

**The country I was born in..
is like Japan!**

Christian " クリス " Horn

I was born in...

I was born in...

Germany !



"Fußballspiel Hammer SpVg – VfB Hüls" /
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"Neuschwanstein Castle from Marienbrücke, 2011 May" /
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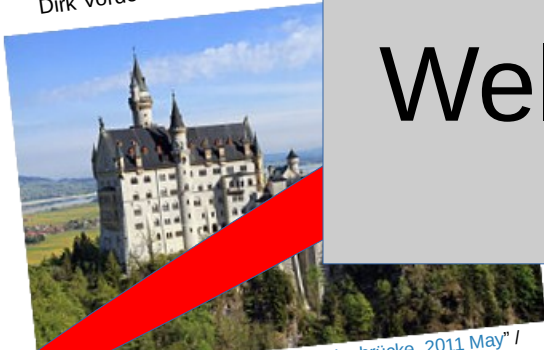
I was born in...

Germany!

Well, actually not.



"Fußballspiel Hammer SpVg – VfB H..."
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I was born in...

Former east Germany,
aka German Democratic Republic.



"Fernsehturm Berlin" by NAPARAZZI / CC BY-SA 2.0



"Flag of East Germany" by Jwnabd / public domain



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How could Japan be similar
to socialist East Germany?!

1. Foreign language education in school was ineffective

- East Germany:
 - Russian was taught. Emphasis no on speaking and listening, but writing/reading
 - Lessons were not fun, but boring
 - After German unification, pupils threw away Russian and learned English
- Japan until now:
 - English is taught. Also here: less speaking and listening, but writing/reading
 - Participation in normal English conversations, based on these lessons, is hard

2. Activities after school

- East Germany:
 - Kids were cared for until evening
 - Various activities: music, sport etc.
 - On the right: logo of organizations "Jungpioniere" and "FDJ"
 - Pioniere: kids wearing blue and red neckerchief
- Japan:
 - After school: cleaning of the school rooms, activities in clubs



FDJ by Jgaray and JP by Kolossos / public domain

3. Art has common grounds

- East Germany: socialist style. I was very surprised coming to Japan!
- Japan: for example Glico
- Shimokita relief: [further opinion](#)



Shimokita Odakyu relief by Christian Horn / [CC BY 3.0](#)



Glico by Christian Horn / [CC BY 3.0](#)



Image Eisenhüttenstadt by Gottfried Hoffman / [CC BY 3.0](#)

4. Lifelong work

- East Germany:
 - People had a "right to work"
 - So you knew you would also have work and income next year, so could buy a house
- Japan:
 - Lifelong work: once you enter a traditional style Japanese company, good chances to be there until retirement

5. Both love coal and nuclear power

- Comparing 1990 power generation ([source](#)):

	East Germany	Japan
brown coal + oil	79%	75%
nuclear	6%	9%

6. further similarities

- Famous cars: Trabbi, made from cardboard, order to delivery took 12 years
- Appreciation of things:
 - East Germany had only few natural resources, so products were designed to be sturdy instead of falling apart after warranty expires
 - Japanese carefully handle products, even develop Kintsugi, the art of repairing
- Fruit: expensive in both countries
- Great national anthem:
 - East Germany: [旧東ドイツの国歌](#)
 - Japan: [日本の国歌](#)



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Thanks!

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link: "Interactions with technology in Japan"