

1933-1945: Nazi Regime and World War II

**Gastarbeiter Program (1955 - 1973) and Post-war
Displacement (1945 - 1960's)**

1970's and 1980's Integration

1990's - 2000's Reunification and Asylum Policies

2010's - Present: Refugees, EU policy, and the new Right

1933-1945: Nazi Regime and World War II

The U.S. State Department issued visas to only 1,241 Germans

There were between 80,000 and 100,000 Germans on the waiting list for a US immigration visa. Most were Jewish.

As antisemitic persecution increased and Germany began to expand its territorial holdings in Europe, the waiting list to emigrate grew

There was an increase of German government “flight tax” making it more expensive to leave the country

Post-war Displacement and the Gastarbeiter Program (1945 - 1973)

An estimated 12 million ethnic Germans were displaced and forced to move westward into what became West Germany.

Germany hosted millions of refugees, including former forced laborers, prisoners of war, and others displaced by the war. Many ended up in West Germany.

Rapid industrialization and expansion of the labor market along with a severe labor shortage due to the devastation caused by the war and the destruction of many industries led to the recruitment of workers with other European countries

A large, long-term immigration period occurred, especially families from Turkey

Large controls of immigration from Eastern Germany to Western Germany occurred, including a physical wall to keep Germans from moving east to west

1970's and 1980's Integration

There was a shift from large-scale temporary labor migration to permanent settlement. The process of family reunification made many guest workers into long-term residents of Germany

An increase in political asylum seekers and refugees from regions of conflict occurred, particularly from the Balkans, the Middle East, and parts of Africa

The reunification of Germany led to internal migration within the country, as many East Germans moved to the West, and to changes in the migration landscape due to the influx of *Aussiedler* (ethnic Germans) and other Eastern Europeans

Significant changes, with the country shifting from more open asylum policies to more restrictive measures. This included tightening asylum laws in response to rising numbers of asylum seekers and an increasing political backlash

1990's - 2000's Reunification and Asylum Policies

Ethnic German migration from Eastern Europe (especially from the former Soviet Union) continued to be a major source of migration

Migration from conflict zones, particularly from the Balkans, followed by migration from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia in the 2000s, contributed to Germany's growing refugee population

Migration from Eastern Europe increased dramatically following EU enlargement, with labor migrants seeking economic opportunities in Germany's stronger economy

Germany's policies evolved from a focus on guest workers to policies that prioritized skilled labor, integration, and family reunification

2010's - Present: Refugees, EU policy, and the new Right

Over 1 million asylum seekers arrived in Germany, many fleeing violence and persecution from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia

The rise of the right-wing populist party Alternative for Germany (AfD), which opposed refugee policies and pushed for stricter immigration controls

Germany's strong economy and labor market attracted workers from EU countries looking for better employment opportunities

Germany actively sought skilled workers to address labor shortages in sectors such as IT, engineering, healthcare, and scientific research. As part of this, the government introduced measures to attract highly skilled professionals from both the EU and non-EU countries

After the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, Germany saw an increase in asylum seekers from Afghanistan
