YEAR LATER

Parliament  
Chooses Berlin as New Capital

sible only lasted a few short months, as Chancellor Kohl made clear in a speech before the Bundestag. And there is no doubt that the main credit goes to the Chancellor himself, who succeeded in pushing through reunification on October 3, 1990 following close on the heels of economic, social and monetary union on July 1, 1990 and in the face of the doubts of countless critics in politics and industry. It is now generally accepted that this was the right approach at the right time.

Reunification has also brought to light considerable obstacles to the actual merging of East and West in Germany. The real dimensions of many problems in the new German states has only gradually become apparent. The most difficult include the obsolescence of eastern industry, the extent of the hidden unemployment in the former state-owned companies and the catastrophic state of nature and the environment. In addition, the almost complete collapse of trade with Eastern Europe is making the already difficult transition from a planned socialist economy to a social mar-

ket economy even more problematic. Many enterprises in the new German states have lost the majority of their export orders.

After years of socialist regimentation, switching to a free market system is no easy undertaking. At the same time, however, with unification of Europe under way it is quite possible that the new German states (Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thuringen and eastern Berlin) can become one of the most attractive business locations in Europe in just a few short years. There is

every reason fo be so optimistic, particularly in view of the east Germans' great defermination to make a new beginning, and the many initiatives that have been started in the last twelve months.

These developments also include the creation of a broad medium-scale business sector: 360,000 new businesses have already been established since the beginning of 1990. Nearly 9,000 state companies have been privatised by the Treuhandanstalt (the govt. privatisation authority), and 1,600 of these enterprises are now in private ownership.

These acquisitions mean investment commitments of DM 57 billion from the purchasers and a secure future for more than

410,000 employees.

An open invitation is extended to entrepreneurs and investors from all over the world to participate in the redevelopment of the new German states. They are eligible for the same generous aid and conditions as domestic business people.

Great efforts are also being made to build up the infrastructure, including expansion of the telephone and transport networks and development of the tourist industry (construction and renovation of hotels and pensions, leisure facilities etc).

The conditions for investment in the new German states are outstanding. Since the beginning of German economic, social and monetary union in mid-1990, the Federal Government has provided more than DM 100 billion in development support for the new states. The scale of this undertaking is historically unique, and the results won't be long in coming.

Although the new German states are currently experiencing a diffi-

excellent conditions for success. The upswing in the west is already in its ninth year, 1990 economic growth was at 4.5 per cent, and investment and employment figures set new records. The Federal Republic is also a recognised economic force on the international stage. Last year Germany was once again the world's "number one exporting nation, and the deutschmark is one of the hardest and most stable of all currencies.

In addition to facilitating redevelopment in the new German states, the excellent condition of the west German economy with its high level of demand also acts as a stimulus for economic development throughout Europe. The German parliament's decision to make Berlin the capital of reunited Germany means that the city is going to be the political and economic centre of the country.

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Monument to Goethe and Schiller  
in Weimar (above)

A walk by the Brandenburg Gate  
(opposite]

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cult phase there is every chance  
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the reunification of the two Germanies has made the nation's cultural life even richer

and more varied than before.  
Germany has always been a

The Wallraf-Richartz-Museum in Cologne

THE ARTS  
|  
GERMANY

A Country with Many Cultural Centres

World-class theatres, museums and operas - Lively cultural exchange with other countries

country with many cultural centres. This is because unlike other European countries such as France and England, which already grew together to become homogeneous nationstates in the Middle Ages, the German-speaking region in Central Europe remained a more or less loose association of sovereign states for centuries.

As a result, unlike other nations, Germany never had a dominant metropolitan area, a dominant urban centre where the country's public life was concentrated. Berlin was only the capital of the Reich for a mere seven decades - not long enough for it to acquire a position as dominant as that of Paris or London.

Even though Berlin has now once again been made Germany's capital, this is unlikely to have any negative effects on the richness of cultural life in the rest of the country. Germany is a federal nation, and the states of the federation are independent in cultural matters.

On the other hand, this lack of a centre was a boon for cultural development; because of it Germany became a country with many different and unusually varied cultural centres. As a result, desolate provincial backwa-

ters are virtually unknown. One never has to travel hundreds of kilometres to enjoy good theatre or music, and even medium-sized cities often have high-quality libraries, galleries with magnificent art collections, museums and interesting historical monuments.

