

Street and Square Name Changes in German Cities after 1933

Abstract

Cities, streets, and public squares typically have names that reflect the culture, values, and heritage of the local community. Often, the chosen names have specific political meanings—and this is as true in democratic countries as in dictatorships. This also applies to twentieth-century Germany, where streets carried the names of kings, political leaders, etc. Thus, it is unsurprising that the National Socialists, as the new leaders of Germany, renamed key sites and streets after 1933 in accordance with their own worldview. Examining those chosen names and sites can tell us a great deal about that worldview and what it encompassed in terms of the German state and the “racial community.” This list compares the names of streets and squares in several German cities before and during the Nazi period. In renaming streets and public places, the Nazis adopted the same approach that they took to art, culture, and other spheres: they removed all references to Jews, removed any evidence of alleged foreign influence, and wiped out any name associated with Weimar republicanism (e.g., Rothschild, Lassalle, Platz der Republik, or Friedrich Ebert). Such names were replaced with the names of leaders and martyrs of National Socialism (Adolf Hitler, Herman Goering, Norkus) or with sites and names associated with famous battles or with German heritage (Tannenberg, Richard Wagner).

Source

City	Name before 1933	New Name under National Socialism
Berlin	Friedrich-Ebert-Straße	Hermann-Göring-Straße
	Hugo-Preuß-Brücke	Admiral-Scheer-Brücke
	Platz vor dem Brandenburger Tor	Hindenburgplatz
	Reichskanzlerplatz	Adolf-Hitler-Platz
	Schillerstraße	Arno-Holz-Straße
	Schöneberger Ufer	Großadmiral-von-Köster-Ufer
	Silberschmidtweg	Langemarckstraße
	Wilhelmplatz	Richard-Wagner-Platz
Frankfurt am Main	Hangweg	Herbert-Norkus-Weg
	Hausener Landstraße	Ludendorffstraße
	Lassallestraße	Tannebergstraße
	Mendelssohnstraße	Joseph-Haydn-Straße
	Platz der Republik	Hohenzollernplatz
	Rothschildallee	Karolingerallee
Hamburg	Auersreihe	Harry-Hahn-Straße
	Bebelallee	Adolf-Hitler-Straße
	Grosseweg	Heinz-Brandes-Weg
	Molkenbuhrsreihe	Karl-Heinzelmann-Straße
	Rathusmarkt	Adolf-Hitler-Platz
	Von-Elm-Weg	Hans-Cyranka-Weg
Hanover	Bahnhofstraße	Adolf-Hitler-Straße
	Friedrich-Ebert-Platz	Hakenkreuzplatz
	Georgsplatz	Rustplatz
	Lange Laube	Straße der SA

Cologne	Bebelplatz Eintrachtstraße Hansaplatz Platz der Republik Rathenauplatz Rudolfplatz Thywissenstraße	Dietrich-Eckart-Platz Winterbergstraße Spangenbergplatz Adolf-Hitler-Platz Horst-Wessel-Platz Schlageterplatz Wilhelm-Gustloff-Platz
Leverkusen	Bebelstraße Kanalstraße Karl-Marx-Straße Schillerstraße	Hermann-Göring-Straße Hindenburgstraße Dietrich-Eckart-Straße Robert-Ley-Straße
Marburg	Biegenstraße Kasernenstraße Uferstraße	Straße der SA Hermann-Göring-Straße Bernhard-Rust-Straße
Meißen	Bartholomäusstraße Goethestraße	Franz-Seldte-Straße Immelmannstraße
Munich	Promenadeplatz Schyrenplatz	Ritter-von-Epp-Platz Hirschmannplatz
Nuremberg	Hauptmarkt Marienplatz Rathenauplatz Ziegelstraße	Adolf-Hitler-Platz Leo-Schlageter-Platz Feldmarschall-Hindenburg-Platz Horst-Wessel-Straße
Wuppertal	Königstraße Walter-Rathenau-Straße	Straße der SA Hermann-Göring-Straße
Würzburg	Friedrich-Ebert-Straße Theaterstraße	Horst-Wessel-Straße Adolf-Hitler-Straße

Source: Tabelle 933 „Namen und Titel“ (pp. 951–952).

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