

# Kaiser Wilhelm Society

The **Kaiser Wilhelm Society for the Advancement of Science**, or **Kaiser Wilhelm Society** or **KWG** for short , was the sponsor of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes (KWI) until the end of the Second World War , leading research institutes that primarily served basic research in Germany. The KWG was based in Berlin-Dahlem , but moved it to Göttingen in the final phase of the Second World War .

The KWG was headed by a president and a general secretary. According to the statutes, the company's bodies were the Senate of the KWG as the supervisory body, as well as the Administrative Committee and the General Meeting.

After the Second World War, there was a dispute between Robert Havemann and Max Planck over the question of whether Berlin or Göttingen was responsible for the management of the KWG. On February 26, 1948, the Max Planck Society was founded, which gradually took over the West German Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes as Max Planck Institutes . The East German institutes were incorporated into the Academy of Sciences of the GDR . On June 21, 1960, the KWG was dissolved. The Max Planck Society is considered the successor to the Kaiser Wilhelm Society.

## Table of contents

### Story

Foundation and purpose

Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes in National Socialism

After the Second World War

### persons

President



Einweihung des Kaiser-Wilhelm-Instituts für Chemie in Berlin — 1912  
Hinter Kaiser Wilhelm II. v. rechts: Exz. von Harnack, Prof. Emil Fischer

Kaiser Wilhelm II on his way to the inauguration of the first Kaiser Wilhelm Institute on October 23, 1912. The gentlemen with top hats behind the Kaiser are (from right): KWG President Adolf Harnack , Emil Fischer , Fritz Haber .



The KWI for Chemistry as well as for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry in Berlin-Dahlem, October 1912

Secretaries General or Directors General

Senators

Scientific members

Nobel Prize winner

Heads of Department

## **Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes and Research Centres**

**Pictures**

**literature**

**Weblinks**

**References**

# Story

---

## Foundation and purpose

The decisive impetus for the founding of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society came from the Berlin theology professor Adolf Harnack , who was also director of the Royal Library and had contact with Kaiser Wilhelm II as an advisor. In 1909, he described the need for a reform of the scientific system in a memorandum addressed to the Kaiser . He proposed setting up independent research institutes, especially for the natural sciences , which would specialize in basic research and complement research at universities. This was necessary in order to be able to solve the technical problems associated with advancing industrialization , particularly with basic knowledge in the subjects of physics and chemistry . Harnack proposed founding a research society to promote science for this purpose. His groundbreaking appeal to the Kaiser outlined structures that characterize today's scientific establishment with highly specialized research and large research projects. <sup>[1]</sup>



Adolf Harnack

On October 11, 1910, a ceremony was held in the New Aula of the then Friedrich Wilhelm University in Berlin to celebrate the university's 100th anniversary. On this occasion, the Kaiser announced the founding of the society. He adopted Harnack's justification and called for support for the project. <sup>[2]</sup>

The Kaiser Wilhelm Society was founded on January 11, 1911. On that day, the inaugural meeting took place in the large meeting room of the Royal Academy of Arts on Pariser Platz in Berlin. <sup>[3]</sup> Nobel Prize winner Emil Fischer gave the keynote speech on "Recent Successes and Problems in Chemistry and Biology". <sup>[4]</sup> 83 voting members were present: <sup>[1]</sup> prominent figures from research and industry <sup>[3]</sup> as

well as bankers, high officials, nobles and other dignitaries . Membership was approved by the Kaiser, and members had to pay an admission fee of at least 20,000 marks . [3] The society's founding capital was almost ten million marks. [5]

Adolf Harnack was elected president by the Senate on January 23, 1911. [4] His deputies were the entrepreneur Gustav Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach and the banker Ludwig Delbrück . [5] Kaiser Wilhelm II was the patron of the society. [1] Paragraph 1, sentence 1 of the statutes read: "The Kaiser Wilhelm Society is under the protectorate of His Majesty the German Emperor, King of Prussia ." [6]

On December 23, 1911, the KWG and the "Chemische Reichsanstalt" association signed a contract to establish two research institutes in Berlin-Dahlem: the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Chemistry and the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry . The "Chemische Reichsanstalt" association was founded in 1908 based on the model of the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt . [4]

The first director of a Kaiser Wilhelm Institute was Fritz Haber , who was appointed director of the KWI for physical chemistry and electrochemistry in 1911. The second was Ernst Beckmann , who became director of the KWI for chemistry in January 1912. These first two Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes were inaugurated in the presence of the Kaiser on 23 October 1912 after only eleven months of construction. [4]

The Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes were intended to serve basic research by a scientific elite. In return, the scientists were released from all teaching obligations and were given the most modern equipment and a large staff. Groundbreaking scientific discoveries were made under these comfortable conditions. The establishment of institutes followed what was later called the "Harnack principle ," which was not based on a topic but on an exceptional scientist. An institute was then founded around this person.

Science historian Dieter Hoffmann attributes the creation of a non-university research institution, which was to be committed only to basic research, to a reaction to the rapidly growing number of students at the time, to the extraordinarily increased expenditure on top-level scientific research and to increasing American competition. [7] Due to the state's financial constraints, the institutes were largely privately financed. The patrons were mainly the "technical and industrial upper middle class as well as Jewish banking capital". [7] Female patrons also played an important role, for example Elise Koenigs . [8] The state, on the other hand, usually paid the salaries of the researchers and employees. [7]

The Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes varied in size and had different numbers of employees in the following positions: scholarship holders , doctoral students , visiting scientists (from Germany and abroad), assistants , laboratory managers and department heads.



