

TERMINOLOGY AND ABBREVIATIONS

The general reader may well be puzzled by German governmental terminology and by abbreviations in common use in Occupied Germany.

German Terms

The **Bundesrepublik Deutschland** is the Federal Republic of Germany, made up of the eleven states outside the Russian Zone of Occupation.

The **Bundestag** is the popularly elected lower house of the Federal Parliament.

The **Bundesrat** is the upper house of the Federal Parliament and consists of members of the Land governments.

The **Grundgesetz** (Basic Law) is the Constitution for West Germany, the term having been adopted by the Germans to emphasize the fact that it was provisional and temporary pending the recovery of German sovereignty and the unification of East and West Germany.

A **Land** (plural **Laender**) is a state within the Federal Republic. There are eleven Laender in West Germany, as follows:

U. S. Zone of Occupation:	Bavaria (Bayern) Wuerttemberg-Baden Hesse (Hessen) Bremen
French Zone of Occupation:	Wuerttemberg-Hohenzollern South Baden (Suedbaden) Rhineland-Palatinate (Rheinland-Pfalz)
British Zone of Occupation:	North Rhine Westphalia (Nordrhein-Westfalen) Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen) Schleswig-Holstein Hamburg

A **Landtag** (plural **Landtage**) is the popularly elected assembly at the Land level. Few Laender have any second chamber.

A **Kreis** (plural **Kreise**) is roughly equivalent to a county.

A **Landkreis** (plural **Landkreise**) is a rural county; a **Stadtkreis** (plural **Stadtkreise**) is a city county.

A **Gemeinde** (**Gemeinden**) is a village.

A **Stadt** (plural **Städte**) is a city.

Abbreviations

HICOM:	The Allied High Commission for Germany.
HICOG:	Office of the U. S. High Commissioner for Germany.
OMGUS:	Office of Military Government for Germany (U. S.) — the predecessor of HICOG.
PA or POLAFF:	Office of Political Affairs, HICOG.
IPG:	Division of Internal Political and Governmental Affairs, Office of Political Affairs, HICOG.-
PUB or PUBAFF:	Office of Public Affairs, HICOG.
IS or ISD:	Information Services Division of PUB.
ECR:	Education and Cultural Relations Division of PUB.
OLC:	Office of a Land Commissioner established in each of the eleven Laender in West Germany.
KRO:	A Kreis Resident Officer representing HICOG at the local level (in one or more of the Kreise).