



**emperor**

**otto**

**prize**

**Conferral of the Emperor Otto Prize  
of the City of Magdeburg on the  
Organisation for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

**Commemorative  
publication**

 **ottostadt  
magdeburg**



## **Commemorative publication**

**celebrating the conferral of the  
Emperor Otto Prize  
of the City of Magdeburg  
on the Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

**19 September 2015**

## The Emperor Otto Prize of the City of Magdeburg honours the work of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Magdeburg, the capital of Saxony-Anhalt, awards the Emperor Otto Prize in recognition of those who have made an outstanding contribution towards promoting the European idea and the process of European unification. After being awarded on the first five occasions to prominent international figures and great Europeans, this year's prize is being awarded for the very first time to an institution: the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Set up by the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the organisation played a key role in resolving the Cold War by framing the policy of détente between East and West and providing it with a platform. The OSCE, which has dedicated itself to conflict prevention and resolution and crisis management, is also active in areas with important implications for the security situation in Europe. The prize committee of the Emperor Otto Cultural Foundation and the 'Ottostadt' of Magdeburg acknowledge this commitment to a life of peace, democracy and stability for the people of Europe by awarding it the 2015 Emperor Otto Prize.

This year the prize will be presented on 19 September 2015 at a ceremony by the tomb of Emperor Otto the Great in Magdeburg Cathedral. The entire OSCE Troika will be in attendance: the Chairman-in-Office and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Ivica Dačić, his predecessor as Chairman, the Head of Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, and the future Chairman, German Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier.



## Award Ceremony Programme

### **Musical prelude**

Spirituoso and Vivace from: Quintet in D Major TWV 44:1 for trumpet and strings  
Georg Philipp Telemann (1681 – 1767)

### **Welcome address**

Dr. Lutz Trümper  
Lord Mayor of the City of Magdeburg

### **Address**

Dr. Reiner Haseloff  
Minister-President of the State of Saxony-Anhalt

### **Address**

Didier Burkhalter  
Federal Councillor and Head of Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs,  
Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE in 2014

### **Poco Andante**

from: String Quintet in G Major, op. 77  
Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

### **Laudatory speech**

Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany,  
future Chairman of the OSCE in 2016

### **Award presentation**

to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE),  
represented by its Chairman-in-Office Ivica Dačić,  
First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

### **Entry in the Golden Book of the City of Magdeburg**

### **Speech of thanks**

by the prize-winner  
Ivica Dačić, Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE

### **Musical finale**

Rhosymedre. Prelude on a Welsh Hymn Tune for strings  
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## Dr. Lutz Trümper Lord Mayor of Magdeburg



### Address on the Conferral of the Emperor Otto Prize

The state capital of Magdeburg can look back not only on a very colourful history which stretches back more than 1200 years, but also on a roll-call of prominent individuals who have had a lasting influence on European development and culture. There is no doubt that the city's greatest proponent and pioneer was Emperor Otto I. He elevated Magdeburg to the rank of a European metropolis and laid the foundations of modern Europe back in the early Middle Ages. But time and again throughout the course of history, Magdeburg has served as a shining beacon which has precipitated progress in large areas of present-day Europe. Thus when municipal law was in its infancy, Magdeburg Law became a role model for eastern and southeastern Europe, and as 'Our Lord God's Chancery', Magdeburg was for many years one of the centres of the Reformation.

When Magdeburg awards the Emperor Otto Prize in recognition of those who have made an outstanding contribution towards promoting the process of European unification, with particular focus on the states of eastern and southeastern Europe, the historic foundations for this are to be found in our city's history and in its bond with Otto the Great. One of Europe's great founding fathers, he was laid to rest in the high chancel of Magdeburg Cathedral more than 1,000 years ago. The importance of Emperor Otto I to the development of a shared European history and culture is still evident today. In keeping with this tradition, the Emperor Otto Prize should not only remind us of the great debt of gratitude which we owe to its namesake; above all, it should pay tribute to those of our contemporaries who are dedicated to the European idea and to promoting understanding between the peoples of Europe.

In awarding the 2015 Emperor Otto Prize to the OSCE, the City of Magdeburg is paying tribute to the contribution made by this organisation to European stability, and supporting its European mandate as an observer, mediator and ambassador of peace. The OSCE plays an important role in political crisis management, conflict prevention and communication in Europe, and thus in the peaceful coexistence of all Europeans. Consequently, honouring a European institution with the Emperor Otto Prize for the first time is not only consistent with our tradition of paying tribute to those who have demonstrated outstanding achievements and dedication, but should also prompt us to reconsider our understanding of one another and how we should live together as European citizens.