"At the Prince of Peace" (anonymous caricature, 1914): Eduard Arnhold , Leopold Koppel and James Simon as founders of Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes

In 1928, a handbook of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society was published, edited by Adolf von Harnack (in which *Kaiser Wilhelm Society* and *Kaiser Wilhelm Institute* were written with only one hyphen). [9]

## Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes in National Socialism

The KWI for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics, founded in 1927, supported the National Socialist ideology of races , it provided the "scientific" basis of legitimacy for the genetic health and racial policy of the Nazi state . [10] Institute director Eugen Fischer and his institute colleagues defended the principles of Nazi racial policy at international conferences and thus helped to reduce foreign policy pressure on the Nazi regime.



Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics (now Otto Suhr Institute of the Free University of Berlin)

The nuclear fission of the uranium atom was discovered at the KWI for Chemistry in Berlin on December 17, 1938 by the chemists Otto Hahn and Fritz Straßmann . The role of the Institute for Atomic Weapons Research's other nuclear research programs during National Socialism is controversial.

As part of the T4 campaign (1940/41), Professor Julius Hallervorden from the KWI for Brain Research, among others, received brains in quantities of 150 to 250 pieces from Gekrat . [11]

At the KWI for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry , research into poison gases , which Fritz Haber had begun during World War I, was continued under Peter Adolf Thiessen . At the KWI for Medical Research, Richard Kuhn and Konrad Henkel synthesized the nerve agent soman in 1944 .



Experimental equipment with which Otto Hahn and Fritz Straßmann discovered nuclear fission on December 17, 1938

At the beginning of 1943, Josef Mengele worked at the KWI for Anthropology, Human Genetics and Eugenics. During his work as a camp doctor in the Auschwitz concentration camp, he sent blood samples and body parts to Dahlem for examination [12] , including eyes from victims of the concentration camp human experiments for the biologist Karin Magnussen . She was a colleague of Hans Nachtsheim and Otmar Freiherr von Verschuer , under whom Mengele had completed his doctorate.

Heinrich Kraut , head of department at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Occupational Physiology since 1928 , carried out the "Krautaktion" in 1944 in the Gaue Westphalia-North and Westphalia-South – a large-scale experiment on the nutrition of forced laborers and prisoners of war. [13] The aim was to determine what energy requirements (in " calories ") people have depending on their work performance.

In 1997 , on the initiative of its then president Hubert Markl, the Max Planck Society launched the "overdue" program *History of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society under National Socialism* in order to self-critically research its history. The heads of the commission were the historians Reinhard Rürup and Wolfgang Schieder . The research program was completed at the end of 2005. 17 volumes on various

research fields were produced, including the corruption caused by Nazi policy, the focus on armaments research and the cooperation in the criminal human experiments in concentration camps .  
[14] Volume 14 is a memorial book for the scientists expelled from the KWG. [15]

## After the Second World War

After the Second World War, the company was initially split in two. The central administration remained in Göttingen, but in Berlin, Robert Havemann was appointed by the city council to head the institutes and departments of the KWG that remained in Berlin. He claimed leadership of the entire KWG, including the southern and western German institutes, and denied the Göttingen general administration under Ernst Telschow any legitimacy. Max Planck , who was acting president of the "Göttingen" KWG, then made the same accusation.

Initiated by Havemann, Fritz Karsen developed a new model for the future work of the Berlin KWG institutes. This was enshrined on June 3, 1947 in the *state agreement concluded between the states of Bavaria, Württemberg-Baden and Hesse on the establishment of a German research university in Berlin-Dahlem and the financing of German research institutes* . Contrary to the original intentions, the German Research University became in fact "a transitional company to save the Dahlem institutes". [16]

In 1948, the association was renamed the "Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science " (on the instructions of the American occupying forces). [17] The West German KWG institutes were gradually taken over by the Max Planck Society. In 1953, the Max Planck Society also took over the institutes in Berlin-Dahlem from the German Research University. [16] The East German institutes were incorporated into the Academy of Sciences of the GDR .

After the last admission of former KWG institutes into the Max Planck Society in 1953 (concerning the West Berlin institutes and the Bibliotheca Hertziana in Rome), the KWG was de facto dissolved. The liquidation of the KWG had already been decided on April 6, 1951, but it was not legally implemented until June 21, 1960. [18]

The Max Planck Society sees itself as the successor and heir of the KWG. The KWG files and numerous legacies of outstanding scientists are located in the Max Planck Society archive, founded in 1975 , at the KWG's founding location in Berlin-Dahlem.

## persons

---

---

### President

- Adolf von Harnack (1911–1930)
- Max Planck (1930–1937)
- Carl Bosch (1937–1940)
- Albert Voegler (1941–1945)
- Max Planck (1945–1946)

- Otto Hahn (1946–1951) <sup>[19]</sup>

## Secretaries General or Directors General

- Ernst von Simson (1911–1912)
- Ernest Trendelenburg (1912–1920)
- Friedrich Glum (1920–1937)
- Ernst Telschow (1937–1951)

## Senators

→ *Main article* : *List of Senators of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society*

## Scientific members

→ *Main article* : *List of Scientific Members of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society*

## Nobel Prize winner

In a broader sense, the Max Planck Society attributes 14 Nobel Prizes to its predecessor, the KWG: 6 Nobel Prizes for Chemistry, 5 for Physics and 3 for Medicine. Several prizewinners received a shared Nobel Prize.

