

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Cologne, Germany, featuring a prominent Gothic cathedral with a tall, spire. The city is densely packed with buildings, and a river is visible in the foreground. The background shows a hazy landscape with mountains under a blue sky.

GERMANY AT A GLANCE

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Historical Retrospect

The Germans, like the English, Swedes, etc., belong to the Germanic peoples. It is the old German tribes—the Saxons and the Frisians in the north, the Franks in the west, the Thuringians in Central Germany, the Swabians and the Bavarians in the south—which have produced the wide variety of types of people that every visitor notices. The fact that, even up to the present time, Germany consists of a large number of *Länder*, to a great extent independent, has also something to do with this tribal structure.

In the year 800, the Pope crowned as Emperor (*Kaiser*) KARL, the King of the Franks. It was in the 12th century that the "Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation" reached its zenith under the Staufen Emperors. After then the independent Princes constantly gained in importance.



