

Anette Isaacs—let's talk about Germany!

## Let's Explore Germany's Rich Heritage Together!



Please note: This is just a selection of my available programs. Visit <https://anetteisaacs.com/> for a list of all offered programs and detailed program descriptions!



**2026** offers a rare opportunity to discover the richness of German music, history, and culture at moments of extraordinary significance. This year marks major anniversaries—from the 65th anniversary of the Berlin Wall and the Eichmann trial, to 150 years of the Wagner Festival in Bayreuth: These and several other milestones anchor my dynamic offering of lectures designed to educate, inspire, and entertain, bringing Germany's past vividly into conversation with the present.

### **Brand New in 2026:**

#### **Hitler's Soldiers in America – The Hidden History of German POWs in the USA**



During World War II, almost 400,000 German soldiers were held in POW camps across the United States—a story few Americans know. Historian Anette Isaacs explores how these men lived among American communities, confronted Nazism within the camps, and formed relationships that challenge easy narratives of enemy and ally. From Texas to Florida, this lecture reveals a complex and surprising chapter of the American home front.

#### **The Anatomy of a Dictator: The Private Life, Illnesses, and Early Years of Adolf Hitler**



German historian Anette Isaacs examines Hitler's youth, personal struggles, and physical and mental health to understand the roots of his destructive ideology—without ever excusing his actions. This lecture explores how trauma, isolation, and illness may have shaped his worldview, offering insight into the man behind the myth and the forces that allowed one individual to unleash unprecedented cruelty and suffering on the world.

## **Most relevant in 2026:**

### **The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall (65<sup>th</sup> anniversary lecture)**



With the rise of the Berlin Wall 65 years ago this summer, the course of Germany's and especially of Berlin's history took a tragic turn. It would take 28 years for this cruel and inhuman symbol of Germany's division to come down, thus giving birth to yet another period in this European nation's remarkable evolution. Join German Historian and Ex-Berliner Anette Isaacs as she presents you with a historical and political overview of this painful but also almost miraculous phase in Berlin's intriguing history.

Also available: **Germany 35 years after the Unification; Everyday Life in East Germany: A look across the Border; Operation Freedom: the Berlin Airlift**, and **John F. Kennedy in Berlin: Revisiting a momentous trip!** *Please see these lecture descriptions at [www.anetteisaacs.com](http://www.anetteisaacs.com)*

### **Eichmann before Jerusalem—Insights into the mind of a Mass Murderer**



The 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eichmann Trial in Israel presents an important opportunity for us to take a closer look at the “architect of the Holocaust.” Did he really just represent the “banality of evil” as author Hannah Arendt so famously expressed it? Or was he indeed a fanatical and utterly brutal Nazi, as recent historical research suggests? Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for a compelling discussion of the decade Eichmann spent in Buenos Aires, which will reveal crucial insights into the mind of one of the world's most callous mass murderers.

### **Nazi Hunter Fritz Bauer—A Heroic Story!**



Fritz Bauer, the courageous Hessian attorney general, played a pivotal role in bringing Adolf Eichmann to trial and initiating the Auschwitz Trials, compelling post-war Germany to confront its guilt and denial. In 2026, as we mark the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eichmann trial, this lecture highlights Bauer's remarkable determination and the enduring impact of his fight for justice.

### **The Life and Times of Martin Luther**



2026 marks 480 years since the death of Martin Luther, the rebellious monk whose 95 Theses shook the Church and changed history. Explore Luther's bold actions, ideas, and lasting influence, while gaining vivid insights into daily life in the 16<sup>th</sup> century—a fascinating look at one of the most dramatic episodes in European history.

## **“Mad” Ludwig II of Bavaria: Inside the Life and Mind of Germany’s Fairy-tale King!**



Although he once famously said: “I wish to remain an eternal enigma to myself and to others”, King Ludwig II., who died 140 years ago, is perhaps the most illustrious of all Germans. Best known as an eccentric whose love for art (especially the music of Richard Wagner) and architecture is legendary, the young King had a charmed but also tragic existence. German Historian Anette Isaacs unravels this “eternal enigma” and presents you with mesmerizing insights into the Fairy-tale King’s amazing life!

Also available: **Richard Wagner and King Ludwig of Bavaria – Between Music and Madness** Please see this lecture description at [www.anetteisaacs.com](http://www.anetteisaacs.com)

## **German Genius: The Personalities behind Iconic Inventions:**

### **From Alchemy to Porcelain: The Birth of Meissen’s “White Gold”**



Explore the extraordinary story of King Augustus the Strong, whose quest for opulence led him to Johann Friedrich Böttger, an alchemist tasked with turning clay into gold. Instead of gold, Böttger discovered Europe’s first porcelain—“white gold”—transforming Saxony into a hub of art, innovation, and craftsmanship. This lecture reveals a tale of ambition, accidental genius, and the dazzling creations that captivated a continent.