In a narrower sense, the Max Planck Society only considers those 8 Nobel Prize winners as Nobel Prize winners of the KWG who were Scientific Members of the KWG at the time the prize was awarded <sup>[20]</sup> (this is what the note “Scientific Member” in the table refers to). According to this criterion, Richard Willstätter was the first Nobel Prize winner of the KWG. <sup>[21]</sup> The other 6 Nobel Prize winners were not Scientific Members at the time the Nobel Prize was awarded, but played an important role in the KWG as researchers or in administration. <sup>[22]</sup>

The 14 winners were: <sup>[20]</sup> <sup>[22]</sup>



Max von Laue



Richard Willstätter

name	Nobel Prize Category	Year	Notes
<u>Max von Laue</u>	physics	1914	
<u>Richard Willstätter</u>	Chemistry	1915	Scientific Member
<u>Fritz Haber</u>	Chemistry	1918	Scientific Member
<u>Max-Planck</u>	physics	1918	President of the KWG 1930–1937 and 1945–1946
<u>Albert Einstein</u>	physics	1921	Scientific Member
<u>Otto Meyerhof</u>	medicine	1922	
<u>James Franck</u>	physics	1925	
<u>Otto Warburg</u>	medicine	1931	Scientific Member
<u>Werner Heisenberg</u>	physics	1932	
<u>Hans Spemann</u>	medicine	1935	
<u>Peter Debye</u>	Chemistry	1936	Scientific Member
<u>Richard Kuhn</u>	Chemistry	1938	Scientific Member
<u>Adolf Butenandt</u>	Chemistry	1939	Scientific Member
<u>Otto Hahn</u>	Chemistry	1944	Scientific member; from 1946 last president of the KWG

Carl Bosch received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1931 and was President of the KWG from 1937 to 1940. However, his Nobel Prize was for technical development work that he had carried out in industry ( BASF ); during his KWG presidency, he was primarily active as Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the IG Farben Group .

## Heads of Department

→ *Main article : List of department heads in the Kaiser Wilhelm Society*

The directors of some Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes were less misogynistic than was usual at the time, so that in ten institutes there were a total of 14 female department heads; three of them were only unofficial. Three of the 14 female department heads had been appointed scientific members . Five of them were expelled from their positions during the Nazi era , including the two scientific members Lise Meitner and Cécile Vogt .

## Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes and Research Centres

---



---

For new establishments of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society (KWG), only a year is shown in the “since” column, otherwise an additional keyword such as “takeover” is shown. KWI = Kaiser Wilhelm Institute.

name	Location	since	Notes
<p><u>Aerodynamic Research Institute of the KWG / KWI for Flow Research / KWI for Flow Research and Aerodynamic Research Institute / Aerodynamic Research Institute Göttingen in the KWG</u></p>	<p><u>Goettingen</u></p>	<p>1919 (takeover)</p>	<p>Founded in 1915 as a model research institute for aerodynamics with the participation of the Kaiser Wilhelm Society (KWG). In 1919 it was taken over as the Aerodynamic Research Institute of the KWG, with the KWG being the sole sponsor. In 1924 it was converted into a KWI for flow research combined with the Aerodynamic Research Institute; since 1936 it has been the KWI for flow research and the Aerodynamic Research Institute.</p> <p>In 1937 the institute was separated from the institute and renamed the Aerodynamic Research Institute Göttingen e. V. in the KWG. In 1945 it was confiscated by the US occupying forces. In 1946 the institute became the Institute for Instrument Science in the KWG, and in 1947 the Central Workshop Göttingen.</p> <p>In 1953 it reopened as the Aerodynamic Research Institute Göttingen e. V. in the Max Planck Society. In 1956 it was fully integrated into the Max Planck Society.</p> <p>In 1969, it was spun off at its own request and taken over by the German Aerospace Research Institute.</p>
<p>Virus Research Center of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes of Biochemistry and Biology</p>	<p><u>Berlin-Dahlem</u></p>	<p>1941</p>	<p>Created by merging the virus research working groups at the KWI for Biochemistry and the KWI for Biology that had been active since 1937. With an entomological branch in <u>Ludwigshafen-Oppau</u> . Relocated to Tübingen and Göttingen in 1943/44 due to the war. Dissolved and reintegrated into the two KWIs in 1946. The department at the KWI for Biochemistry (since 1949 Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry) became the Max Planck Institute for Virus Research (now <u>Max Planck Institute for Biology Tübingen</u> ) in 1954.</p>
<p><u>Bibliotheca Hertziana (KWI for Art and Cultural Studies)</u></p>	<p><u>Rome</u></p>	<p>1913 (recording)</p>	
<p><u>KWG Lunz Biological Station</u></p>	<p><u>Lunz am See</u></p>	<p>1924 (takeover)</p>	<p>Founded in 1906 by <u>Karl Kupelwieser</u> . Taken over by the KWG and the <u>Austrian Academy of Sciences</u> in 1924 .</p>
<p>German Entomological Museum/Institute of the KWG</p>	<p><u>Berlin-Dahlem</u></p>	<p>1922 (takeover)</p>	<p>The previous foundation was taken over by the city of Berlin as the German Entomological Museum. In 1929 it was renamed the German Entomological Institute. In 2004 it was moved to <u>Müncheberg</u> . Since 2009 it has been the <u>Senckenberg German Entomological Institute</u> .</p>
<p>German Language Archive, KWI for Phonometry</p>	<p><u>Brunswick</u></p>	<p>1941 (takeover)</p>	<p>The KWI for Brain Research in Berlin had a Phonetic Department since 1928 (from 1935 Phonometric Department, later Department for German Linguistic Research), which was spun off from the KWI in 1938. Its director, Eduard, founded the German Language Archive in Berlin in 1932 to collect German dialects and German language on records. In 1940 it was continued and financed by the city of Braunschweig as the "German Language Archive, State Institute for Sound Research" in Braunschweig. In 1941 it was taken over by the KWG as the "German Language Archive, KWI for Phonometry". In 1948 it was renamed the "German Language Archive, Max Planck Institute for Phonometry". In 1949 it left the Max Planck Society. Today it is the <u>Archive for Spoken German</u> in Mannheim.</p>

