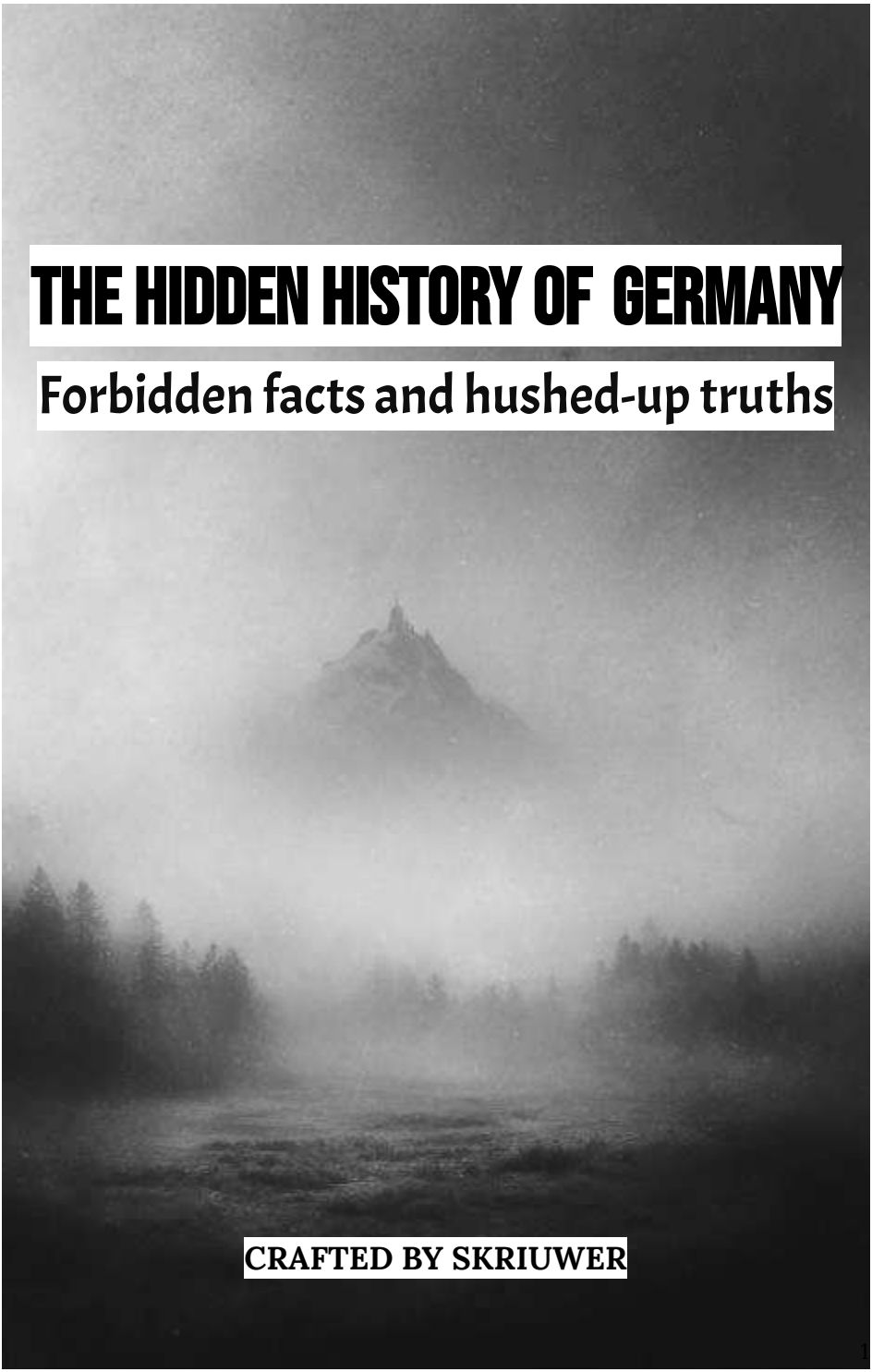

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF GERMANY
Forbidden facts and hushed-up truths
CRAFTED BY SKRIUWER

