

THE SORBS/WENDS IN GERMANY

SERBJA W NÌMSKEJ

The political organization of the Sorbian tribes around the middle of the 9th century (based on the so-called "Bavarian geographer")

o Sorbian castle mentioned in historical document (in 839)

* Principal Franconian castles in the Sorbian border region

---- Approximate borders of the individual tribes

..... Approximate border of the "Surbi" region

1 Eastern Franconia

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SUMMARIZED HISTORY OF THE SORBS

Around 600	Slavonic tribes settle in the area between Elbe/Saale and Oder/Queiβ.
631	First historical record of the Sorbs in Fredegar's Chronicle
800 onwards	Sorbs suffer defeats at the hands of German invaders.
Around 1000	Final loss of political independence, conversion to Christianity, Sorbian agriculture established.
1104	Beginning of Franconian settlement by Wiprecht von Groitzsch
1150-1300	Immigration of Franconian, Flemish, Thuringian and Saxon peasants
1264	At the beginning of the 13th century: → Ruling class (margraves, bishops, abbots, knights and vassals) recruited exclusively from among German conquerors. → Conquered Sorbian territory divided into margraviates. → Marienstern nunnery founded in Upper Lusatia; → Sorbs account for over 90% of the population between Saale and Bober/Queiβ.
1293 / 1327	Sorbian language banned in Bernburg/S., Altenburg, Zwickau and Leipzig
1534	Sorbian civic oath from Bautzen/ Budyšin, oldest known document in the Sorbian language
1543	"Sorbian/ Wendish baptismal prayer", oldest example of Sorbian church literature
1548	First translation into Sorbian of the New Testament(the work of Mik ³ awš Jakubica is

	completed)
1574	First printed Sorbian book - a hymn-book with catechism by Albin Moller
1618 - 1648	Almost half of the Sorbian population lost in the Thirty Years' War; reduction in size of the Sorbian-speaking area
1706 / 1709	Translation of the New Testament into Upper Sorbian by Micha ³ Frencl and into Lower Sorbian by Bogumi ³ Fabricius
1716	Foundation of the Wendish Preachers' Society "Sorabia", the oldest students association in Germany today
after 1750	Beginnings of national consciousness among bourgeois Sorbs under the influence of their Slavonic neighbours; German and Sorbian philosophers of the Enlightenment take an academic interest in the Sorbian language and culture.
1767	Translation of Klopstock's "Messias" into Sorbian by Jurij Mjeñ signals the beginning of Sorbian secular literature.
1790	Publication of "Misaène pismo k rozwuèenju a k wokøewjenju", (Monthly journal for instruction and edification), by two Sorbian students; (banned after first issue)
1790 - 1794	Peasants' revolts in Lusatia under the influence of the French revolution
1809 - 1812	Publication of the journal "Serbski powidar a kurir (Sorbian Reporter and Courier) in Bautzen by the carpenter Jan Bohuchwa ³ Dejka
1815	Reorganization of the area of Sorbian settlement by the Congress of Vienna; administrative splitting causes the Sorbs to become a minority group in almost all districts.
1818	Decree issued in Prussia to further restrict the Sorbian language; more liberal political situation in Saxony creates better conditions for the development of Sorbian culture and a renaissance of the Sorbian nation.
1835	The Saxon school law facilitates the use of the Sorbian language.
1841-1843	Jan Arnošt Smoler and Leopold Haupt publish the two-volume work, "Folk songs of the Wends in Upper and Lower Lusatia".
1842	Handrij Zejler and Jan Arnošt Smoler establish the newspaper "TydŸenska Nowina"; precursor of the "Serbske nowiny" published today.
1845	First Sorbian song festival in Lusatia directed by Korla Awgust Kocor; development of Sorbian national music culture
1847	Learned society "Maæica Serbska" founded
1848	"Bramborski serbski casnik" (the first Lower Sorbian newspaper) appears; it is the forerunner of today's "Nowy casnik".
1848 / 1849	Sorbian peasants' societies formed in Upper Lusatia, demanding among other things social and national rights("Sorbian Peasants' Petition"); intelligentsia calls for equal rights for the Sorbian language and culture in schools, churches and courts ("Great Petition of the Sorbs"- signed by 5000 heads of households).
1851	The Saxon government makes concessions regarding educational policy.
1854	First great wave of Sorb emigration to Texas and Australia, where Sorbian settlements are established
1862	First Sorbian theatre performance in Bautzen
Around 1875	The national suppression in the German Empire leads to intensified efforts to assert Sorbian culture. Founding of the "Young Sorbs' Movement" under the leadership of Arnošt Muka and Jakub Bart-Æišinski;
1875	General ban on the Sorbian language in the schools of Prussian Upper Lusatia
1877	The appogee of Classical Sorbian literature in the 19th century is the national epic