<b>name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>since</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<u>German-Bulgarian Institute for Agricultural Research</u>	<u>Sofia</u>	1941	Abandoned in 1944 before work could begin. In 1948, a follow-up institution was founded within the Max Planck Society: Research Centre for Crop Production and Plant Breeding, <u>Gut Neuhoef</u> near Gießen.
German-Greek Institute of Biology at the KWG	<u>Piraeus</u>	1942	Abandoned in 1944 due to war
Research Institute for Hydraulic Engineering and Hydropower of the KWG	<u>Munich</u>	1925/26	With research institute in Oberrach near <u>Walchensee</u> .
Research Centre D in the KWG	<u>Bisingen</u>	1943	Covert name after the director Walter Dällenbach (D = Dällenbach). Research in the field of high frequency and high voltage technology, probably with the purpose of developing a radiation weapon . Occupied and dismantled in 1945, <u>not continued</u> .
Research Center (Dr.) von Sengbusch in the KWG	<u>Goettingen</u>	1948	In 1948, he joined the Max Planck Society
Research Center for Microbiology of the KWG	<u>Sao Paulo , Brazil</u>	1927 (spin-off)	1923 Establishment of a Department of Microbiology of the KWI for Experimental Therapy and Biochemistry in São Paulo. 1927 Independent research center of the KWG. Closed in 1950.
Research Centre for Stratosphere Physics at KWG	<u>Friedrichshafen</u>	1938 (takeover)	Takeover of a previously private institution. Destroyed during the war in 1944 and relocated to Ravensburg - Weißenau . In 1949, it was taken over by the Max Planck Society (see <u>Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research</u> ).
Fraunhofer Institute in the KWG / Fraunhofer Radio Institute in the KWG	<u>Lindau (Eichsfeld)</u>	1946 (takeover)	1934 Establishment of a station for observing the <u>ionosphere</u> in <u>Rechlin</u> on the <u>Müritz</u> . 1943 Relocation to <u>Leobersdorf</u> in Austria as the "Central Office for Radio Consulting". 1945 Relocation to <u>Ried im Innkreis</u> as the Fraunhofer Institute. 1946 Relocation to Lindau (now <u>Katlenburg-Lindau</u> ), where it is taken over as the "Fraunhofer Institute in the KWG". 1947 Renamed the "Fraunhofer Radio Institute in the KWG". 1949 Taken over as the Institute for Ionospheric Research in the Max Planck Society.
Gmelin Institute for Inorganic Chemistry and Frontier Research at the KWG	<u>Clausthal-Zellerfeld</u>	1946 (takeover)	In 1948, he joined the Max Planck Society
Hydrobiological Institute of the KWG	<u>Ploen</u>	1917 (takeover)	Founded in 1891 as a biological station in Plön
Institute of Instrument Science at the KWG	<u>Goettingen</u>	1946	Emerged from the Aerodynamic Research Institute. From 1948 to 1957, the <u>Institute for Instrumentation in the Max Planck Society</u> .
Institute for Agricultural Work Science (and <u>Agricultural</u>	<u>Wroclaw</u>	1940	Founded under the direction of Gerhardt Preuschen , relocated to <u>Gut Imbshausen</u> in 1945 as the Institute for Agricultural Work Science and Agricultural Engineering. In 1948 it was incorporated into the Max Planck Society.

