GERMAN HISTORY IN DOCUMENTS AND IMAGES (GHDI)

German History in Documents and Images (GHDI) is a major GHI initiative to support the study and teaching of German history. The GHDI website (http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org) makes available a comprehensive collection of primary source materials documenting Germany’s political, social, and cultural history from 1500 to the present. The materials are presented in ten chronologically defined sections. Each section was edited by one or two leading specialists on the period and includes:

- an introduction to key developments in Germany’s social, political, and cultural history during the period;
- a selection of primary source documents, in both German and English, from the period;
- a selection of images dating from or relating to the period;
- a selection of maps.

All of the materials can be accessed through keyword and author searches. Many of the documents available through GHDI are difficult to locate in print publications, especially outside of Germany. All of the documents included in GHDI are accompanied by English translations, almost all of which were commissioned for the project. The images included in the websites are fully captioned and displayed at a size and resolution that makes them useful for classroom instruction. All of the materials can be downloaded free of charge for teaching, research, and other non-commercial educational purposes.

Since the first materials were posted online in late 2003, GHDI has established itself as an unrivaled resource for study of German and European history. By the time of GHDI’s completion in the spring of 2012, the project’s website provided more than 1,300 documents, 3,000 images, and 100 maps, all of which are accompanied by explanatory texts. The bilingual nature of the website makes it attractive to users in both English- and German-speaking countries, not to mention readers of those languages all over the world. On any given day, between 8,000 and 10,000 unique visitors use the GHDI website for extended periods. Additionally, materials from the GHDI website are frequently republished in university course readers, and GHDI translations have been reprinted in recent textbooks and anthologies published in both the United States and Germany. To provide guidance in incorporating GHDI in syllabi and classroom instruction,
the GHI sponsored roundtable discussions on the website’s utility as a teaching tool at the 2009 annual meeting of the German Studies Association and the 2010 annual meeting of the American Historical Association. In 2010, GHDI was awarded the James Harvey Robinson Prize by the American Historical Association.

GHDI is an initiative of the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC. Made possible by the generous support of the Max Kade Foundation and the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, the project has been undertaken in cooperation with the Friends of the German Historical Institute, the Bildarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz, and IEG-MAPS, Institute for European History, Mainz. The GHI will continue to maintain and update the GHDI website after the project’s completion in 2012.