Dr. Lutz Trümper



**Dr. Reiner Haseloff**  
**Minister-President**  
**of the State of Saxony-Anhalt**

**Address on the Conferral of the**  
**Emperor Otto Prize**

Books and exhibitions are one way of becoming better acquainted with historic figures and embedding them securely in the public consciousness. But another way of establishing a link between them and the present day is by naming famous prizes after them. One such award is the Emperor Otto Prize. This is presented by the City of Magdeburg to honour figures who have served the process of European unification and the promotion of the European idea.

The list of prize-winners is impressive indeed. This year for the first time we are paying tribute to an institution which promotes the European cause, namely the OSCE. The organisation, which emerged from the Helsinki Final Act, is regarded as a supporting pillar of peace in Europe and the most important forum for pan-European security cooperation. Its ethos is based on trust and collaboration. The record of achievements against which the OSCE can be measured is quite extraordinary: it has prevented wars, defused conflicts, restored peace to unsettled regions, stabilised countries and enforced the rights of minorities. Elections are more representative and democratic in consequence of its support and monitoring work.

As long ago as in 1990, the CSCE (renamed the OSCE in 1995) defined its mandate in the 'Charter of Paris for a New Europe' as being to build "a new era of democracy, peace and unity in Europe". The central underlying principle is more relevant than ever today: democracy, the rule of law, human rights and freedom are the most important preconditions for the peaceful coexistence of people and nations. Because human rights and democracy "do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned" (as noted at the Astana summit) but are "matters of direct ... concern to all participating States", the prevention and resolution of conflicts can only be tackled in the 21st century by adopting a multilateral approach, and no longer by nations acting alone.

In honouring the OSCE, we pay tribute to an organisation to which we owe a great and lasting debt of gratitude for its contribution to the European Peace Order and Security Architecture. The OSCE has made Europe a safer and more civilised place in which to live.

Dr. Reiner Haseloff

**Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs**  
**of the Federal Republic of Germany**



**Address by the laudator**

The Emperor Otto Prize is being awarded to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for its outstanding contribution to the process of European unification amidst the most serious crisis facing the European Peace Order since the end of the Cold War. The choice of recipient and the timing of the award could not have been more fitting.

Almost exactly forty years ago, on 1 August 1975, thirty-five heads of state and government laid the cornerstone of what is now the OSCE when they signed the Helsinki Final Act. Thus began the long process of dialogue and rapprochement between East and West. The beginning of this process was marked by fears for peace in Europe and the need for stability and security at a time of ideological schism and military threat, but also by a far more forward-looking vision of a broad European community of security and values.

For us as Germans, the dialogue which was initiated in Helsinki in 1975 is inextricably linked with that of the Round Table in Berlin and the peaceful reunification of the two German states between 1989 and 1990. By opening up channels of communication, formulating shared security and economic interests, and last but not least by defining our common values and principles, the CSCE process has done much to heal the division of Europe.

The end of the Cold War appeared finally to give European states a genuine opportunity to join their transatlantic partners and their neighbours in Central Asia in a great community of security, economic cooperation and values “from Vancouver to Vladivostok”. In a spirit of optimism, the CSCE states wrote in the 1990 ‘Charter of Paris for a New Europe’ that this was a time “for fulfilling the hopes and expectations our peoples have cherished for decades: steadfast commitment to democracy based on human rights and fundamental freedoms; prosperity through economic liberty and social justice; and equal security for all our countries.”

For forty years, the CSCE and its successor, the OSCE, have been the advocate and custodian of this vision of a peaceful, prosperous and humane Europe. It has overseen democratic transition in many central and southeastern European states, as well as the

peace and reconciliation process in the former Yugoslavia, and continues today to be an active mediator in regions of conflict in Europe.

In the present crisis too, the OSCE has demonstrated how crucial its existence is to the maintenance of peace in Europe. But from the very outset, this 'peace' which the OSCE strives to maintain has meant more than the mere absence of war. Peace through continuous dialogue, and through exchanges and cooperation in the fields of economics, culture and education – this is the broad-based concept of sustainable security promoted by the OSCE which has done so much to further European understanding, the cause for which the Emperor Otto Prize is awarded.