Dear reader,

Imagine the resinous scent of oak wood in a sacred grove or the crackling sound of an alchemist's quill in a hidden monastery cell. This is the hidden history of Germany, told through the eyes of those forgotten by the official chronicles. Listen to the songs of a seer during oracle rituals in the moor in Chapter 2. Feel the fear of spies at the Limes Germanicus in Chapter 3. Smell the printer's ink of a heretical pamphlet from the Reformation in Chapter 6. In these shadows, we find intimate truths, such as the shaky handwriting of a Stasi informer who betrays his own morals.

These stories are highly topical. The flames of tribalism, the power of secret societies, and the pain of division echo in our debates today. This book connects these embers with our struggle for identity and truth. So make yourself a cup of tea, get comfortable, and let these voices take you behind the scenes of familiar history.

Sincerely,
Skriuwer

Eight quotes that shook Germany

"Here I stand; I can do no other."
Martin Luther (1521)

"And yet it moves."
Johannes Kepler (attributed, 17th century)

'The end justifies the means.'
Frederick the Great (1740)

'Only soldiers can help against Democrats.'
Frederick William IV (1848)

'Blood and iron.'
Otto von Bismarck (1862)

"We demand the destruction of useless eaters."
Ernst Haeckel (1905)

'Today I feel like the leader of millions.'
Adolf Hitler (1934)

'No one has any intention of building a wall.'
Walter Ulbricht (1961)

THE UNDERGROUND CURRENTS: GERMANY'S HIDDEN HISTORY

 **c. 2000 BC – 1st century BC: MYSTERIES IN MOOR AND STONE**

Ancient cults and forgotten cultures

- Ice Age hunters leave behind ritual artifacts; the Nebra Sky Disk reveals astronomical knowledge (Chapter 1)
- Cults take place in megalithic tombs and sacred groves; shamans interpret the world (Chapters 1 & 2)
- Celtic and Proto-Germanic cultures mix and create new forms of society (chapters 1 & 3)

 **1st century BC – 9 AD: ROMAN SHADOW FIGHTS**

Betrayal, espionage, and the insurmountable border

- Caesar's crossing of the Rhine is as much propaganda as it is military action (Chapter 3)
- The Battle of the Teutoburg Forest: Arminius' betrayal becomes the founding legend of German resistance (9 AD, Chapter 3)
- The Limes Germanicus becomes the invisible but constantly guarded border between two worlds (Chapter 3)

 **10th century – 15th century: THE POWER OF THE CROWN AND ITS DEMONS**

Intrigue, superstition, and the magic of power

- The Investiture Controversy and the Walk to Canossa humiliate the emperor before the pope (Chapter 5)

- Witch trials and alchemical secrets flourish in monasteries and at Staufer courts (Chapter 4)

- Dynastic intrigues of the Luxembourgs and Habsburgs shape the empire through marriage and betrayal (Chapter 5)

📜 1517–1648: HERETICS, PROPHETS, AND WARLORDS

Faith, revolution, and occult alliances

- Luther's theses unleash a revolution that gives rise to heretical networks such as the Anabaptists (1517, Chapter 6)

- The Thirty Years' War: Wallenstein's occult horoscopes and Richelieu's spy networks ravage the country (Chapter 7)

🔍 18th century: REASON IN SECRET

Enlightenment and esoteric societies

- Masonic lodges and the Illuminati secretly plan a new, reason-based world order (Chapter 8)

- Rosicrucians practice alchemy and esoteric mysticism as an alternative to established religion (Chapter 8)

💥 1789–1848: FORCED RENEWAL

Foreign revolution and failed dreams

- Napoleon's storm dissolves the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation and forces reforms (1806, Chapter 9)

- The Revolution of 1848: Suppressed voices and radical conspiracies fail in the face of princely power (Chapter 10)