name	Location	since	Notes
Engineering) at the KWG			
Institute for Lake Research and Management (KWG)	<u>Langenargen</u>	1936 (takeover)	Founded in 1920 by a registered association, taken over by the KWG in 1936. Not incorporated into the Max Planck Society. Today the <u>Institute for Lake Research</u> .
<u>KWI for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics</u>	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1926	Opened in 1927. Building used today: <u>Otto Suhr Institute of the FU Berlin</u> .
KWI for Occupational Physiology	<u>Berlin</u>	1913	Relocated to Dortmund in 1929. Merged into what is now the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Physiology . Building used today: B1st Software Factory in the <u>Dortmund Technology Center</u> .
KWI for Foreign Public Law and International Law	<u>Berlin</u>	1924	Today: Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and <u>International Law</u> in Heidelberg.
KWI for foreign and international private law	<u>Berlin</u>	1926	Founded by Ernst Rabel . Today: Max Planck Institute for <u>Comparative and International Private Law</u> .
KWI for Bast Fibre Research	<u>Sorau</u> , later other places	1938 (takeover)	1919 Founding of the German Research Institute for Bast Fibers in Sorau (now Poland) by the Association of German Linen Industrialists. With experimental farm on the outskirts of the city and <u>retting in Christianstadt/Bober</u> . From 1930 under the direction of <u>Ernst Schilling</u> . 1938 Taken over as KWI for Bast Fiber Research. 1941 relocated to <u>Mährisch Schönberg</u> (now Czech Republic), 1945 relocated to <u>Stammbach</u> (Upper Franconia), 1946 relocated to <u>Bielefeld</u> with branches in <u>Krefeld</u> , <u>Steinhagen</u> and <u>Künsebeck</u> . 1948 renamed Max Planck Institute for Bast Fiber Research and relocated to <u>Gut Westheim</u> and in 1949 to <u>Niedermarsberg</u> (Westphalia). 1951 Incorporated into the <u>Max Planck Institute for Breeding Research</u> . 1955 relocated to <u>Cologne-Vogelsang</u> . Closed in 1957.
KWI for Biochemistry	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1917/1925	1917 Founding of the KWI for Biochemistry and affiliation to the KWI for Experimental Therapy in Berlin-Dahlem. 1922 Merger: KWI for Experimental Therapy and Biochemistry. 1925 again split, independent KWI for Biochemistry. 1943 relocated to <u>Tübingen</u> due to the war. 1949 <u>Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry</u> .
KWI for Biology	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1912	Later Max Planck Institute for Biology , <u>Tübingen</u> . Building use 1948–1994: Main building of the <u>FU Berlin</u> , used by law institutes. Building today: Institute for <u>Biology of the FU Berlin</u> .
KWI for Biophysics	<u>Frankfurt am Main</u>	1937	Founded by converting the University Institute for Physical Principles of Medicine. 1938–1945: Branch office in the <u>Radiumbad Oberschlema</u> . Today: <u>Max Planck Institute for Biophysics</u> .
KWI for Chemistry	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1911	Moved in 1944 (after partial bombing in February and March 1944), first to <u>Tailfingen</u> , then to <u>Mainz</u> in 1949. Today: <u>Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz</u> . The original building

name	Location	since	Notes
			is now known as the "Hahn-Meitner Building" and belongs to the Institute for Biochemistry at the Free University of Berlin.
KWI for German History	<u>Berlin-Mitte</u>	1917	Founded as KWI for German History, closed in 1944. Re-established in Göttingen in 1955 as Max Planck Institute for History.
KWI for Iron Research	<u>Aachen</u>	1917	1921 Moved to <u>Düsseldorf</u> . Since 1948 based there as <u>Max Planck Institute for Iron Research</u> .
KWI for Experimental Therapy / KWI for Experimental Therapy and Biochemistry	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1912	Founded as KWI for Experimental Therapy. In 1922 expanded to KWI for Experimental Therapy and Biochemistry. In 1925 the two sub-institutes were separated and divided into KWI for Experimental Therapy and KWI for Biochemistry.
KWI for Fibre Chemistry	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1920	Founded by <u>Reginald Oliver Herzog</u> , spin-off of the textile department of the KWI for physical chemistry and electrochemistry, which had existed since 1919. Closed in 1934.
KWI for Brain Research	<u>Berlin-Book</u>	1914	Founded by <u>Oskar Vogt</u>
<u>KWI for Coal Research</u>	<u>Mülheim an der Ruhr</u>	1912	Today: <u>Max Planck Institute for Coal Research</u>
KWI for Crop Research	<u>Tuttenhof near Vienna</u>	1943	Today: <u>Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research in Gatersleben</u>
KWI for Leather Research	<u>Dresden</u>	1921	Founded by <u>Max Bergmann</u>
KWI for medical research	<u>Heidelberg</u>	1929	Founded by <u>Ludolf von Krehl</u> . Today: <u>Max Planck Institute for Medical Research</u> .
KWI for Metal Research	<u>Neubabelsberg</u>	1921	1933 Closed due to lack of funds. 1934 Re-established in <u>Stuttgart</u> . Today: <u>Max Planck Institute for Metals Research in Stuttgart</u> .
<u>KWI for Physics</u>	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1917	In 1943/44 the institute moved to <u>Bisingen near Hechingen</u> , in 1946 to Göttingen and in 1958 to <u>Munich</u> . Today: <u>Max Planck Institute for Physics in Munich</u> . Use of the original building: 1948–1982 Institute for Physics at the Free University of Berlin, since 1982 university archive.
KWI for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1911	Today: <u>Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society</u>
KWI for Physiology	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1914	Founded, but not realized. Only financial support for the research of <u>Emil Abderhalden</u> in <u>Halle (Saale)</u> until 1944.
KWI for Psychiatry	<u>Munich</u>	1924 (affiliation)	Founded in 1917 by <u>Ludwig III of Bavaria</u> , the founding director and initiator was <u>Emil Kraepelin</u> . Today: <u>Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry</u> .
KWI for Grape Breeding Research	<u>Müncheberg</u>	1942	Created by outsourcing the grapevine breeding research department from the KWI for Breeding Research in <u>Müncheberg</u> . Director <u>Bernhard Husfeld</u> . In 1945 the inventory was moved to <u>Würzburg</u> . Not incorporated into the Max Planck Society.