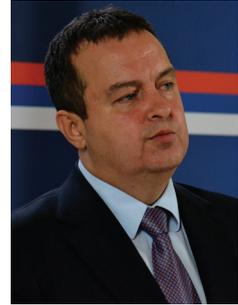
That is why the prize is going to an organisation for the very first time. But in fact, what are being recognised first and foremost are the efforts and dedication of the people who demonstrate considerable personal commitment in their work on behalf of the OSCE: those serving in the observation missions and negotiation groups, in the Ukraine and many other countries, the election monitors, and those working in the various bodies and institutions of the OSCE in Vienna, Warsaw and The Hague.

But the City of Magdeburg is not just awarding the prize to the OSCE in recognition of its past and future achievements. In these times of crisis, the organisation also serves as a reminder that the Helsinki principles are just as relevant today as they were forty years ago. I appeal to all of the member states of the OSCE to renew their unconditional commitment to these principles once again, and to return to peaceful dialogue on the future of European security. Germany intends to make its own contribution to this when it assumes the chairmanship of the OSCE in 2016.

Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier



**Ivica Dačić**  
**Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE,**  
**First Deputy Prime Minister**  
**and Minister of Foreign Affairs**  
**of the Republic of Serbia**



**Address by the prize-winner**

The Emperor Otto Prize, which has previously been awarded to an array of outstanding individuals, is this year being awarded for the first time to an international organization. As the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, it is my great honour to receive this prestigious award on behalf of the Organization, together with other OSCE Troika members, Ministers Didier Burkhalter and Frank-Walter Steinmeier, at the Cathedral of Magdeburg, a building of great historical significance.

In the year marking the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, this award provides us with an opportunity to recall once again this document's contribution to lessening tensions between the Eastern and Western Blocs, the affirmation of the concept of collective security, and to overcoming divisions in Europe. By establishing a link between politico-military and human rights issues, the Helsinki Final Act was a milestone in the understanding of security and it helped to create a comprehensive security concept resulting in the end of the Cold War.

The crisis in and around Ukraine has brought the OSCE and its distinct concept of comprehensive security to the forefront of international attention once again. The entire OSCE toolbox has been mobilized to address the crisis and de-escalate the situation on the ground, as well as to support other critical steps for its resolution, including constitutional reform, protection of the rights of national minorities, national dialogue and reconciliation. At a time that differs in many ways to the period of 40 years ago, the OSCE has, in this manner, demonstrated beyond doubt that it can deliver.

In the area stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, the OSCE today is a unique forum, bringing together states from different military and political alliances or, on the other hand, neutral states.

Due to a specific nature of its functioning and its flexibility compared to other international organizations, the OSCE has shown that it can contribute constructively to conflict resolution, and especially to post-conflict rehabilitation processes.

In that regard, the Emperor Otto Prize is an additional incentive for us to strengthen the OSCE in our efforts to make it capable of responding to current and future challenges.

Ivica Dačić



**Didier Burkhalter**  
**Federal Councillor and Head**  
**of Switzerland's Federal Department**  
**of Foreign Affairs**



**Words of welcome and gratitude**

**Greater OSCE involvement for greater cooperative security in Europe**

Europe's post-Cold War order is in crisis. The Ukraine crisis has brought war back to Europe. Fundamental principles of peaceful coexistence between states have been violated and borders have been illegally shifted. More than a thousand years after Emperor Otto I, securing peace in Europe remains a major challenge. Today's central questions are Russia's role in the European structure and a sustainable order for the common neighborhood of the EU and Russia.

The Ukraine crisis shook the OSCE to the core. The first efforts to build the normative foundation for pan-European security were undertaken at the Conference on Security and Co-operation (CSCE) in Europe. Negotiations in Geneva were lengthy but the results all the more remarkable. The 10 principles of the Helsinki Final Act signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975 had their fair share in bringing about the end of the Cold War without bloodshed a decade and a half later. After the fall of the Berlin Wall the common normative foundation was expanded – from 1995 within the framework of the renamed Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The goal was a “Europe whole and free” with a common security space without spheres of influence and no zones with different security levels, which was to be based on democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

A big step backwards has been taken in recent years as far as achieving this goal is concerned. No consensus exists today either about how the norms are to be understood or about the institutional pillars of the European order. The loss of trust and strategic estrangement between Russia and the West, which began more than ten years ago, have only become more accentuated. The crisis of European security was and remains palpable in the OSCE, whose day-to-day operations have become more difficult.

