APPENDIX I

Berlin's Early History

A.D.

300—Area around Berlin settled by Slavic tribes (Wends) migrating westward. Primitive fishing villages established and limited agriculture begun.

789—Battle of Wilzen, fought between the Slavs and the Franks under Charlemagne, marks the first Germanic penetration into the area beyond the Elbe River.

949—Bishopric of Brandenburg established on the Havel River (site of present-day city of Brandenburg) to co-ordinate ecclesiastical activities east of the Elbe.

983—Slavic uprising destroys German settlements east of the Elbe.

1134—Albrecht the Bear (from Saxony) reconquers territory beyond the Elbe and begins process of Germanic colonization. Slavs and Germans integrated into a common community.

1143—Province of Brandenburg created as one of the border territories (Marks) of the Holy Roman Empire.

1220—Count of Brandenburg becomes one of the Seven Electors (Kurfürsten) of the Holy Roman Empire.
1237—Town of Cölln established on left bank of the Spree River at the site of a former Wendish fishing village.
1244—Town of Berlin established on right bank of Spree opposite Cölln.
1380—Berlin partially destroyed by fire.
1412—Frederick, Duke of Nuremberg, head of the House of Hohenzollern, becomes representative of the Holy Roman Emperor (Sigismund) in Mark Brandenburg.
1415—Frederick of Hohenzollern becomes Elector (Kurfürst) of Brandenburg.
1415—Frederick II ends independence of Berlin after a brief military struggle.
1486—Berlin becomes official seat of the Hohenzollerns.
1517—Berlin undergoes commercial decline; withdraws from Hanseatic League.
1628—Berlin besieged by Wallenstein during Thirty Years War. Town partially destroyed.
1643—Frederick Wilhelm, the Great Elector (1643–1688), begins process of restoring and expanding Berlin.
1701—Prussia becomes Kingdom. Frederick III of Brandenburg becomes Frederick I of Prussia.
1710—Population of Berlin estimated at 56,000.
1740—Frederick the Great (d. 1786) ascends Prussian throne. Massive building program begun in Berlin.
1788—Carl Gottfried Langhans commissioned to build Brandenburg Gate.
1806—Napoleon enters Berlin following Battle of Jena.
1809—Humboldt University founded in Berlin.
1816—Population of Berlin 197,000.
1838—Construction of first railroad in Prussia, built between Berlin and Potsdam.
1848—Popular revolution in Berlin collapses following entreaties by Frederick Wilhelm IV.
Appendix I: Berlin’s Early History

1871—Wilhelm I of Prussia crowned Emperor of Germany following defeat of France in Franco-Prussian War. Berlin becomes capital of unified Germany. Population over 800,000.

1871–1914—Berlin becomes largest manufacturing city in Germany as well as capital of government, industry and intellectual life. Population in 1914 numbers 3,000,000.

Nov. 9,—Wilhelm II abdicates. German Republic proclaimed in Berlin. 1918

Jan. 29,—Communist (Spartacist) uprising. Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht executed. 1919

June 28,—Germany signs Versailles Treaty. 1919

July 1,—Weimar Republic established. 1919

Sept. 8,—Germany admitted to League of Nations. 1926

Jan. 30,—Adolph Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. 1933