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As you approach Buchenwald on the road from Weimer, you can see this obelisk, as it stands at the entrance to the Memorial. The original wooden obelisk was built by the prisoners on April 19, 1945, just after liberation to honor all those who had been imprisoned or died; it was relocated as a permanent structure to the entrance of the Memorial site.

The road from the Obelisk leading into the camp, was known as “*Blood Road*” -- it was built by the inmates in 1938-39.

This stainless steel plate is heated to 98.6 deg F and is engraved with the names of fifty nations and victim groups; it was placed where the original wooden obelisk was built in 1945 on the camp grounds. It is common practice to kneel, touch, or lay and cry on the plaque.



Click [HERE](#) for More information on commemorative monuments,

and [HERE](#) for more information on *Blood Road*.

The arrow to right indicates the area where the bracelet was found. This is approximately 3/4 mile from the train platform, disinfection and depot buildings, where Ben arrived in 1945. This spot is just outside the complex perimeter on the opposite side of the grounds. The building foundation seen in the photo is the Memorial site for the persons who were arrested and brought to Buchenwald for participating in the conspiracy against Hitler that culminated in an assassination attempt on July 20, 1944. More information of this Memorial may be found [HERE \(on page 14\)](#).



Dr. Bayer is showing where he found the bracelet to Mackenzie Lake, a U.S. PhD student studying in Weimar. █

Of the more than 40,000 camps, Buchenwald was one of the largest and most important in the Third Reich.

Franz Ehrlich was a German architect and a Communist. He was imprisoned in Buchenwald and tasked to design the gate and motto *Jedem das Seine*. This was one of the first buildings the prisoners were forced to construct in 1937.



On April 8, the prisoners sent an SOS requesting help with a shortwave radio (they had kept hidden); the following reply was received:

KZ Bu. Hold out. Rushing to your aid. Staff of Third Army -

A detachment of U.S. troops under the command of [Captain Frederic Keffer](#), arrived at Buchenwald on April 11, 1945 at 3:15 p.m. -- now the permanent time of the clock at the [entrance gate](#). More information may be found [HERE](#) at this link.



The storage depot building is next to the disinfectant building, the site of former train station, and the crematorium, along a perimeter of the camp. It is the largest building on site, and now houses the Museum. Buchenwald opened in 1937 and received more than 240,000 prisoners, who were Russian, French, Italian, German, American and other political prisoners for years before people who were Jewish were shipped there toward the end of the War.

I did not tour the storage building or the crematorium. The crematorium was built and operational in 1940. The ovens were purchased from Topf and Sohne located in the nearby town of Erfurt (*where I changed trains twice*); this company also built the ovens to spec that were installed in Auschwitz.

Follow these links for more information on these structures: <https://www.buchenwald.de/en/539>

<https://www.buchenwald.de/en/545>



Photo: Katharina Brand

# Town of Weimar



# Town of Weimar



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# Town of Weimar



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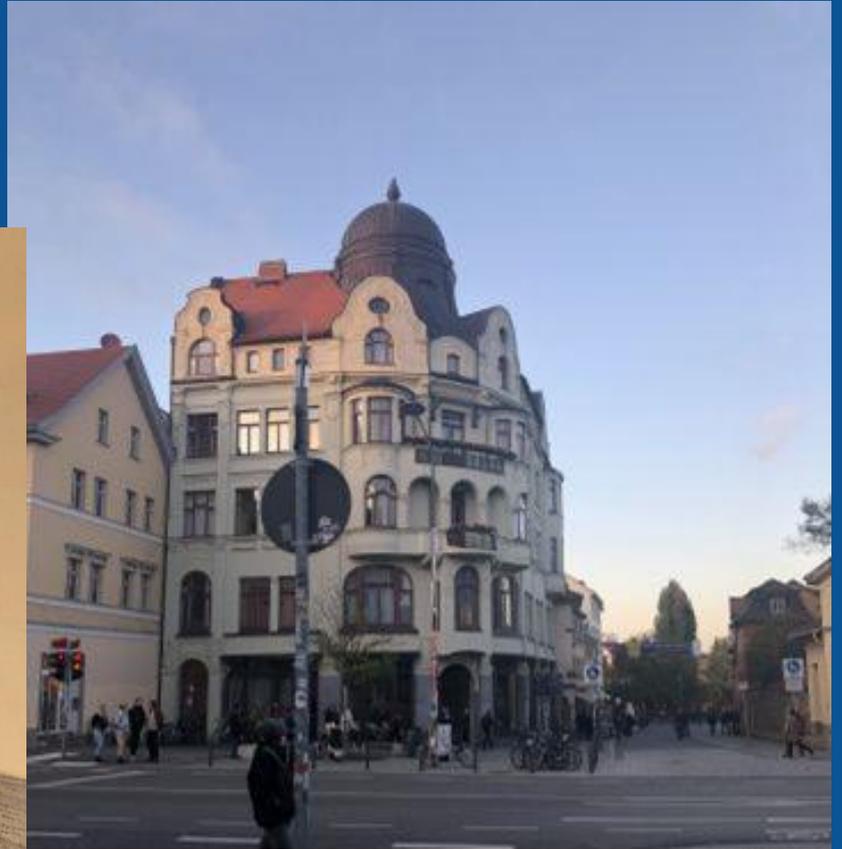
# Town of Weimar