1862–1918: UNITY THROUGH BLOOD AND IRON

Dark Machinations and Imperial Delusions

- Bismarck's scheming wars forge a nation state "from above" (Chapter 11)
- The empire is founded on colonial atrocities such as the genocide of the Herero and Nama (Chapter 12)

1918–1945: THE UNLEASHING OF THE UNDERGROUND

Chaos, occultism, and systematic atrocities

- The stab-in-the-back myth and occult groups such as the Thule Society poison the Weimar Republic (Chapters 13 & 14)
- National Socialism abuses pseudoscience and esotericism to legitimize the Holocaust (chapters 14 & 15)

1945–1989: DIVIDED MEMORIES, DIVIDED SECRETS

Spies, surveillance, and cold cabals

- Operation Paperclip: Nazi scientists work for the Allies in the Cold War (Chapter 16)
- The Stasi establishes an unprecedented surveillance state in the GDR based on fear and informants (chap. 17)

"German history is a forest full of winding paths. Those who only know the broad avenues have never understood it."
— A leitmotif of this book.

Before we begin: 50 shocking, interesting, and disturbing facts about Germany's hidden history

IMPERIAL MADNESS

Holy worm feast: Emperor Frederick II fed two prisoners, then sent one hunting and the other to bed—he wanted to see whether digestion or exercise promoted food breakdown more.

Skull speaker: The Staufer Emperor Frederick II kept a court jester who adored a human skull and talked to it as a constant reminder of mortality.

Bloodbath therapy: The Prussian King Frederick William I prescribed baths in the blood of slaughtered lambs for his ailing soldiers to transfer their "vitality."

Grave wedding: A medieval bishop had a noblewoman who had broken her vows buried alive in a coffin next to the corpse of her lover.

Regicide bloodlust: The chronicler Thietmar of Merseburg reports that the murderers of King Henry I ate his brain to absorb his intelligence.

WAR ATROCITIES & BETRAYAL

Cannibal alliance: During the siege of Maastricht in the Eighty Years' War, starving German mercenaries are said to have made a pact to eat their own dead.

Lick-murder diplomacy: After the murder of the captured Swedish field marshal von Königsmarck in 1676, the commander allegedly licked the blood from his dagger.

At banquet: In starving Dresden during the Seven Years' War, a nobleman served his guests a feast of artfully prepared rats.

Wallenstein's horoscope murder: Before having his general Wallenstein eliminated, Emperor Ferdinand II secretly consulted his own court astrologers to determine the most auspicious time for the murder.

Coffin birth amid a hail of bombs: A woman buried under rubble in a Dresden cellar in 1945 gave birth to a stillborn child there days after her death.

WITCH CULT & SUPERSTITION

Devil goat marriage: In witch trials, women confessed to marrying the devil in the form of a goat and flying with him on a broomstick to the Sabbath.

Scales of innocence: In medieval law, a suspect could prove her innocence if she weighed more than a Bible – the Bible was often secretly weighted down.

Witch flight test: To convict a witch, she was thrown into a sack with a cat and a rooster – if she survived, she was guilty.

Water test for children: Even in the 18th century, children were suspected of being "begotten by the devil" and subjected to a water test.

Possessed nuns crying blood: In the monastery of Himmelkron, possessed nuns cried blood and threw invisible objects.

ALCHEMY & SCIENTIFIC NIGHTMARES

Guillotine consciousness: The chemist Lavoisier asked to blink after his decapitation – his severed head allegedly blinked for seconds.

Anatomy Show Dinner: In 1720, Augustus the Strong hosted a banquet in a crypt where corpses were dissected between courses.

Goethe's morphine eyes: Goethe experimented with morphine and then painted his self-portraits with pupil-less, empty eyes.

Mummy powder cure: Until the 18th century, ground Egyptian mummies were sold and ingested as a panacea.

Vampire transfusion: In 1667, a doctor in Braunschweig transfused a dog's blood into a madman to calm him down – the patient died.

