

WEIMAR: RALLY



DENKMAL  
MONUMENT

STATIONEN STOPS

/ HAFIS-GOETHE-DENKMAL / GOETHE-  
SCHILLER-DENKMAL / CARL ALEXANDER-  
DENKMAL / THÄLMANN-DENKMAL

## ANDERE TOUREN OTHER TOURS

 JOHANN WOLFGANG  
VON GOETHE

 MARIA PAWLOWNA

 BAUHAUS

 NS IN WEIMAR

 NS ARCHITEKTUR  
NS ARCHITECTURE

 DDR GDR

herausgegeben von der  
*edited by the*

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EUROPÄISCHE  
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BEGEGNUNGSSTÄTTE  
WEIMAR

 Discover the history behind Weimar's monuments!

AIM

 How are monuments used for political ends?

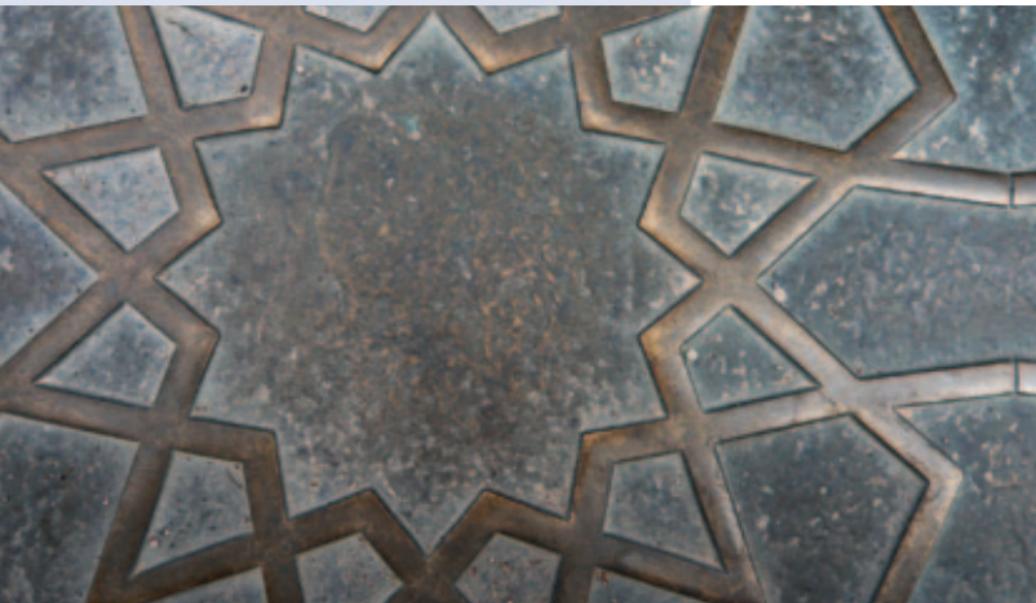
 What do monuments tell us, why are they built?



Take a look at the city map and start your tour! Your first stop is the Hafez-Goethe monument.

 Later on tell the others what you have experienced. Design a monument for the empty plinth at Goetheplatz and present it to the group!

?



>> Find out which stop this detail belongs to!

HAFEZ-GOETHE MONUMENT  
*BEETHOVENPLATZ*

1

→ INFO

Hafez was a famous poet who lived in Iran in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Already as a child, he could recite the whole Koran by heart. That is why he was given the honorary name "Hafez". It means: "the one who knows the Koran by heart". He became especially famous because of the "Divan". Johann Wolfgang von Goethe read this collection of poems by Hafez in 1814. It impressed him so much that he began to intensively study Hafez' oeuvre. Subsequently, Goethe himself wrote a poem cycle that he named the "West-Eastern Divan".

HAFEZ-GOETHE MONUMENT  
*BEETHOVENPLATZ*

1

bpk



Persian miniature:  
Hafez seated,  
having wine and  
playing the harp,  
around 1700

HAFEZ-GOETHE MONUMENT  
BEETHOVENPLATZ

1



QUOTE



Find out what directions the chairs are facing. Where would Hafez sit? And Goethe?

