Germany is a member of the European Union. In the north, Germany borders the North Sea, Denmark, and the Baltic Sea; in the east Poland and the Czech Republic; in the south, Austria and Switzerland; in the west, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands. With 82 million people, Germany is the most populated country of the European Union.

Germany was one of the founders of European Union (1957). It is a parliamentary republic within a federal system. It is divided into 16 federal states (Bundesländer). The capital and also the largest city is Berlin. The country has a high level of living standards, and there is a full system of social security.

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