

## DEUTSCHER LEBENSTIL UND DEUTSCHE KULTUR (German Lifestyle and Culture)

### Local patriotism: How Germans replaced nationalism with regional pride

Swabians are often perceived by other Germans as greedy, stingy and uptight.

In Berlin, they have been portrayed as contributing to the gentrification of certain neighborhoods, but also for bringing in "narrow-mindedness" to the otherwise liberal city. In the past, Swabians were even blamed for changing the city's character with their attitudes.

Still the rivalry remains the strongest between the people from Baden and Swabia. Don't believe me? Just tell someone from Karlsruhe (Baden) that they live in a suburb of Stuttgart (Swabia). Good luck.

#### 3. Berlin against anywhere else

Some level of disdain from residents of a country towards the people who live in its capital is something you probably know from your own home in some way.

But as I have come to learn, despite Berlin's popularity among both foreigners and locals, there are many Germans who perceive the capital as a burden on Germany's economy, a city made of lazy bums and hippies who contribute nothing to Germany's financial success.

Berliners, on the other hand, believe their city is one of the best in the world, or at least in Europe.

The flock of internationals moving there from every corner of the globe is for them yet more evidence of the city's spectacularism.

#### 4. Regional wins over national

There is still fierce debate among Germans about the legitimacy of being openly and vocally proud of their country, especially in light of World War II, the Holocaust or the Namibian genocide, to name but a few historical events.

But while expressions of national pride — especially in public — are seen by many as intertwined with the far-right, regional patriotism is perceived as a more valid way to express attachment to a certain place, and is mostly considered an endearing trait.

That is, until you ask for a Kölsch in Dusseldorf.