Yet the Ukraine crisis has also shown how important the OSCE is for security in Europe: as a platform for inclusive dialogue among its 57 participating states, as a bridge between the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian region and especially as a peace broker.

As chair of the OSCE last year, Switzerland endeavoured to use the entire array of OSCE instruments to overcome conflicts. I was able to experience at close hand the great importance and potential of this organisation, which has to some extent been neglected over the last decade.

The decision by the city of Magdeburg to award the Emperor Otto Prize to the OSCE is a major recognition of its work. It is a testament to the fact that the OSCE – with its comprehensive definition of security, wide range of participating States and consensus-oriented culture – is more relevant today than ever. I also interpret this prize as a call to continue our efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Ukraine crisis, to promote a discussion on the future of European security and to strengthen the OSCE as an anchor of cooperative security in Europe. Switzerland will continue to work towards these goals and to fulfil its responsibility.

The thanks and appreciation reflected in the Emperor Otto Prize are due above all to the people working for the OSCE. Through their tireless efforts they are making an important contribution to the promotion of security and cooperation on our continent. I would also like to express my personal thanks to my Troika colleagues from Serbia and Germany, Ivica Dačić and Frank-Walter Steinmeier. As an organisation led by a chairmanship, the OSCE benefits enormously from their great commitment. Lastly, I would also like to thank the beautiful, historic city of Magdeburg, which has conferred a great honour on the OSCE by adding it to the list of recipients of the prestigious Emperor Otto Prize.

Four decades after the start of the CSCE process we are again – or still – struggling for a stable order to secure peace in Europe. This much has changed, however: today the OSCE provides us with a solid framework for dialogue, confidence building and conflict management. We can and must build on this together.

Didier Burkhalter



## The Emperor Otto Prize of the City of Magdeburg

The City of Magdeburg awards the Emperor Otto Prize to commemorate the works of Otto the Great and to honour individuals and institutions which have served the process of European unification and promoted the European idea, with particular focus on the states of eastern and southeastern Europe.

The state capital of Saxony-Anhalt awards the prize as an important reminder of the great contribution made by the Ottonian dynasty to early mediaeval German and European history from its power base between the Harz Mountains and the River Elbe, and of the relationships which continue to exist today as a result.

The Emperor Otto Prize was awarded for the first time in 2005 to mark the 1200th anniversary of the first documented reference to Magdeburg. It has since been presented every two years at a ceremony held in Magdeburg Cathedral by the tomb of Emperor Otto the Great. The winner is selected by a prize committee chaired by the Lord Mayor, Dr Lutz Trümper.

The prize is an honorary award, and includes a medal with a contemporary design. The obverse features a portrait or logo of the winner, and the reverse one of the seals of Otto the Great. The medal is designed and struck by Bernd Göbel, former Professor of Sculpture at Burg Giebichenstein College of Art and Design in Halle (Saale).

The prize-winner also receives a presentation document with the following inscription:

*'The City of Magdeburg awards the Emperor Otto Prize to promote the process of European unification, with particular focus on the peoples of eastern and southeastern Europe.'*

## The Emperor Otto Cultural Foundation



The Emperor Otto Prize is sponsored by the cultural foundation of the same name, which was the first municipal foundation in Magdeburg when it was established on 17 April 2003. The foundation is supported jointly by the City of Magdeburg and the Stadtparkasse bank in Magdeburg. In addition to awarding the Emperor Otto Prize, the foundation mainly supports and oversees projects which raise awareness beyond the local area of Magdeburg's historic role as an important mediaeval European metropolis.

The decision to establish a cultural foundation in Magdeburg with Otto the Great as its figurehead stemmed from the first exhibition on the Ottonian dynasty in 2001. Over the 99 days of the 27th Council of Europe exhibition entitled 'Otto the Great. Magdeburg and Europe' at the Museum of Cultural History in Magdeburg, more than 300,000 people visited this unique mediaeval spectacle. In addition, more than 4,000 reports appeared in the German and European media. This overwhelming response enabled the first major exhibition on the Middle Ages ever to be held in the former East Germany to make a special contribution to the internal unity of Germany and Europe. It also sent the message to a broad sector of the population and an audience of historians that the first Holy Roman Emperor of the German Nation – Otto I – will forever be linked with Magdeburg. The permanence of this historic connection was



reinforced by the establishment of the Emperor Otto Cultural Foundation.