DARK PLACES & MONUMENTS

Teufelsberg Nazi Heart: Teufelsberg in Berlin is a mountain of rubble from the war – it was piled directly on the foundations of an indestructible Nazi model settlement.

Stasi prison noises: In the Stasi remand prison in Berlin-Hohenschönhausen, cells were filled with a constant, deafening whirring noise to drive inmates mad.

All-seeing eyes files: The Stasi not only collected hair and clothing, but also the scent of dissidents, preserved in mason jars.

Cologne Cathedral children's skeletons: The skeletons of over 100 children were found under Cologne Cathedral – victims of a medieval famine or plague?

Rhine wine corpses: In 1816, over 200 corpses were fished out of the Rhine near Cologne, victims of a volcanic eruption and famine.

 BIZARRE ARTS & BURDENS

Mozart's dog opera: An opera was performed in Munich in which all the roles were played by trained dogs – the Elector was delighted.

Fools' wedding: A Saxon nobleman married his court dwarfs in an expensive parody ceremony with 200 guests.

Louis XIV's erotic throne: A German prince copied the throne and installed levers that massaged him during audiences.

Powder tax fury: The tax on powdered wigs was so high that many men secretly wore them unpowdered.

Kiss of the dead: In the Baroque era, it was fashionable to lay out deceased family members and kiss their hands in farewell.

 SECRET NETWORKS & INTRIGUES

The Jewish SS man: Emil Maurice, Hitler's chauffeur and co-founder of the SS, had Jewish ancestors – Hitler declared him an "honorary Aryan."

Hitler's "Schicklgruber" name: Adolf Hitler's father Alois was called "Schicklgruber" until he was 40 years old.

Nazi Christmas: The NSDAP invented a "Yule festival" without Christian references, with sun wheels instead of angels and Germanic gods instead of Jesus.

Stalin Bear Spy: The East German Stasi trained a bear named "Mischa" to allegedly smuggle messages across the border.

Himmler's astrologer: The SS chief consulted his personal astrologer for important decisions.

💀 CULT OF DEATH & RELICS

Shroud souvenir: After the execution of the conspirators of July 20, 1944, relatives of the victims cut pieces from their shirts as souvenirs.

Skull collection game: Anatomist Samuel Thomas von Soemmerring collected skulls and had his guests play bowling with them.

Goethe's skull desk: Goethe worked at a desk that had the skull of a lover carved into it.

Mummy powder party: In the 18th century, it was fashionable among aristocrats to consume mummy powder as an aphrodisiac at parties.

Cannon wine bottling: After the Battle of Sedan in 1870, German soldiers filled French cannon barrels with wine and drank it.

🧠 REVOLUTION & RESISTANCE

Sawdust bread: During the famine of 1848, bakers baked bread with sawdust and plaster – the result was the "Berlin bread revolt."

Bell massacre: During the Peasants' War in 1525, rebellious peasants were locked in their own church, and the bells were rung for hours until they were deafened.

Freedom baby: In 1848, a woman gave birth in the middle of the Berlin barricades – the child was given the first name "Barricade."

Talking heads: After Robert Blum was beheaded in 1848, the executioner showed his head to the crowd – his lips were reportedly still moving.

Royal blood souvenir: After the execution of Friedrich von Salm in 1794, spectators dipped cloths in his blood – some relics still exist today.

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Frisian is one of the oldest languages in Europe, closely related to English and Dutch, and spoken by about **500,000 people** in the province **of Friesland** (Fryslân) in the north of the Netherlands. It is the second official language of the Netherlands, but like many minority languages, Frisian faces the challenge of surviving in a modern, globalized world.

We use our revenue to promote the Frisian language.

For more information, please contact: **kontakt@skriuwer.com** (www.skriuwer.com)

Historical research methodology

This work summarizes information from:

• Primary sources

– Government archives and historical records
– Correspondence and eyewitness accounts from the period
– Contemporary newspapers and publications

Disclaimer:

The images in this book are creative reinterpretations of historical scenes. Although we have made every effort to accurately capture the essence of the eras depicted, some illustrations may contain artistic embellishments or approximations. They are intended to reflect the atmosphere and spirit of the time and are not meant to serve as precise historical records.