There is a saying that there are as many German festivals as there are days in the year, and that is no exaggeration. Wherever one goes, one is bound to find a church festival, a Schiitzenfest (a traditional fair with shooting matches), a traditional costume festival, a folk festival, a historical festival or one of the many festivals that are held simply for having fun, like the famous Oktoberfest in Munich, which is the world's biggest beer festival.

Germany has plenty to offer lovers of the arts in the Summer – one simply needs to think of the many excellent concerts held in the old castles and stately homes – but it is after the Summer break that cultural life really moves into high gear. In the nation's count-

less theatres and concert halls, the curtains rise for the beginning of the new season. Germany now boasts a total of over 100 orchestras and 200 theatres supported by state or municipal subsidies. In addition, there are also the superb orchestras of the public broadcasting companies, a wide range of private musical associations devoted to special types of music, and a profusion of private theatres and cabarets in the entertainment sector. A number of German operas have now also started to hold annual festivals. The first German opera festival was held in 1876 in Bayreuth with the performance of Wagner's Ring of the Nibelungen. This festival is now an internationally acclaimed event.

Galleries and museums with rich collections of art treasures ranging all the way from early history to the present day can be found all over the country.

Many of the cathedrals and monasteries built by the German Kaisers became treasure-chambers of art. Many of the art treasures made in the course of history, such as illuminated gospels,

reliquaries and altar furniture can still be viewed in their original locations. In Aachen, for example, the birthplace of the western empire, Augsburg, Bamberg, Braunschweig, Cologne, Münster, Paderborn and many others besides.

Cultural exchange with other countries and peoples has a long and deep tradition in Germany. Examples of this activity include famous names such as Humboldt, Herder and Frobenius, and the important ethnological museums in Berlin, Munich, Hamburg or Cologne. Outstanding exhibits include the world-famous bust of Nefertiti in the Egyptology Museum in Berlin and the collection of Far Eastern painting in the Museum für Asiatische Kunst in Cologne.

The museums of Berlin and Munich are the absolute leaders in this area, however. Their collections of masterworks spanning all ages and from all important periods and schools of occidental art are among the largest and most important in the world.



erlin's cultural scene has a  
Blong tradition of great

names More than 10,000  
performances and concerts last  
year Berlin is open round the  
clock = 1990 a record year for  
tourism

Every day, countless thousands of  
visitors experience Berlin as the  
most vibrant, pulsating city in  
Germany. It is also Germany's  
only city that is open round the  
clock. With a population of 3.3  
million, reunited Berlin has some-  
thing to suit every conceivable  
taste. The city's historical centre

metropolis. No less than 80 mu-  
seums house many treasures of  
world culture, including the bust  
of the Egyptian queen Nefertiti,  
the Pergamon Altar and Rem-  
brandt's Man with Gold Hel-  
met. The collections of Berlin's  
state museums span over 6,000  
years of cultural history.

Following reunification the city  
has double or triple variants of  
many cultural institutions: Three  
operas (Deutsche Oper, Staats-  
oper, Komische Oper), two peo-  
ple's theatres (Volksbühne, Freie  
Volksbühne), two radio sympho-

BERLIN - EVERYTHING  
HAS DOUBLED,

INCLUDING THE ARTS

Interior view of the  
,Philharmonie

is in the east, while the main  
shopping and entertainment dis-  
tricts are to be found in the west.  
There are also interesting shop-  
ping districts in the east, howev-  
er, primarily around the Alexan-  
derplatz and the in the Eu-  
ropacenter with its famous globe  
fountain. Berlin has literally thou-  
sands of pubs, night spots and  
restaurants to choose from. And  
then there are more than fifty of-  
ficial theatres, countless off  
stages, the Berliner Philharmonie,  
museums, art galleries, libraries,  
concert halls and more than a  
hundred cinemas.

Museums Housing over 6,000  
Years of Cultural History

Statistically, Berlin is already Europe's number one cultural

ny orchestras (Radio-Sinfonie-Orchester, Rundfunk-Sinfonie-Orchester), two planetariums, two observatories, two prehistoric museums, two ethnology museums, two post museums, two copper engraving galleries, two national galleries and two sculpture galleries.

