CHINESE-GERMAN RELATIONS

1600 1650 1700 1750 1800 1850 1900 1950 1950 2000 2005 2010 2015

PEOPLE

1619
Adam Schall von Bell, a missionary and astronomer, is sent to China. He becomes one of the trusted counsellors of Emperor Shunzi during the Qing dynasty.

1867
Capital: Critique of Political Economy by Karl Marx is published. A major work of communism and socialism, ***Capital*** will have a great impact on both German and Chinese history.

1899
The missionary and theologian Richard Wilhelm goes to China. He is best remembered for his translations of philosophical works, e.g. by Laotse, from Chinese into German, which in turn have been translated into other major languages. His work will influence the image of China in the Western world.

1923
The first Chinese restaurant is opened in Berlin, Germany. Today, there are about 100,000 Chinese restaurants in the country.

In the 1920s and 1930s, members of the German army helped to reorganize the Kuomintang-army. Mao Zedong's guerilla troops were counselled by Germans as well.

1937
Siemens employee John Rabe helps to establish the "Nanking Safety zone", which shelters approximately 200,000 Chinese people from slaughter during the Nanking Massacre.

1973
For the first time, the German Academic Exchange Service grants scholarships to German students to study in China.

1979
China gives the pandas Baobao and Tiantian to Germany as a present. They become major attractions at the Berlin Zoo.

2014
You Xie, a native Chinese and owner of a takeaway restaurant, wins the local election and joins the City Council in Bamberg, Bavaria. His motto for the campaign: "Ente gut, alles gut."("All is well as long as the duck is good.") Duck dishes are a popular choice in Chinese takeaway restaurants in Germany.

A survey, conducted at Coventry University's Center for International Business of Sport (CIBS) shows: Even before Germany's national soccer team won the World Cup in Brazil, it was the team Chinese soccer fans favored the most.

CHINA'S WORKING-AGE POPULATION
(+ FORECAST)

ECONOMY

1731
The first German trading ship to travel to China is the ***Apollon.*** The ship brings back tea and porcelain from the Middle Kingdom.

1872
Siemens delivers first order to China: pointer telegraphs, which mark the beginning of China's telecom industry.

1900
Establishment of the German Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV)

1903
The Germans establish the brewery Germania in their Chinese colony in Qingdao. The beer they brewed, known today as Tsingtao, is still the most popular beer in China.

1984
Foundation of the first Volkswagen joint-venture in Shanghai. Volkswagen becomes the biggest car manufacturer in China.

1994
The Delegation of German Industry & Commerce establishes its first office in mainland China, in Shanghai.

2001
China joins the World Trade Organization (WTO)

2005
Investment treaty between China and Germany

2007
China surpasses Germany in economic rankings, with a GDP of $3.4 trillion. Germany's GDP reaches $3.3 trillion the same year.

2009
China overtakes Germany as the world's leading exporter

2013
The trade volume between China and Germany reaches €140 billion (German exports: €67 billion, Chinese exports: €73.4 billion). China is Germany's third most important trading partner behind France and the Netherlands.

2014
The Chinese Chamber of Commerce establishes an office in Berlin, its first office in Europe.

POLITICS

Beginning of the 20th century: Chinese reformers start to create a Civil Code based on the German Civil Code. Even today, the German law remains the basis for many Chinese laws.

1865
Germany establishes the first embassy in Beijing.

1898
The port Qingdao becomes a German colony (until 1914).

1941
China joins hands with the Allies in World War II.

1949
Mao Zedong proclaims the establishment of the People's Republic of China. The German Democratic Republic recognizes the communist government in Beijing, while the Federal Republic of Germany and most other Western nations recognize the Republic of China as the sole legitimate government of China.

1967
Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung is published in German. The "Little Red Book" will become a symbol of the protests of 1968.

1972
The Federal Republic of Germany and the People's Republic of China establish diplomatic relations.

1989
Fall of the Berlin Wall. In Beijing the Tiananmen Spare protests are violently stopped by the military.

1999
Foundation of the German-Chinese Dialogue Forum on Human Rights

2000
Foundation of the German-Chinese Dialogue Forum on the Rule of Law

2004
Germany and China enter into a "strategic partnership".

TODAY

There are about **950** projects for cooperation between German and Chinese universities.

About **36,000** Chinese students learn the German language.

23,000 Chinese students are studying in Germany. Chinese students represent the biggest group of exchange students in Germany.

About **100,000** Chinese people live in Germany

In China, there are approximately **16,000** German people.

More than **5,000** German companies are active in China

900 Chinese companies operate in Germany.

German companies have invested about **€39 bn** in China as of today.

Chinese companies have invested **€2.3 bn** in Germany.

Today, there are over **60** Mechanisms for Bilateral Dialogue