"History is the version of past events that people have agreed upon."

– Napoleon Bonaparte

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CHAPTER 1: THE BEGINNINGS IN THE DEPTHS OF TIME: PREHISTORIC MYSTERIES AND FORGOTTEN CULTURES

The history of Germany does not begin with the first Germanic tribes or the Roman legions, as popular narratives suggest. It goes back much further, to an era when the country was still a wild mosaic of forests, moors, and ice age landscapes. Here, in prehistory, lurk secrets that still puzzle archaeologists today. Who were these invisible peoples who left behind traces that sound like whispering echoes? Were they nomads who made pacts with the gods, or settlers whose rituals were bloodier than we imagine? This chapter takes you on a journey into the depths, where bones and bronze finds whisper stories that could shake the foundations of our identity. Imagine that beneath your feet lies a past that is not only ancient, but also disturbingly familiar.

The Ice Age and the first shadows

When the last Ice Age released its icy grip on Central Europe around 40,000 years ago, the first humans crawled out of their caves. In the caves of Kühlsborn in what is now Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, researchers found fire pits and mammoth bones that point to hunters who not only survived but celebrated. This Aurignacian culture, named after a cave in southern France, spread rapidly and left traces in Germany that testify to an early artistic streak. The caves in the Swabian Jura, such as the Vogelherd Cave, contain ivory figures and engravings that are over 40,000 years old and depict scenes of animals and hybrid creatures.

These finds, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura, include 16 artifacts from the Vogelherd Cave alone, which date back to the 1931 excavation and contained human remains. But what lies behind the simple flint tools? Archaeological finds point to rituals in which cave bear skulls served as talismans. Was this mere superstition, or did these early humans know powers that we today dismiss as myth? The controversy rages on: some scientists argue that these practices indicated a deep spiritual connection with nature, while skeptics dismiss them as primitive survival strategies. Nevertheless, the precision of the engravings on ivory plates from the Vogelherd Cave raises doubts. These works of art depict lion-men and abstract symbols that resemble a lost language. Could they be codes that reveal a hidden cosmology?

Groups settled in the Rhine and Danube valleys, marking the transition from the Paleolithic to the Mesolithic. Finds from the Federsee moorland in Baden-Württemberg reveal barbed arrowheads that indicate sophisticated hunting techniques. But why were some weapons deliberately broken and sunk in wetlands? Archaeologists speculate about offerings to river spirits, a practice that parallels later Germanic customs. These moors, often considered gateways to the underworld, preserved organic remains such as wooden boats and nets.

An oak boat found near Stuttgart measures over six meters and dates back to 5500 BC. It suggests river travel that facilitated trade or pilgrimages. But who sailed these boats? Were they peaceful traders, or warrior clans conquering territories without leaving traces of battle? The absence of graves in some regions fuels the theory of a nomadic lifestyle that deliberately covered its tracks. Such discoveries challenge us to view prehistory not as chaotic but as an orderly network of hidden intentions.

The Ice Age hunters were not isolated wanderers. Their tools, made of fine flint, reveal a level of technical skill that suggests knowledge was shared. In the Vogelherd Cave, where not only animal bones but also human remains were discovered in 1931, the arrangement of the finds suggests ritual burials. Were these people cannibals who consumed their enemies to gain their strength, or honorable burial practitioners who returned the dead to the earth? Modern analyses of bone fragments in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania suggest that the Aurignacians maintained a varied diet, from reindeer and mammoth to fish from the thawing rivers.

But the real mysteries lie in the undeciphered symbols. Some researchers see the lines on the tiles as astronomical maps that predicted the course of the stars. Others warn against overinterpretation that mixes prehistory with modern astronomy. This debate arouses curiosity: if these hunters read the sky, what did they know about the world that we only conquered much later?