The board of trustees of the Emperor Otto Cultural Foundation comprises the Lord Mayor, Dr. Lutz Trümper (chairman), the chairman of the board of the Stadtparkasse Magdeburg, Horst Eckert, the former Lord Mayor and honorary citizen of Magdeburg, Dr Willi Polte, the former chairwoman of the city council's cultural committee, Karin Meinecke, former councillor Eberhard Seifert and notary Wolfgang Gründer.

The chairman of the foundation's board of directors is the former deputy mayor, Dr Rüdiger Koch, who was responsible for culture, schools and sport. Other members are long-time councillor Alfred Westphal and Helmut Herdt, the spokesman of the executive board of the public utility company Städtische Werke Magdeburg. The director of Magdeburg's museums, Dr Gabriele Köster, manages the foundation.

The board of trustees appoints a prize committee every other year which discusses possible nominees and makes its selection. This year's prize committee is made up of members of the board of trustees and of the board of directors and board of management of the Emperor Otto Cultural Foundation, together with 21 individuals with a strong record of supporting the evolution of the Federal Republic of Germany as well as European unification and/or who occupy a prominent position in the public life of Saxony-Anhalt and its capital, Magdeburg.



## Winners of the Emperor Otto Prize



### The OSCE

The 2015 Emperor Otto Prize is being awarded for the very first time to an institution: the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The Emperor Otto Cultural Foundation and the City of Magdeburg are thereby paying tribute to the OSCE's commitment to the peace and peaceful coexistence of all Europeans. Set up by the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the organisation plays a key role in political conflict resolution and prevention in Europe, as well as in the consolidation of peace, the protection of human rights, the promotion of democratisation, and the monitoring of elections. Through its dedication to its work, the OSCE has been able to make a singular contribution to stability in Europe and its neighbours.



### Prof. Dr. h.c. Egon Bahr (deceased)

One of the great politicians of our time and a former Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Prof. Dr. Egon Bahr was awarded the fifth Emperor Otto Prize on 18 July 2013. A key visionary and co-creator of Ostpolitik in the government of Willy Brandt, he made a major contribution to rapprochement between the East and the West during the Cold War period, and brought stability to the peace process in Europe at a time when it was in a fragile state indeed. The City of Magdeburg accordingly honoured him for his outstanding commitment to a policy of international understanding and European unification.



**Dr. Angela Merkel**

On 24 August 2011, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany was awarded the Emperor Otto Prize. The City of Magdeburg thereby paid tribute to her outstanding commitment to European policy. With her unique perspective, Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel has done much since 2005 to further European integration, understanding between the peoples of Europe, and the stability of the European Union, which has improved Germany's standing both within the EU and elsewhere in the world.



**Władysław Bartoszewski (deceased)**

The former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Poland, Władysław Bartoszewski, was awarded the Emperor Otto Prize on 7 May 2009 in recognition of his commitment to a policy of international understanding and European federation, and for his personal and political contribution towards promoting and improving German-Polish relations and Poland's integration in the European community of states as part of the pan-European unification process.



**Prof. Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga**

Prof. Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, who was then the President of the Republic of Latvia, was awarded the Emperor Otto Prize on 9 May 2007, Europe Day. She was selected for the honour in recognition of her personal and political contribution to international understanding and the European idea in the Republic of Latvia. Her unequivocal denunciations of totalitarianism and fascism demonstrated Prof. Dr. Vike-Freiberga's commitment to a policy of freedom and European federation which enshrines and advances political, cultural and social diversity.

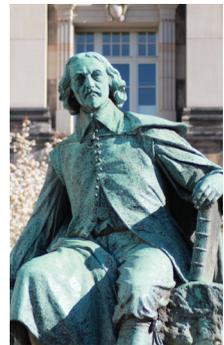


**Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker (deceased)**

By awarding the very first Emperor Otto Prize to Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker, the former President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the City of Magdeburg was paying tribute to a politician who never tired of seeking dialogue between the two former German states and the power blocs of Europe, was highly committed to the achievement of peace and understanding, and helped shape German unity within a pan-European process. The presentation was made on 7 May 2005: the anniversary of the death of Otto I.