# Town of Weimar



# Town of Weimar



# Weimar Train Station WWII Exhibit - People of the Jewish Religion who lived in Weimar

**VERFOLGUNG IM NATIONALSOZIALISMUS**

## Stolpersteine in Weimar

Weimar ist nicht nur in Deutschland als Wirkungsraum der SED-Funktionäre und Ex-Funktionäre der Weimarer Republik und als -wahrscheinlich- das ehemalige Konzentrationslager Buchenwald zum Symbol für das Eingetragene -Holocaust- und die Nazis -geworden...



**Historische und Verfolgung**

Die Stolpersteine sind ein Projekt der Initiative 'Stolpersteine' in Weimar. Sie sollen an die Verfolgung und Ermordung der Juden in Weimar erinnern. Die Steine sind in der Regel aus Granit und sind mit dem Namen des Verfolgten beschriftet. Sie sind in der Regel an der Stelle, an der der Verfolgte gewohnt hat, aufgestellt.

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**GESETZE UND VERORDNUNGEN**

## Die nationalsozialistische „Volksgemeinschaft“ gründete sich auf Rassismus und Antisemitismus.

Auch die Ideen der NS-Politik beruhen auf diesem Fundament.



**Rassismus und Antisemitismus**

Die nationalsozialistische „Volksgemeinschaft“ gründete sich auf Rassismus und Antisemitismus. Die NS-Politik beruhte auf diesen Ideologien. Die Juden wurden als „Rasseneindringlinge“ betrachtet und als Feinde der deutschen Nation angesehen. Dies führte zu Verfolgung und Ermordung.

**Antisemitismus**

Antisemitismus ist die Vorurteilshaltung gegenüber Juden. In der NS-Ideologie wurden Juden als „Rasseneindringlinge“ betrachtet, die die deutsche Nation zu schwächen und zerstören wollten. Dies führte zu Verfolgung und Ermordung.

**Rassismus**

Rassismus ist die Vorurteilshaltung gegenüber bestimmten Rassen. In der NS-Ideologie wurden Juden als „Rasseneindringlinge“ betrachtet, die die deutsche Nation zu schwächen und zerstören wollten. Dies führte zu Verfolgung und Ermordung.

# Weimar Train Station WWII Exhibit - People of the Jewish Religion who lived in Weimar







# Weimar Train Station WWII Exhibit - People of the Jewish Religion who lived in Weimar



# Weimar - WWII Train Station (5.5 miles by roadway to Buchenwald)

Currently an Auto Shop, Next to Existing Train Station



# Weimar - WWII Train Station (5.5 miles by roadway to Buchenwald)

Next to Existing Train Station, Currently an Auto Shop



# Weimar - WWII Train Station (5.5 miles by roadway to Buchenwald )

Next to Existing Train Station, Currently an Auto Shop



# Weimar - History Exhibit

(I was actually heading to the Bauhaus Museum, when I stumbled upon this Exhibit, next to the Atrium, the exhibit chronicles pre/post WWII history)



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100 JAHRE  
REICHSPRESDIREKTOR