<b>name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>since</b>	<b>Notes</b>
KWI for Silicate Research	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1926	Founded by <u>Wilhelm Eitel</u>
KWI for Fluid Dynamics	<u>Goettingen</u>	1924	Founded by <u>Ludwig Prandtl</u>
KWI for Animal Breeding Research / KWI for Animal Breeding and Animal Nutrition	<u>Rostock</u>	1937	Founded as KWI for Animal Nutrition Research and Animal Breeding under the direction of <u>Gustav Frölich</u> . In 1939, it began operations as KWI for Animal Breeding Research in Rostock and on the <u>Dummerstorf</u> experimental farm . In 1946, it was renamed KWI for Animal Breeding and Animal Nutrition. In 1948, it continued to exist as the Max Planck Institute. In 1974, it was incorporated into the <u>Research Institute for Agriculture in Braunschweig</u> .
KWI for Cell Physiology	<u>Berlin-Dahlem</u>	1930	Founded by <u>Otto Warburg</u> and the <u>Rockefeller Foundation</u> . Building use since 1975: <u>Archive on the history of the Max Planck Society</u> .
KWI for Breeding Research	<u>Müncheberg</u>	1929	Founded by <u>Erwin Baur</u>
Limnological Station Lower Rhine of the KWG	<u>Krefeld</u>	1937 (takeover)	1928 Founded in Krefeld, <u>Hülser Berg</u> district
Medical Research Institute of the KWG	<u>Goettingen</u>	1947	In 1948, he joined the Max Planck Society
Meteorological Institute of the KWG	<u>Danzig - Langfuhr</u>	1933	Closed in 1936
Meteorological observatories of the Sonnblick Association	<u>Vienna (headquarters)</u>	1926	<u>Sonnblick Observatory</u> and meteorological station on the <u>Obir</u> . Financial, technical and scientific involvement of the KWG. For this purpose, the Sonnblick Association was founded in Vienna (statutes in June 1925, constitutive meeting of the board of trustees in January 1926). Observatories partially taken over by the Reich Weather Service in 1939. The KWG withdrew at the end of the World War in 1945.
Silesian Coal Research Institute of the KWG	<u>Wroclaw</u>	1918	Founded as the <u>Fritz v. Friedlaender-Fuld</u> Institute for Coal Research of the KWG, renamed the Silesian Coal Research Institute of the KWG in 1922. Relocated to <u>Allensbach</u> on Lake Constance in 1945 due to the war. Not continued by the Max Planck Society.
Rossitten Bird Observatory of the KWG	<u>Horsesitting</u>	1923 (takeover)	The Rossitten Bird Observatory was founded in 1901 and abandoned in 1944 due to the war. Its successor was the <u>Radolfzell Bird Observatory</u> .
Zoological Station Rovigno	<u>Rovinj</u>	1911 (purchase)	Confiscated by Italy in 1918. From 1930 German-Italian Institute for Marine Biology. In 1943, due to the war, the German part of the institute was relocated to the KWG Institute for Lake Research and Management in Langenargen on Lake Constance, and in 1946 continued as the <u>Hämmerling</u> Department of the KWI for Biology. The Italian part of the institute fell to Yugoslavia in 1945. Re-established in 1947 as the KWI for Marine Biology in <u>Wilhelmshaven</u> , and taken over by the Max Planck Society in 1948.

# Pictures

---



Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Chemie  
(heute Hahn-Meitner-Bau der Freien Universität Berlin)



Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Biologie  
(heute Freie Universität Berlin)



Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Kohlenforschung  
(heute Max-Planck-Institut für Kohlenforschung)

## Literatur

---

---

(jeweils chronologisch)

- Günter Wendel: *Die Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft 1911–1914. Zur Anatomie einer imperialistischen Forschungsgesellschaft*. Akademie, Berlin 1975.
- Günter Hartung: *Erfindertätigkeit von Autoren aus Instituten der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft 1924 bis 1943*. Patentstatistiken in der historischen Analyse von Instituten der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft. In: Bernhard vom Brocke, Hubert Laitko (Hrsg.): *Die Kaiser-Wilhelm-/Max-Planck-Gesellschaft und ihre Institute*. Gruyter, Berlin, New York 1996, S. 521–542 (PDF (<http://www.wissenschaftsforschung.de/hartung.pdf>)).
- Kurt Nowak: *Die Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft*. In: Hagen Schulze, Etienne Francois (Hrsg.): *Deutsche Erinnerungsorte*. Band III. Beck, München 2001 (teilzugänglich über (<http://books.google.de/books?id=1xPP08w8cW0C&pg=PA55&dq=kurt+nowak&sig=ACfU3U0WD50xF3aZNUWioYumt5nYeG-d1A#PPA55,M1>) Google Bücher).

## Nationalsozialismus

- Rudolf Vierhaus: *Die Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft als ein Beispiel für die außeruniversitären Wissenschaftseinrichtungen im Dritten Reich*. In: Christoph J. Scriba (Hrsg.): *Die Elite der Nation im Dritten Reich. Das Verhältnis von Akademien und ihrem wissenschaftlichen Umfeld zum Nationalsozialismus* (= *Acta historica Leopoldina*. 22). Halle (Saale) 1995, S. 57–73.
- Reinhard Rürup, Wolfgang Schieder (Hg.): *Geschichte der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft im Nationalsozialismus (Buchreihe)*, 17 Bände. Wallstein, Göttingen, 2000–2008.
- Ulrike Kohl: *Die Präsidenten der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft im Nationalsozialismus. Max Planck, Carl Bosch und Albert Vögler zwischen Wissenschaft und Macht*. Steiner, Stuttgart 2002, ISBN 3-515-08049-X.
- Wolfgang Schieder: *Der militärisch-industriell-wissenschaftliche Komplex im „Dritten Reich“. Das Beispiel der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft*. In: Noyan Dinckal, Christof Dipper, Detlev Mares

(Hrsg.): *Selbstmobilisierung der Wissenschaft. Technische Hochschulen im „Dritten Reich“*. Darmstadt 2010, ISBN 978-3-534-23285-7, S. 47–62.

