

Austria



The Duchy of Austria was founded in 1156 and has undergone a series of political alliances that have radically changed over the years. Once the seat of power for the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Austria became a republic after its defeat in WWI. In 1938 Austria was annexed by Nazi Germany, and was eventually occupied by the Allies for a decade after 1945. Austria, though

its constitutional law declared it a perpetually neutral country, it entered into the EU in 1995. It is located in Central Europe north of Italy and Slovenia and occupies some 83,000 square miles.

Bordered by the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Switzerland, the country's terrain is mountainous (Alps) in the west and south, and mostly flat elsewhere. Its natural resources include oil, coal, lignite, timber, iron ore, copper, zinc, tungsten, graphite, salt, and hydropower.

Officially known as the Republic of Austria, it typically is referred to in the short form, or simply Austria. Its local name is Republik Oesterreich. The capital city is Vienna, which is home to the federal republican government. Austrians enjoy a high standard of living and a market driven economy.

Austria's leading industries include construction, machinery, vehicles and parts, food, metals, chemicals, lumber and wood processing, paper and paperboard, communications equipment, and tourism. It exports machinery and equipment, motor vehicles and parts, paper and paperboard, metal goods, chemicals, iron and steel, textiles, and foodstuffs most of which go to Germany, Italy, the U.S., Switzerland, and France.