GRÜNDUNGSDATUM  
AM 1. JAN. 1918

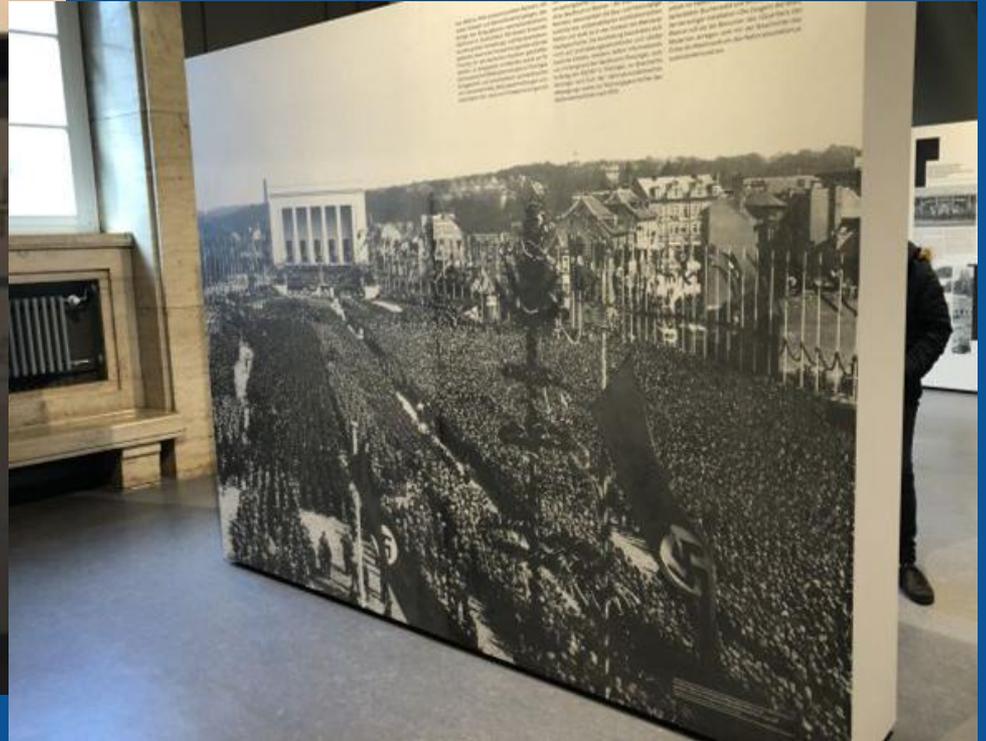
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HAUPTSTADT  
REICHSPRESDIREKTOR

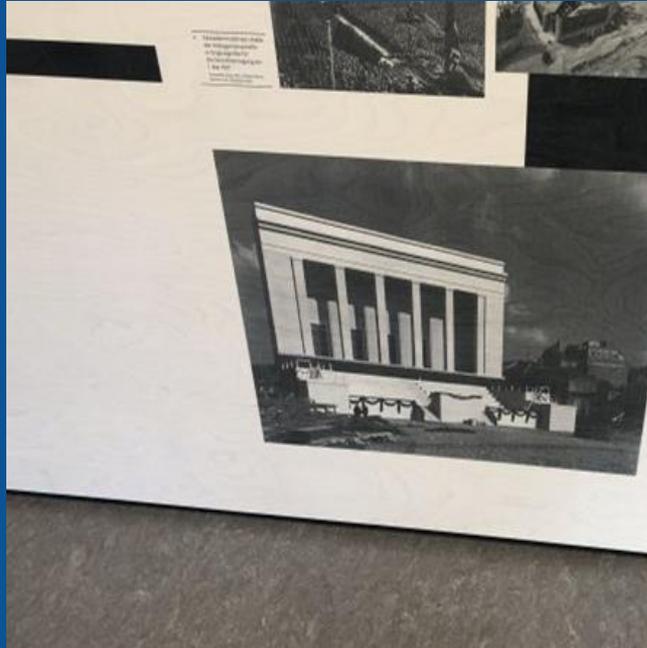
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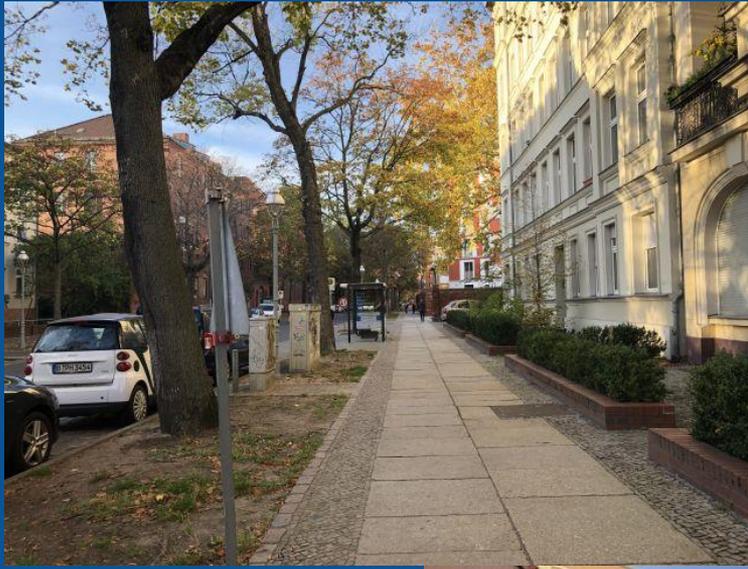
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My Berlin hotel was on this street, which was walking distance to the train station.