## Wissenschaftlerinnen in der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft

- Annette Vogt: *Vom Hintereingang zum Hauptportal? Lise Meitner und ihre Kolleginnen an der Berliner Universität und in der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft*. Steiner, Stuttgart 2007, ISBN 978-3-515-08881-7 (*Pallas Athene* 17).
- Annette Vogt: *Wissenschaftlerinnen in Kaiser-Wilhelm-Instituten. A–Z*. 2. erweiterte Auflage. Archiv zur Geschichte der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Berlin 2008, ISBN 978-3-927579-12-5 (*Veröffentlichungen aus dem Archiv zur Geschichte der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft*. 12).

## Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft und Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

- Rudolf Vierhaus, Bernhard vom Brocke (Hrsg.): *Forschung im Spannungsfeld von Politik und Gesellschaft. Geschichte und Struktur der Kaiser-Wilhelm-/Max-Planck-Gesellschaft*. DVA, Stuttgart 1990, ISBN 3-421-02744-7.
- Bernhard vom Brocke, Hubert Laitko (Hrsg.): *Die Kaiser-Wilhelm-/Max-Planck-Gesellschaft und ihre Institute. Studien zu ihrer Geschichte: Das Harnack-Prinzip*. Walter de Gruyter, Berlin/New York 1996, ISBN 3-11-015483-8.
- Eckart Henning, Marion Kazemi: *100 Jahre Kaiser-Wilhelm-/Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften*.<sup>[23]</sup>
  - Teil I: *Chronik der Kaiser-Wilhelm-/Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften 1911–2011. Daten und Quellen*. Duncker & Humblot, Berlin 2011, ISBN 978-3-428-13623-0.
  - Teil II: *Handbuch zur Institutsgeschichte der Kaiser-Wilhelm-/Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften 1911–2011. Daten und Quellen*. Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Berlin 2016. 2 Teilbände. Teilband II-1: Institute und Forschungsstellen A–L (PDF ([https://www.archiv-berlin.mpg.de/60874/MPG\\_Handbuch\\_zur\\_Institutsgeschichte\\_Bd\\_2\\_Tb\\_1\\_E-Book.pdf](https://www.archiv-berlin.mpg.de/60874/MPG_Handbuch_zur_Institutsgeschichte_Bd_2_Tb_1_E-Book.pdf)); 74 MB). Teilband II-2: Institute und Forschungsstellen M–Z (PDF ([https://www.archiv-berlin.mpg.de/60885/MPG\\_Handbuch\\_zur\\_Institutsgeschichte\\_Bd\\_2\\_Tb\\_2\\_E-Book.pdf](https://www.archiv-berlin.mpg.de/60885/MPG_Handbuch_zur_Institutsgeschichte_Bd_2_Tb_2_E-Book.pdf)); 74 MB).

## Weblinks

---

---

 **Commons: Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften** ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft\\_zur\\_F%C3%B6rderung\\_der\\_Wissenschaften?uselang=de](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft_zur_F%C3%B6rderung_der_Wissenschaften?uselang=de)) – Sammlung von Bildern, Videos und Audiodateien

- Literatur von und über Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft (<https://portal.dnb.de/opac.htm?method=simpleSearch&query=2015138-X>) im Katalog der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek
- Dieter Hoffmann: *Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft: Der Einstein-Verein*. (<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/wissen/der-einstein-verein-6464593.html>) In: *Der Tagesspiegel*, 9. Januar 2011
- Dieter Hoffmann, Birgit Kolboske, Jürgen Renn (Hrsg.): *„Dem Anwenden muss das Erkennen vorausgehen“: Auf dem Weg zu einer Geschichte der Kaiser-Wilhelm/Max-Planck-Gesellschaft* (<https://www.mprl-series.mpg.de/proceedings/6/index.html>), 2. Auflage 2015

- [Dokumente und Zeitungsartikel zur Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft \(https://purl.org/pressemappe20/gnd/2015138-X\)](https://purl.org/pressemappe20/gnd/2015138-X) in den Historischen Pressearchiven der ZBW