## Timeline on the history of the City of Magdeburg

- 805** First documented reference to Magadoburg in Charlemagne's Capitulary of Diedenhofen.
- 937** Founding of the Benedictine monastery of St. Maurice.
- 968** Creation of the Archbishopric of Magdeburg at the instigation of Emperor Otto the Great.
- 973** Emperor Otto the Great, crowned King in 936 and Emperor in 962 in Rome, dies on 7 May 973 in Memleben (Unstrut valley). His remains are laid to rest in Magdeburg Cathedral next to those of his first wife Eadgyth.
- 1126** Norbert von Xanten, the founder of the Premonstratensian order who was later canonised, becomes Archbishop of Magdeburg.
- 1188** Archbishop Wichmann asserts his prerogative to improve Magdeburg's town charter. Magdeburg Law subsequently spreads to eastern and southeastern Europe in particular, where many emerging towns reorganise their communities in accordance with these laws, including Krakow, Brest, Minsk, Kiev and Ofen (now Budapest). A great 'town charter family' emerges. For towns governed by Magdeburg Law, the 'Magdeburger Schöppenstuhl' is the highest court of appeal throughout the entire Middle Ages and until early modern times.
- 1207** The Ottonian cathedral is destroyed in a major town fire.



- 1209** Construction begins of the first Gothic cathedral on German soil.
- From 1220** The most famous legal book in mediaeval Germany, the 'Mirror of the Saxons', is compiled by Eike von Repgow in the eastern foothills of the Harz Mountains. It records the Eastphalian and Saxon land and feudal law established by usage. Together with Magdeburg's town charter, the 'Mirror of the Saxons' is to continue to influence the development of the law, especially in eastern Europe, for centuries to come.
- ca. 1240** Erection of the 'Magdeburg Rider' equestrian statue.
- 1244** First documented reference to Magdeburg Council. In 1294, the council increases its autonomy vis-à-vis the archbishop and, among other concessions, is granted jurisdiction over the town.
- 13th C** Magdeburg joins the Hanseatic League.
- 13th C** Creative period of the Beguine poet Mechthild of Magdeburg
- 1524** Martin Luther preaches in St. John's Church, whereupon Magdeburg adopts Protestantism. In 1531, it is a co-signatory of the document establishing the Schmalkaldic League in defence of the Reformation.
- ca. 1550** Magdeburg becomes known as 'Our Lord God's Chancery' because of the many pamphlets it publishes.
- 1550/51** The town is besieged by Maurice, Elector of Saxony.
- 1559** Publication of the first volumes of the 'Magdeburg Centuries', the earliest history of the Protestant Church.
- 1631** The town is destroyed by imperial troops led by General Tilly during the Thirty Years' War.
- 1656** Otto von Guericke, a natural scientist who is also Mayor of Magdeburg, conducts his famous experiments with the 'Magdeburg hemispheres' for the first time. In 1657, he introduces the use of horses for this purpose.
- 1666** As a result of the Treaty of Berge Monastery, the Brandenburg Garrison is installed in Magdeburg. But it is not until 1680 that Magdeburg is legally subsumed into the Electorate of Brandenburg.

- 1681** The Baroque composer Georg Philipp Telemann is born in Magdeburg, where he writes his first opera ('Sigismundus') in ca. 1693.
- 1702-1747** Leopold I, Prince of Anhalt-Dessau (the 'Old Dessauer') is governor of the Magdeburg stronghold. He rebuilds it as a Baroque town, the most heavily fortified in Prussia.
- 1807-1814** Magdeburg is part of the Kingdom of Westphalia created by Napoleon I. Following the Wars of Liberation, Magdeburg becomes the capital of the Prussian province of Saxony.
- 1823** Establishment of the first engineering works in Magdeburg. During the industrial revolution which follows, Magdeburg grows over the years into a centre of mechanical engineering and apparatus manufacturing.
- 1824** Garden designer Peter Joseph Lenné prepares a plan for the Klosterberggarten. He receives a commission from the Lord Mayor, August Wilhelm Francke, and one of the first public gardens in Germany is created based on his ideas.
- 1836** Premiere of an opera by Richard Wagner ('Das Liebesverbot', or 'The Ban on Love') in Magdeburg.
- 1870** Under Lord Mayor Carl Gustav Friedrich Hasselbach, the town signs a contract with the treasury to purchase land for its expansion. Magdeburg grows into a major conurbation. First Sudenburg (1867), then Neustadt (1886) and Buckau (1887), are incorporated. By the outbreak of the First World War, the population has increased from ca. 84,500 (1871) to nearly 280,000.
- 1908** Hans Grade takes off from the Cracauer Anger for the first motorised flight in Germany.
- 1921** Bruno Taut is appointed head of town planning, and is responsible for Magdeburg's reputation as the 'City of the New Building Movement'.
- 1927** A German theatre exhibition is held in Magdeburg.
- 1933-1945** During the period of Nazi rule, there is an expansion of major industrial enterprises which employ thousands of forced labourers, concentration camp inmates and prisoners-of-war.