Undergoing gentrification after WWII bombings and freeing of Berlin from Communism



Interesting mix of a few old and numerous new buildings and more under construction



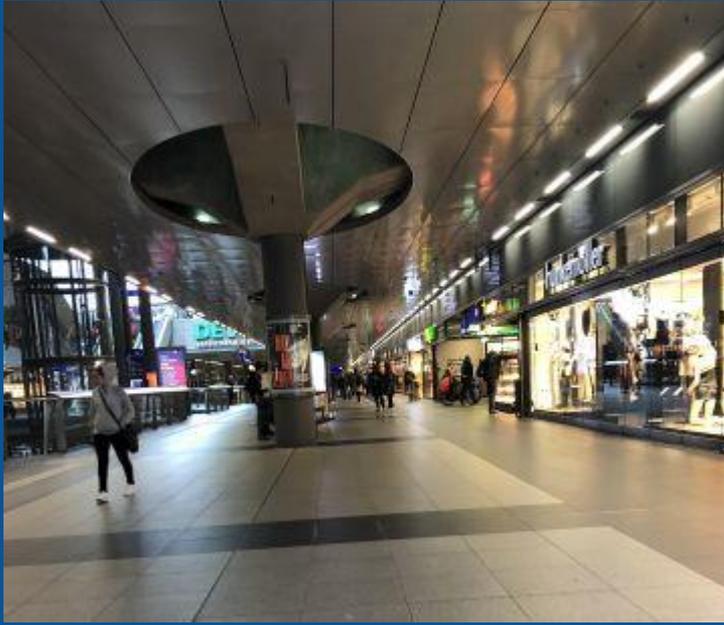
Brandenburg Gate was bombed in WWII and rebuilt in 2002 by the Foundation for the Protection of Monuments costing 6M Euros.



The Wall dividing E/W Berlin was in front of this gate.

The U.S. Embassy is next to the gate.

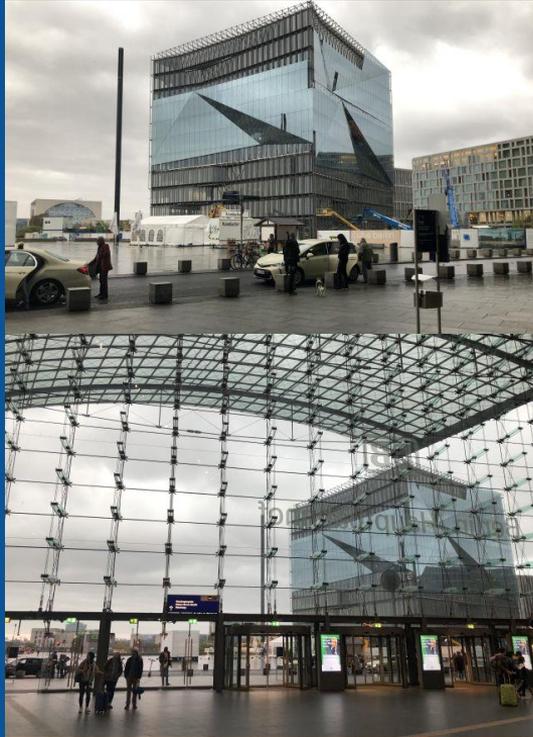




Beautiful and very busy train station, I met several German people and others who had traveled into Berlin to shop and see art exhibits -- I could tell it was a very special place. There are tourist information booths at either end of the building - thankfully.

The area surrounding the train station, street where I stayed, shops downtown, and plaza near Brandenburg Gate were all immaculate. Lots of construction outside train station, and cranes wherever you looked. Lots of taxis and travelers on the the streets. There is a hotel and a hostel in walking distance of train station.





While at Berlin Main Train Station, I met a 17 year old girl, who had just escaped from Afghanistan with her elderly father; they were going to Frankfurt without any living or work arrangements.



I also met three hilarious American woman on a European road trip, who I share conversation with.



# External References

<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2019/01/11/bombing-buchenwald/>

<https://www.buchenwald.de/en/69/>

<https://www.bradford-delong.com/2015/04/liveblogging-world-war-ii-april-10-1945-buchenwald.html>