The transition to an agricultural civilization: the Linear Pottery culture

With the advent of agriculture around 5500 BC, the picture changed dramatically. The Linear Pottery culture, named after the characteristic band patterns on pots, spread from Ukraine to the Rhine. In Germany, especially in Hesse and on the Middle Rhine, the first villages with longhouses made of wood and clay were built.

These settlements, such as the one in Vaihingen an der Enz, housed up to 100 people and included fields of emmer wheat and lentils. The excavations in

Vaihingen, Ludwigsburg district, Baden-Württemberg, offers an integrated view of the land use, economy, and diet of these Linear Pottery people. Not only were house foundations found here, but also bones from domestic animals and game, evidence of a mixed system of agriculture and livestock breeding.

But behind the idyll lies a dark secret: many finds show signs of violence. Skull deformations and arrowheads in skeletons speak of conflicts that belie the peaceful expansion. Was the expansion peaceful, as long believed, or a slow campaign of conquest? Recent analyses of DNA from graves in the Bliesgau region reveal that the immigrants from the east carried genetic markers that indicate interbreeding with local hunters. These hybrids created a culture that was innovative but also brutal.

Linear pottery can be divided into phases: from 5700 to 5300 BC the oldest, then the middle phase until 5200 BC and the younger phase until 5000 BC. In Vaihingen an der Enz, one of the most extensively researched sites, the remains indicate intensive use of the soil, with crop rotation and fertilization that was advanced for the time. But why did this culture end abruptly? Theories range from climate change to internal wars, but DNA studies from the Bliesgau region show a sudden increase in traces of violence, as if rival groups were fighting over resources. These discoveries make the Linear Pottery culture pioneers of a dual legacy: they plowed the soil, but also sowed the seeds of conflict.

A particularly puzzling element are the Rundlinge, circular structures with ditches and palisades. Near Schletz in Burgenland, such structures were excavated that were intended to serve as defensive fortifications. But why are there no traces of attacks? Instead, animal bones were found in large quantities, suggesting ritual celebrations. Were these places gathering places where tribes forged alliances or resolved disputes through sacrifices? The theory of a matriarchal society, based on female clay figures, is gaining ground. These Venus figures, small and stylized, may have been fertility idols worshipping a goddess whose name has been lost to history. The interpretation is controversial: feminist archaeologists see them as evidence of a peaceful matriarchy, while traditionalists dismiss them as mere amulets.

The truth may lie somewhere in between, in a world where women and men equally pulled the strings of power. Such figurines from Vaihingen point to rituals celebrating the cycle of life, but their proximity to graves containing men who died violent deaths casts a shadow over this harmony.



In the twilight of the Rhine Valley, the first houses of the farmers rise, where the crackling of the fire whispers stories of goddesses and the shadows of ancestors dance across the fields.

Megalithic culture: stones that hold secrets

Around 3500 BC, the first megalithic tombs appeared, colossal stone structures that seem like guardians from a forgotten era. In northern Germany, from Schleswig-Holstein to Lower Saxony, thousands of these megalithic tombs stretch out, passage graves with chambers made of huge boulders. The tomb at Altenerdingen near Hamburg, one of the best preserved, measures over 100 meters in length and once contained amber beads and flint axes. These tombs served not only as burial sites, but also as sacred places where ancestor worship was practiced. Bone analyses show that up to 40 individuals were buried in a single tomb, often with deliberately broken limbs. Was this a sign of cannibalism, as some early researchers speculated, or a ritual ceremony to bind the souls? Modern isotope studies from graves in the Lüneburg Heath reveal that the dead came from distant regions, suggesting pilgrimages or slave sacrifices.

The Funnel Beaker Culture that built these graves was masterful in stone masonry. But how did they transport blocks weighing up to 50 tons without wheels or metal tools? Theories range from rope pulleys to spiritual aids, but none explain the precision of the alignment with the solstices. In the area around Flintbek in Schleswig-Holstein, long graves were discovered that could have served astronomical functions.