Another three important centres of attraction for lovers of art and the arts are Schloss Charlottenburg and its surroundings, the Kulturforum and the Dahlem museum complex. The magnificent art gallery forming the heart of this complex has become a veritable place of pilgrimage. In addition to the *Man with Gold Helmet* the world-famous collection includes works from Giotto to Corregio, from Peter Breughel to Thomas Gainsborough. The Volkerkundemuseum (ethnology museum) has excellent collections of Indian, Islamic and East Asian art. The Knobelsdorff wing in the eastern section of Schloss Charlottenburg houses the Romantic Art Gallery, whose collection includes 25 works by Caspar David Friedrich. The famous bust of Nefertiti can be viewed in the Egyptology Museum just across the street. Surrounded by a wealth of household furnishings and treasures from the time of the

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pharaohs. The Museum for Early History and Prehistory is just next door, as are the Antikenmuseum and the Brohan-Museum with its collection of Jugendstil and art deco. Countless other museums can be found in other locations all over the city.

World-class Operas, Theatres and Orchestras

Berlin's theatre and music offerings are just as varied as the art scene. Three internationally-renowned operas compete for the public's favour. The Staatsoper succeeded the old Landoper in 1955, and soon became one of Germany's leading houses. It competes directly with the Deutsche Oper Berlin, built in 1961 on the ruins of the old Charlottenburger Oper. Under the direction of Walter Felsenstein, the Komische Oper, has become a renowned, world-class institution.

The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in 1882, and since the era of Herbert von Karajan it has been regarded as one of the best in the world. The

Radio-Sinfonie-Orchester and Rundfunk-Sinfonie-Orchester aren't far behind, however. The city's magnificent concert halls include the Philharmonie designed by H. Scharoun and the Schauspielhaus, both rich in tradition and scenes of countless triumphal performances.

Berlin's theatres are also famous all over the world, particularly Die Schaubühne on the Halleschen Ufer in the Kreuzberg district. This was where Peter Stein set standards of quality that have seldom been surpassed with his production of Brecht and

Nefertiti - Egyptology Museum

BERLIN - EVERYTHING  
HAS DOUBLED... . .

Gorki's 234th Mother with  
Therese Giese in the title role.  
The theatre has now moved to

Schloss Charlottenburg

new premises in the Mendelsohn  
building on the Kurfirstendamm,  
but its quality continues unabated.  
Other famous Berlin stages  
include the Schiller-Theater, the  
Deutsche Theater, the Kammer-  
spiele, the Maxim-Gorki Theater  
and many others besides.

With this profusion of quality it is

- front view

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hardly surprising that experts regard Berlin as the German theatre metropolis. Every year in May, all the big names in the theatre world come to Berlin for the theatre festival where the best new works from the entire German-speaking world are performed. But the theatre scene is also lively the whole year round, however, with a total of around 180 theatres and theatre groups operating in the city. A new show starts every couple of days. Last year a total of over 10,000 performances and concerts were registered in the 200 official theatres, concert halls and operas alone.

Every Spring Berlin also hosts the most important German film festival, the Berlinale, which turns the city into a mecca for film-lovers from all over the world.

#### Entertainment Is Written Large

The city tourist board's popular slogan, 'Berlin does you good', is especially true when it comes to light entertainment. The Theater des Westens, the Metropoltheater in the Adlonspalast and the Friedrichstadt-Palast and others have a well-earned reputation that extends far beyond the borders of Berlin. Many famous German comedians such as Harald Juhnke have the audiences rolling in the aisles with their brilliant and often turbulent performances in the Theater am Kurfirstendamm or the Komödie. Other excellent comedy theatres and cabaret troupes include the Hansa Theater, Distel (The Thistle), Die Wühlmause (The Voles) and the Stachelschweine (The Hedgehogs), to name but

a few.

Reunification has unquestionably given Berlin already lively cultural scene fresh impetus. A new atmosphere of creative excitement is apparent in all the arts.

Last year, Berlin was more attractive

tive for tourists from Germany  
and, even more, from abroad  
than ever before. The total of  
700,000 foreign visitors was 28  
Percent up on ie previous yearâ\200\231s  
igure. The fotal number o  
fourists went up by 20 percent, to  
2.9 million.

The only problem confronting vis-  
itors to Berlin in the face of all  
this bounty, both now and in the  
future, is that they are forced to  
choose, as it is impossible to see  
everything.