	"Nawoženja" ("The Bridegroom"), by Jakub Bart-Æišinski.
1904	Wendish House opened in Bautzen
1912	"Domowina" founded as the umbrella organization for 31 Sorbian associations
1919 - 1932	The Weimer constitution enables a more active cultural and political life, while on the other hand the Sorbian popular movement is kept under surveillance by the "Wend Division".
after 1933	National Socialist dictatorship/ Attempted physical and psychological destruction of the Sorbian people; Sorbian anti-fascists murdered, including Alojs Andricki (1943) and Marja Grólmusec (1944)
1937	Domowina is banned (following its refusal to collaborate with the Nazis) as are all forms of public Sorbian life. Confiscation of the Wendish House by the fascists; burnt to the ground in the last days of the war
1939	The last publication in the Sorbian language is liquidated with the banning of the "Katolski Poso ³ ".
1941	The last Sorbian divine services in Brandenburg are banned by the Brandenburg Consistory.
1945	Domowina re-established as the first post-war democratic organization in Germany
1947	Publication of the Upper Sorbian newspaper "Nowa Doba", today "Serbske nowiny"; Founding of the Sorbian secondary school, later Sorbian extended secondary school, Kleinwelka, today Sorbian Grammar School , Bautzen
1948	The Saxon state parliament passes "Law to preserve the rights of the Sorbian population".
1949	Late extension of the Domowina into Lower Lusatia (Brandenburg)
up to 1958	Numerous Sorbian state institutions to promote the cultural life of the nation are established: → Sorbian Institute for Teacher Training, 1946 → Research Institute for Sorbian Ethnography (Academy of Sciences of the GDR), 1951 → Institute of Sorbian Studies at the University of Leipzig, 1952 → Sorbian National Ensemble, 1952 → Sorbian Department of the GDR Broadcasting Authority, 1953 → Institute of Sorbian National Art, 1956 → Sorbian Museum, 1957 (continuation of the "Wendish Museum which was established in 1904 and confiscated by the fascists in 1941) → Domowina publishing company, 1958
1956	Sorbian intellectuals protest against the increasing industrialization of Lusatia and call for the preservation of the unique scenery and culture of the Sorbian area. Extensive coal mining destroys Sorbian villages and their surrounding areas (in particular the district of Hoyerswerda, the Schleife region in the district of Weißwasser and the district of Cottbus Land).
1964	The reorganization of Sorbian school teaching leads to drastic reduction in the number of pupils attending Sorbian language lessons.
1966 - 1989	Seven Festivals of Sorbian Culture were, on the one hand, a factor in the development of Sorbian professional and national culture, while on the other hand the ruling SED party used them to demonstrate their "successful nationalities policy" and the Sorbs' allegiance to the GDR; by so doing, it attempted to conceal the drastic decline in the national substance of the Sorbs.
1989	11th November, The "Sorbian National Assembly", composed of numerous political and

	religious groups, calls for national dialogue and demands fundamental change in the Domowina organization. - Sorbian Round Table formulates the standpoints of the Sorbs' representatives and prepares the transformation process for the Domowina organization
1990	17th March, extraordinary national congress of the Domowina, delegates elect a new leadership for the organization and declare their support for German unification in a resolution - Memorandum in the records of the Unification Treaty stipulates protection and promotion of the Sorbian language and culture
1991	Reconstitution of Domowina as the umbrella organization for Sorbian associations - Establishment of the "Foundation for the Sorbian People" to support the national and cultural development of the Sorbs
1992	19th April - first Sorbian television production - a monthly half-hourly magazine programme - is broadcast by Ostdeutscher Rundfunk Brandenburg