Magdeburg's population rises to about 340,000.

- 1945** On 16 January, 90 percent of Magdeburg's city centre is destroyed in an air raid.
- 1951** Reconstruction begins in Bärstrasse.
- 1952** Magdeburg becomes the capital of the eponymous region of the GDR.
- 1990** Following German reunification, Magdeburg becomes the state capital of Saxony-Anhalt.
- 1993** Otto von Guericke University, Magdeburg, is formed in a merger of the Technical University, Teacher Training College and Medical Academy.
- 1993** The 'Romanesque Road' is officially opened.
- 1999** Magdeburg hosts the 25th National Garden Show. On 2 October, a dedication ceremony is held at the rebuilt St. John's Church, the former town hall church.
- 2001** The 27th Council of Europe and state exhibition on 'Otto the Great – Magdeburg and Europe' pays tribute to the life and work of Otto I.
- 2005** As part of the jubilee celebrations for Magdeburg's 1200th birthday, which has a programme of more than 250 different events, the state capital presents the Emperor Otto Prize for the first time on 7 May to the former Federal President Dr Richard von Weizsäcker.



- 2006** For the second time, a Council of Europe exhibition is held in Magdeburg: the 29th Council of Europe Exhibition on the 'Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation – 962-1806. From Otto the Great to the Close of the Middle Ages'.
- 2009** Magdeburg Cathedral celebrates its 800th birthday.
- 2010** Magdeburg organises a large number of projects for the International Building Exhibition 'Urban Redevelopment in Saxony-Anhalt 2010' (IBA). Under the banner of 'Living beside and with the Elbe', the town refocuses on the importance of its river. The state capital of Saxony-Anhalt also officially adopts the sobriquet of 'Ottostadt Magdeburg' in February 2010.
- 2012** 'Ottostadt Magdeburg' celebrates 'Emperor Otto Year' on the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of the birth of Otto the Great on 22 November 912 and the 1050th anniversary of his coronation as Emperor in Rome on 2 February 962. Following on from the two Council of Europe exhibitions in 2001 and 2006, the Museum of Cultural History in Magdeburg completes its major trilogy with the Saxony-Anhalt state exhibition entitled, 'Otto the Great and the Roman Empire: The Empire from Antiquity to the Middle Ages'.
- 2013** Magdeburg experiences its most disastrous flood since records began. The water reaches its highest point of 7.48 m on 9 June. For the sake of comparison, the 'flood of the century' in 2002 only reached 6.72 m. Normally, the River Elbe is less than 2 m deep as it flows through the city.

The Oskar Patzelt Foundation votes Magdeburg 'Local Authority of the Year', the Ottostadt campaign wins 'Municipal Brand of the Year', and Magdeburg is the first German city to be awarded the



title of 'Energy Efficient Local Authority' by the German Energy Agency (dena) for its management of energy and climate protection policies.

## 2014

In preparation for Magdeburg's bid for the title of 'European Capital of Culture 2025', the first symposium is held on the European cultural manifesto for the 21st century, entitled, 'Magdeburg Law as a European cultural phenomenon'.

The special exhibition entitled, 'On the eve of the Reformation. Everyday life and piety in central Germany' at the Museum of Cultural History emphasises once again Magdeburg's importance as a cultural centre of the Reformation.

## 2015

The Elbauenpark is awarded the 'Natur im Garten' (Nature in the Garden) environmental protection plaque by the European initiative of the same name for its ecological design and the sustainable management of its grounds.

Following a ruling by the Federal Administrative Court in 2013, work is finally able to begin on the major urban construction project for a railway bridge at Ernst-Reuter-Allee.

The 2nd European Choir Games & Grand Prix of Nations is held for the first time in Germany in Magdeburg.

The OSCE is the first institution to be awarded the Emperor Otto Prize of the City of Magdeburg.





For additional information about the Emperor Otto Prize, visit our website at [www.magdeburg.de](http://www.magdeburg.de).



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