*GOETHE about Hafez:*

*"And should the entire world go under,*

*Hafez, with you, with you alone*

*Will I compete!*

*Lust and pain*

*May we, the twins,*

*have in common!*

*To love and to drink, like you,*

*That shall be my pride and my life."*

1819

HAFEZ-GOETHE MONUMENT  
*BEETHOVENPLATZ*

1



INFO

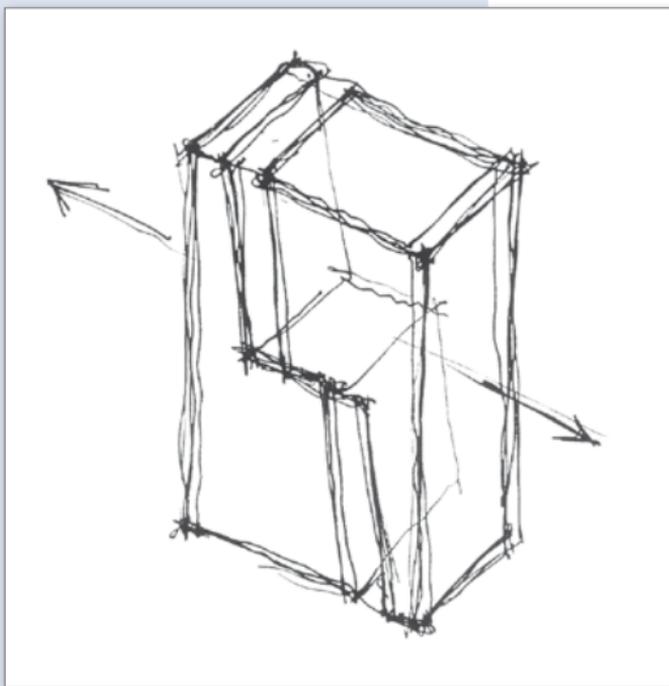
The monument demonstrates the spiritual closeness of the two poets. It is a place to come together and to have dialogues. At the same time it is a symbol of understanding between "Orient" and "Okzident". The two chairs are facing each other. They have been carved from one large block of granite and are thus two parts of a whole. The UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) gave this symbol of cultural tolerance to the Klassik Stiftung Weimar.

2000

HAFEZ-GOETHE MONUMENT  
*BEETHOVENPLATZ*

1

Fabian Rabsch



Describe the plate that the monument is mounted on! Think about why it was designed that way.

2000

## GOETHE-SCHILLER MONUMENT *THEATERPLATZ*

# 2

### → INFO



Examine the monument from all angles! Look for symbols of the poets' friendship or of the German nation.

Soon after Goethe's death in 1832, Grand Duke Carl Alexander planned a monument for Weimar's two most prominent poets: Schiller and Goethe. They were to be raised to the rank of national poets. However, only 20 years later was it possible to agree on the appearance of the monument. King Ludwig of Bavaria, who had donated the metal (from captured canons), was able to win approval for his ideas. The monument was inaugurated in 1857. Today it is considered Weimar's landmark.

1857

## GOETHE-SCHILLER MONUMENT THEATERPLATZ

# 2

First design of  
the monument



Klassik Stiftung Weimar



Compare the  
first design with  
the monument.  
What do you  
notice?

1849

GOETHE-SCHILLER MONUMENT  
THEATERPLATZ

2



QUOTE

*"An intense pause of anticipation – not a breath could be heard from the immense crowd. As the shroud was lowered a sense of amazement came floating through the air, then with a single voice an outburst of delight from the crowd turned into continuous enthusiastic cheers."*

NEWSPAPER  
"DEUTSCHLAND"  
8 August 1917

1917

## GOETHE-SCHILLER MONUMENT THEATERPLATZ

# 2



Behind the monument is the National Theatre where the German National Assembly convened in 1919. It ratified the Weimar Reich Constitution: the first democratic constitution that was implemented in Germany.

After the Reich President Friedrich Ebert was sworn into office, 1919

Stadtmuseum Weimar  
(Photo Held)



Search the theatre building for evidence of that period!

## 1919

## CARL-ALEXANDER MONUMENT GOETHEPLATZ

# 3

### → INFO



Look around the square! Think about why this particular location was chosen for the monument.

This is where the monument for Grand Duke Carl Alexander of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach once stood. Nowadays, only the plinth of the monument is left for you to see. Carl Alexander died in January 1901. The monument in his honour was to be financed by donations. It showed Carl Alexander in his role as sovereign of the principality: a rider sitting high upon his horse. However, it was soon criticised on the grounds of his reputation as a peace-loving prince and supporter of the arts.