## Einzelnachweise

---

---

1. *Chronik der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft* (<https://www.mpg.de/geschichte/kaiser-wilhelm-gesellschaft>) auf der Website der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft.
2. Kurt Nowak: *Die Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft*. In: Hagen Schulze, Etienne Francois (Hrsg.): *Deutsche Erinnerungsorte*. Band III. Beck, München 2001 (teilzugänglich über (<http://books.google.de/books?id=1xPP08w8cW0C&pg=PA55&dq=kurt+nowak&sig=ACfU3U0WD50xF3aZNUWioYumt5nYeG-d1A#PPA55,M1>) Google Bücher), S. 55.
3. Kurt Nowak: *Die Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft*. In: Hagen Schulze, Etienne Francois (Hrsg.): *Deutsche Erinnerungsorte*. Band III. Beck, München 2001, S. 58.
4. *Chronik des Kaiser-Wilhelm- / Max-Planck-Instituts für Chemie* ([https://www.mpic.de/3557710/Chronik\\_kompl\\_kl.pdf](https://www.mpic.de/3557710/Chronik_kompl_kl.pdf)) (PDF; 3,4 MB)
5. *Die Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft* (<https://www.dhm.de/lemo/kapitel/kaiserreich/wissenschaft-und-forschung/kaiser-wilhelm-gesellschaft.html>) bei LeMO
6. Satzung, abgedruckt im 1. Jahresbericht der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften, Berlin 1912 (online (<https://pm20.zbw.eu/mirador/?manifestId=https://pm20.zbw.eu/iiif/folder/co/043168/manifest.json>)), S. 30–37.
7. Dieter Hoffmann: *Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft. Der Einstein-Verein*. (<http://www.tagesspiegel.de/wissen/der-einstein-verein/3693928.html>) In: *Der Tagesspiegel*, 9. Januar 2011.
8. Annette Vogt: *Von der Ausnahme zur Normalität? Wissenschaftlerinnen in Akademien und in der Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft*. In: Theresa Robbe (Hg.): *Zwischen Vorderbühne und Hinterbühne*. Bielefeld 2003, S. 159–190, hier S. 164 f.
9. Adolf von Harnack (Hg.): *Handbuch der Kaiser Wilhelm-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften*, 1928 (Literaturangaben ([https://www.google.de/books/edition/Handbuch\\_der\\_Kaiser\\_Wilhelm\\_Gesellschaft/G2LIZwEACAAJ?hl=de](https://www.google.de/books/edition/Handbuch_der_Kaiser_Wilhelm_Gesellschaft/G2LIZwEACAAJ?hl=de)) und Ausschnitte ([https://www.google.de/books/edition/Handbuch\\_der\\_Kaiser\\_Wilhelm\\_Gesellschaft/Jlzl5qyHKQC?hl=de&gbpv=1&bsq=%22handbuch+der+Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft+zur+F%C3%B6rderung+der+Wissenschaften%22&dq=%22handbuch+der+Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft+zur+F%C3%B6rderung+der+Wissenschaften%22&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.de/books/edition/Handbuch_der_Kaiser_Wilhelm_Gesellschaft/Jlzl5qyHKQC?hl=de&gbpv=1&bsq=%22handbuch+der+Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft+zur+F%C3%B6rderung+der+Wissenschaften%22&dq=%22handbuch+der+Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft+zur+F%C3%B6rderung+der+Wissenschaften%22&printsec=frontcover)) bei Google Books).
10. Hans-Walter Schmuhl: *Grenzüberschreitungen. Das Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Anthropologie, menschliche Erblehre und Eugenik 1927–1945*. Wallstein, Göttingen 2005, ISBN 3-89244-799-3, S. 531.
11. Ernst Klee: *Euthanasie im NS-Staat*.
12. Hans-Walter Schmuhl: *Grenzüberschreitungen. Das Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Anthropologie, menschliche Erblehre und Eugenik 1927–1945*. Wallstein, Göttingen 2005, ISBN 3-89244-799-3, S. 405.
13. Peter Hertel: *Vor unserer Haustür. Eine Kindheit im NS-Staat – früh erlebt, spät erkundet*. agenda Verlag Münster 2018, ISBN 978-3-89688-596-8, S. 132 ff.
14. See Commission publications . (<https://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/KWG/publications.htm>)
15. Review of Volume 14 (<https://www.hsozkult.de/publicationreview/id/reb-11428>) on hsozkult.de
16. Inga Meiser: *The German Research University (1947–1953)* . Publications from the Archives of the Max Planck Society, Volume 23, Berlin, 2013, ISBN 978-3-927579-27-9 , p. 77.

17. Gundolf Keil : *Robert Koch (1843–1910). An essay*. In: *Medical History Reports. Journal for the History of Science and Technical Prose Research*. Volume 36/37, 2017/2018 (2021), pp. 73–109, here: p. 83.
18. Dieter Hoffmann, Birgit Kolboske, Jürgen Renn (eds.): *“Application must be preceded by recognition”: Towards a history of the Kaiser Wilhelm/Max Planck Society* (<https://www.mpri-series.mpg.de/proceedings/6/index.html>) , 2nd edition 2015. Chapter 1: *Stages of the Kaiser Wilhelm/Max Planck Society* , paragraph on the dissolution of the KWG (<https://mpri-series.mpg.de/proceedings/6/2/index.html#182>) .
19. Otto Hahn (<https://www.mpg.de/8235404/otto-hahn>) mpg.de
20. Max Planck Society: Nobel Prizes (<https://www.mpg.de/preise/nobelpreis>) (persons who were scientific members of the KWG or the MPG at the time the prize was awarded).
21. Max Planck Society: *The first Nobel Prize for the KWG* ([https://www.mpg.de/945871/14\\_person3-1915](https://www.mpg.de/945871/14_person3-1915)) (Richard Willstätter).
22. Max Planck Society: Other Nobel Prize winners (<https://www.mpg.de/237655/nobelpreistraeger-in-der-mpg>) (persons who were not scientific members of the KWG or the MPG at the time the Nobel Prize was awarded, but who played an important role as researchers or in the administration).
23. Publications from the MPG archive (<https://www.archiv-berlin.mpg.de/41533/hausreihe>) archiv-berlin.mpg.de

Authority data (corporation): GND : 2015138-X | LCCN : n81141877 | VIAF : 133170089

---

Retrieved from " [https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft&oldid=246675769#Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute\\_und\\_Forschungsstellen](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gesellschaft&oldid=246675769#Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute_und_Forschungsstellen) "

---

**This page was last edited on 11 July 2024, at 23:37.**

The text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license ; information about the authors and the license status of embedded media files (such as images or videos) can usually be accessed by clicking on them. The content may be subject to additional conditions. By using this website, you agree to the terms of use and the privacy policy .

Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation Inc.