

Es gibt Verbesserungsvorschläge

Introduction

Germany has many mathematicians but in trying to discover the future, one can't do it mathematically because, let's face it, when has science ever worked out like that? So, what if I decided to look back at the year 1971 – forty years ago – would that help to predict forty years from now? Progression is like a wheel; constantly going round, never reaching the supposed summit of calculation, but yet never ending.

Transportation

As the wheels of progression continue to turn, actual wheels may become obsolete. It may come to be that the Volkswagen (the people's car: utilitarian and egalitarian) will be replaced by 'Luftkissenfahrzeug' (hovercraft), however clichéd this may sound. Albert Einstein was a scientist. He was German. Coincidence? Possibly not. Here is the science: 'Luftkissenfahrzeug'. Let's break it up: 'Luft' means 'air', 'kissen' means 'pillow' and 'fahrzeug' means 'vehicle'. So, essentially, people may be driving an 'air-pillow-vehicle', which does sound a lot more exciting than driving a hovercraft.

Politicians

Angela Merkel is driving Germany forward. She is only the second woman to chair the G8, after Margaret Thatcher. So, naturally, they will be compared. These two women are very different: Margaret Thatcher is associated with stealing milk from children, whereas Angela Merkel, at the present time, with the turmoil within the European Union and most importantly with the Euro, has shown that Germany has a strong commitment to the European Union and is working hard to resolve the issues that are dominating the crisis. She has made Germany strong within the European Union, so much so that it is the leading country, because of its geographical position and industrial strength. So, in later years, Margaret Thatcher may still be known as The Milk Snatcher and Angela Merkel may still be known as a positive figure for Germany within the European Union.

Literature

Young Werther is not a very positive character as he is just too pessimistic, arrogant and obsessive to be likeable, unless you like those characteristics. Furthermore *The Sorrows of Young Werther* is full of purple prose. It isn't great. Yet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *Faust* is riddled (if one may use that word in a humorous sense) with blasphemies and yet, I read it as God being victorious. It is the opposite of most other works I have read, as this play is dark almost right until the end; but then, in the end, hope is made concrete matter. It is a highly philosophical text that pays homage to the past, while gratifying the new. It's a play that I would be only too glad to read in its original language, whereas *The Sorrows of Young Werther* I shall never read again. It is *Faust* that is a work of genius. Until recently I had only read *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, and it was through that ignorance that I hated Goethe. Therefore, hopefully in later years, *Faust* shall be the book that students study (at whichever University) as opposed to studying a stunted work from a creative genius.

The Arts

Political, literary, musical and artistic genius: Germany has them all. Art, in whatever form, is made everywhere. Art expresses something that cannot be judged mathematically. It has been

stated that Berlin hosts ‘important film and music industry festivals’, yet who is to say that they are the ‘most important’? Creative activity has no centre; it is unlike a tree, as it doesn’t need a trunk in order for there to be branches. Consequently, Germany, and Berlin in particular, may continue to produce branches of creative activity, but shoots will appear all over the world.

Music

Beethoven and Bach are universally acknowledged as musical geniuses. There are musicians who make music and there are also many people who shouldn’t. While listening to music by Ludwig van Beethoven and Johann Sebastian Bach, I have come to realise that they might both continue to reach past all generational and ethnical barriers and speak to Souls. The same, however, is less sure with Rammstein. So hopefully, in the future, Germany may travel back in time (perhaps, actually inventing a time machine, so that this isn’t just a figure of speech) and bring back such complex classical composers that are so astounding, one can’t describe them in any language.

Languages

The German language is complex. Is beauty in complex things or simple things? Either way, over time the German language may lose some of its complexity and more and more American English words may become part of everyday speech. Therefore ‘Denglisch’ could become the new language of Germany. This may then change back, simply because it’d just be crazy for the Germans not to speak German as their Muttersprache, because who’d want to rip out half of their tongue and replace it with half of somebody else’s? That just wouldn’t be very practical.

Food and drink

Specific foods and drinks are often claimed to be indigenous to one particular country (or so the country claims), as Cornish pasties are indigenous to, well, Cornwall. And there are also foods and drinks which countries claim are not indigenous to them (because they don’t want to carry a burden), like McDonalds is indigenous to America and one can only hope that they are not proud of this. Luckily, beer and pretzels fall into the first category. German beer is amazing. Pretzels are amazing with beer. What is perhaps crazy at this moment (and bear in mind this is not being written while drunk), is that Germany is known as ‘das Land der Dichter und Denker’ and, while this is a fine title for any country to have, what would be even better is ‘das Land der Biere und Brezeln’.

Human

So, whatever happens to Germany (whether good or bad), one thing that is for certain: people (no matter where they are) will continue to eat pretzels and get drunk on beer, because people are only human.