CARL-ALEXANDER MONUMENT  
*GOETHEPLATZ*

3



The monument for Grand Duke Carl  
Alexander of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach

Stadtmuseum Weimar

1910

CARL-ALEXANDER MONUMENT  
GOETHEPLATZ

3

→ QUOTE

*"A long and blessed life that had always been devoted to idealistic and patriotic efforts, came to a much mourned conclusion in accordance with God's will. The memory of his noble personality has remained alive. Like a shining beacon, noble and pure, Carl Alexander remains in our minds. Great is the desire to create a monument to commemorate this magnanimous prince and to preserve for posterity the features of this highly revered state ruler."*

APPEAL for  
the erection of  
a monument for  
Carl Alexander  
in Weimar,  
24 March 1902

1902

CARL-ALEXANDER MONUMENT  
GOETHEPLATZ

3



The festive unveiling of the monument in the presence of Weimar's nobility, military and distinguished citizens on 24 June 1907.

Stadtmuseum Weimar

1907

## CARL-ALEXANDER MONUMENT GOETHEPLATZ

# 3

### → INFO



What do you think of the idea of putting back the plinth without the monument?

The National Socialists needed the area where the monument stood for a grandstand on the occasion of a large NSDAP event in 1938. For that reason, they simply moved the monument to what is called Buchenwaldplatz today. The official explanation was: beautification and new design of the square. After the monument had been damaged by shrapnel during World War II, it was torn down in 1946. In 1997, the granite plinth was unexpectedly discovered during construction work. It was then returned to its original site in 2006.

## THÄLMANN MONUMENT BUCHENWALDPLATZ

# 4

➔ INFO



*"From your sacrifice, our socialist deeds will grow."*

What does the inscription on the wall behind the monument mean? Describe how the inscription and the monument make you feel.

This is the first monument that the German Democratic Republic (GDR) erected for Ernst Thälmann (1886–1944). Thälmann was the chairman of the German Communist Party (Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands, KPD) and a member of the Reichstag from 1924 until 1932. The National Socialists murdered him at the Buchenwald concentration camp on 18 August 1944. On 17 August 1958 the statue was festively unveiled. From then on, Thälmann was to serve as a role model for the new socialist country.

THÄLMANN MONUMENT  
BUCHENWALDPLATZ

4

KPD campaign poster for the Reichstag election in 1932. After the Social Democrats and the National Socialists, the KPD was the third-strongest party at this election.



Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin

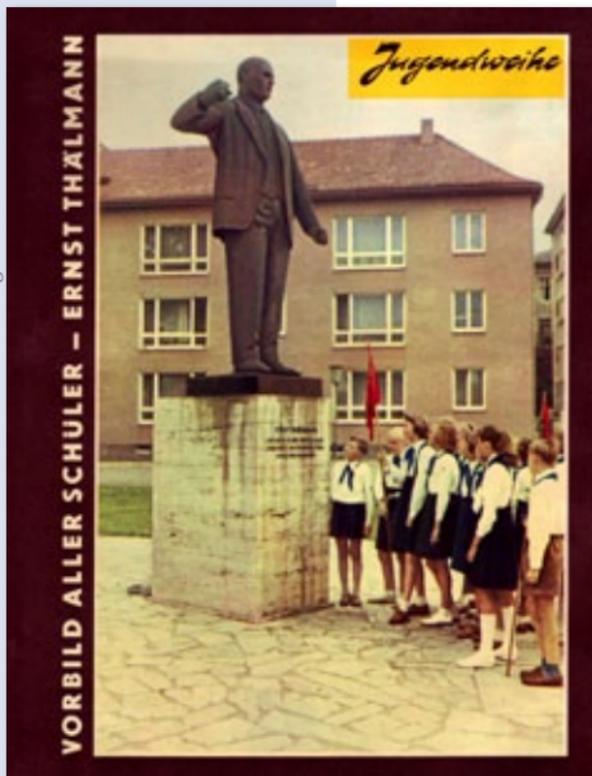
1932

## THÄLMANN MONUMENT BUCHENWALDPLATZ

# 4

Thälmann was a communist and against the National Socialists. That is why he was persecuted by them. In the GDR, he was an important symbol for the socialist state. In particular he was meant to be a role model for young people.

Sammlung Gedenkstätte Buchenwald



The monument dates back to the GDR. How should it be treated today?

around  
1961



## YOUR STOPS:

- ① Hafez-Goethe Monument  
*Beethovenplatz*
- ② Goethe-Schiller Monument  
*Theaterplatz*
- ③ Carl-Alexander Monument  
*Goetheplatz*
- ④ Thälmann Monument  
*Buchenwaldplatz*

CITY  
MAP