### **Margarete Steiff- The Woman behind the Teddy bear!**



It is common knowledge that President Theodore Roosevelt was the namesake of the iconic Teddy Bear. Hardly anyone knows, though, that this delightful toy was invented by an amazing woman who overcame terrible sickness and incredible challenges and turned her tiny workshop into one of the most recognizable international brands– and all that in the male dominated world of the 19th century! German historian Anette Isaacs relates the story of the truly awe-inspiring life of toy maker and business maven Margarete Steiff!

### **Levi Strauss, the Gold Rush, and the World’s most famous pair of pants!**



Everybody loves them, everybody wears them: Jeans are no doubt an iconic garment and they tell the legendary story of the American West. But did you know that they were made world famous by an adventurous Bavarian Jew who combined his marvelous business sense with German ingenuity? Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating journey into the days of the Gold Rush and learn about Levi Strauss and his amazing life!



### **Bertha Benz: A Trailblazer in Automotive History**

In 1888, Bertha Benz—a mother of five and a visionary pioneer—made history as the first person to complete a long-distance journey by automobile. Her bold adventure not only demonstrated the potential of her husband Carl Benz's invention but also sparked the global revolution of the automobile. German historian Anette Isaacs brings to life the inspiring story of Bertha Benz, a woman of courage and determination whose journey forever changed the course of transportation history.

## **Timeless Harmonies: Exploring Germany's Musical Legends**



### **Ode to Beethoven – the Man behind the Music!**

To this day, German born Ludwig van Beethoven is the most listened to creator of classical music. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for an intimate look at the life and times of this tragic genius who was as famous for his fiery personality as for his divine ability to turn his personal struggles into supreme and powerful melodies.

### **Notes of Legacy: Revisiting Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn's Marvelous Musical Journey**



Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn, 19th-century German siblings, left an extraordinary mark on classical music. Fanny's brilliance as a pianist and composer was constrained by societal norms, while Felix's innovative works earned widespread acclaim. Descendants of philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, their family forged a lasting legacy in both cultural and Jewish history, blending artistry, intellect, and resilience.

***Also available with Fanny as the main focus. This talk is called: **Fanny Mendelssohn: Gifted Composer in the Shadow of Society.*****



### **Clara Schumann, the German Virtuosa – A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Superwoman**

Clara Schumann (wife of Robert) was a trailblazer in every sense—a virtuoso pianist, gifted composer, and accomplished teacher who managed to balance her groundbreaking 61-year concert career with raising eight children and being the primary breadwinner for her family. In a time when women faced immense societal constraints, Clara, who died 130 years ago, defied expectations and achieved international fame. German historian Anette Isaacs offers an inspiring look into the extraordinary life and legacy of Clara Schumann, a true icon of resilience, artistry, and determination.





## **The Tainted Legacy of Richard Wagner (150<sup>th</sup> anniversary lecture)**

2026 marks the 150th anniversary of the Bayreuth Festival, celebrating the enduring influence of Richard Wagner. To some, he is the creator of divine music; to others, a controversial figure whose difficult personality and the later appropriation of his work by Adolf Hitler complicate his legacy. This lecture explores how Wagner's music and ideas are received in Germany today, offering insight into one of history's most fascinating and debated composers.

## **Flavors of Germany: Culinary Delights, Beer Heritage and Holiday Magic:**

### **Culinaria Germania—the delicious dish on German Food**



When thinking about German food bratwurst, sauerkraut, beer, and all kinds of breads are the first things that come to mind. German food and drink are well-known and popular all over the world. But there is so much more to German cuisine, especially when one takes the regional differences into consideration. German Historian Anette Isaacs takes you on a fascinating, fun –and delicious– journey through the culinary wonders of her native country.



### **Germany's liquid bread – a refreshing look at the history of Beer!**

Once so essential to daily diets that it was referred to as *liquid bread*, beer to this day is a source of great cultural and national pride, especially in Germany. Join Historian Anette Isaacs for a lively exploration into the history of this iconic drink that will also include a look at the lucky German brewers who became *Beer Barons* in the USA!

### **Frohe Weihnachten: Unwrapping the Charms of German Christmas Traditions**



Uncover the rich history and cultural significance behind cherished customs such as the Advent calendar, Christkindlmarkt, and St. Nicholas Day. Delve into the heartwarming tales of the Christkind and the festive decoration of the Tannenbaum, while also exploring the delectable delights of traditional holiday treats like Lebkuchen and Stollen. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs and journey through time and tradition, exploring how Germany's unique customs have shaped the magic of Christmas celebrations worldwide.

# Lectures and Programs on the Nazi Era: History, Memory, and Impact

## Unexpected Alliances: Nazi and Islamist Interactions During WWII



Discover the surprising and little-known connections between Nazi leaders and Islamic forces during World War II. This lecture uncovers a tangled web of ideology, strategy, and wartime maneuvering in the 1930s and 1940s, revealing a chapter of history filled with unexpected encounters, intrigue, and far-reaching consequences.

## The Germans and their Führer: Insights into a mutual obsession



Addressing a huge and adoring audience at the Party Convention in Nuremberg in 1936, Adolf Hitler stated: *“That you have found me among so many millions is the miracle of our time! And the fact that I found you—that is Germany’s good fortune!”* German Historian Anette Isaacs explores how this consummate symbiosis of *Volk and Führer* (People and Leader) came into existence and how it changed and evolved during the course –and especially- the demise of the *Third Reich*.

## Joseph Goebbels: The Man who seduced a Nation!



Joseph Goebbels skillfully shaped public perception and political culture in Nazi Germany, transforming Hitler into a god-like figure and consolidating mass support for the regime. Through his manipulative use of media, Goebbels seduced public opinion, keeping many committed to a war that was ultimately unwinnable. This lecture examines the life, strategies, and psychological mechanisms of one of history’s most powerful and dangerous propagandists.

## Between Normality and Terror: Everyday Life in Nazi Germany



More than 80 years after the end of World War II, research on Nazi Germany continues to deepen our understanding of a regime whose system of terror caused the death and suffering of millions. While we will examine governmental surveillance and brutality, the focus here is on daily life for ordinary citizens in 1930s Germany. By exploring societal spheres such as education, employment, and cultural expression, we gain insight into how Germans navigated the tension between normality and oppression—and how the Nazis succeeded in transforming a nation into a brutal dictatorship.



## **The Women of the Third Reich**

In 1929, Joseph Goebbels declared that the mission of German women was to be beautiful and bear children, a belief integral to the Third Reich's vision. Historian Anette Isaacs explores this expectation's reality by examining the lives of influential women like Magda Goebbels, Emmi Goering, Leni Riefenstahl, and Eva Braun within the racially motivated totalitarian system of Nazi Germany.

## **Silent Heroes- the Resistance Movement in Nazi Germany**

This crucial presentation looks at the relatively unknown and sometimes even forgotten heroes who often gave their lives in order to fight against the German dictator's brutal Nazi regime. German Historian Anette Isaacs pays homage to Sophie and Hans Scholl, Georg Elser, Baron von Stauffenberg, the women of Rosenstrasse, and other groups who made up the *German Resistance*.



## **Holocaust Remembrance and the Post- World War II Epoch:**

### **1945 – the year that shaped the new Germany**

The year 1945 proved to be pivotal for the transformation of Germany from a brutal belligerent dictatorship to a flourishing and pacifist democracy. Join German Historian Anette Isaacs for a fascinating discussion of how key events like the bombing of Dresden, the Potsdam Conference, and the beginning of the Nuremberg trials played a crucial role in this remarkable process.



## **Against the Odds: Jewish Refuge and Resurgence in Post- War Germany**

Explore the untold story of over 200,000 Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors who sought temporary asylum in post-World War II Germany. Displaced Persons (DP) Camps became a sanctuary for these individuals preparing for new lives in the United States and Israel. Anette Isaacs provides insightful glimpses into the challenges and resilience of Jewish life in immediate post-war Germany, unraveling a lesser-known chapter of history.



## **Germany and Israel—a story of Guilt and an unlikely Friendship**

Six decades ago, Germany and Israel began tentative diplomatic relations against a backdrop of shared history marked by tragedy. What once seemed improbable has grown into a flourishing partnership, reflecting reconciliation, resilience, and the confrontation of Germany's Nazi legacy. This lecture examines the pivotal steps and profound challenges that shaped a new chapter in German-Israeli relations.







## **Never Forget: Remembering the Holocaust in Berlin and Germany**

Eight decades after the end of World War II, Germany has evolved into a country with a varied and fascinating remembrance culture, reminding Germans and visitors alike of the nation's horrible past and legacy. German historian Anette Isaacs will take you on a photographic journey to some of the many memorials to victims of the Holocaust, that show how remembrance and guilt have been expressed in the "land of the perpetrators."

## **The Long Road "Home": Returning to Germany after the Holocaust.**



Much has been written in recent years about the renaissance of Jewish Life in Germany which was primarily caused by a major wave of immigration on part of Jews from the former Soviet Union. While this lecture will explore this particular phenomenon and its consequences as well, it first and foremost wants to attempt to find an answer to the question why Jews were coming back to Germany right after World War II. German Historian Anette Isaacs traces back the long road home that led to a rebirth of Jewish Life in her native country.

## **Jewish Life in Germany today**



Embark on an insightful exploration of present-day Jewish life in Germany with historian Anette Isaacs. Eight decades after World War II, Germany stands as home to the third-largest Jewish community in Europe. This presentation offers a straightforward and thoughtful perspective on various aspects of Jewish life, guiding you through the complexities and realities while shedding light on the resilience and growth of this community within the context of Germany's post-war history.

***Let us find the perfect fit for your audience—whether it is a single lecture or a full series. I look forward to connecting, sharing ideas, and creating an engaging, memorable experience!***

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