THE SORBS/ WENDS

The Sorbs/ Wends are a national minority inhabiting an area situated to the south-east of Berlin and extending southwards the Czech border. This area, called Lusatia (Ger. die Lausitz), was once predominantly Sorbian, but the German element has steadily grown so that today the Sorbs/ Wends (now numbering about 67.000) constitute quite a small proportion of the population.

The Sorbs/ Wends speak a Slavonic language related to (but quite distinct from) Czech and Polish. It exists in two variants: Lower Sorbian in the north and Upper Sorbian in the south. In the 19th century the Sorbian area was described as a little Slavonic island in a German sea. Most Sorbs/ Wends are Lutherans, but to the north-west of Bautzen is a cluster of about 80 Catholic villages. This is the only area where Sorbs still outnumber Germans.

SORBIAN NATIONAL CULTURE TODAY

Today's Sorbian national culture is based on the traditional Sorbian national culture of Upper and Lower Lusatia. Sorbs and Germans are particularly dedicated to preserving Sorbian national culture in the fields of music, dance, literature and the fine arts, and Sorbian and German amateur artists have worked closely together to develop this culture.

- Choirs and choral societies,
- traditional costume societies,
- dance groups,
- ensembles (vocal, dance and instrumental groups),
- amateur theatrical societies,

- an amateur writers' association,
- textiles, painting and ceramics associations, competitions and workshops,

continual commissions by the Institute for Sorbian National Culture and a supporting role by the Sorbian National Ensemble continue to preserve and promote Sorbian national culture. The results of these efforts are outstanding achievements such as the competition organized each year by the Institute for Sorbian National Culture for the most beautiful Sorbian Easter egg, or the diverse range of works by individual artists in the field of national art, which bear comparison with the works of professional artists. An important vehicle for preserving Sorbian national culture for subsequent generations is provided by the festival of Sorbian children's theatre and young reciters and the festival of Sorbian children's songs and Sorbian music, which are traditionally organized by the Institute for Sorbian National Culture each year on an alternating basis.

Dance performances, amateur theatrical productions, choral concerts, exhibitions of Sorbian national art and presentation of the customs and traditions of Sorbian ethnic regions by village communities provide groups and individuals alike with excellent opportunities to present their ethnic work.

SORBIAN ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS TODAY

(Selected list)

Domowina Bund Lausitzer Sorben e.V.

The Domowina is a politically independent and autonomous umbrella organization for the Sorbs and Sorbian associations; Headquarters: 02625 Bautzen/ Budyšin, Postplatz 2, Wendish house

members include:

Lower Lusatian Regional Association District Association of Weißwasser/ Niesky "Micha³ Hórnik" District Association, Kamenz

"Handrij Zejler" District Association, Hoyeswerda

"Jan Arnošt Smoler" District Association, Bautzen

Cyril and Methodius Association

Association of Sorbian Schools

Association of Sorbian Students

Association of Sorbian Artists

Association of Sorbian Choral Societies

Maæica Serbska - learned society

Association "Łužica - Sorbs and Friends of Sorbs out of Lusatia"

Society for Promoting a Sorbian Culture - and Information Centre (SKI), Berlin

Associated members:

"Sdružení pøátel Lužice pøi Spoleènosti Národního muzea", Prague

"Spolek èesko-lužické mládeže", Prague

"Towarzystwo Polsko-Serboluzyckie", Warsaw

"Australian Wendish Heritage Society", Melbourne

Cyrril-Methodius-Verein ("Cyril and Methodius Association") is the association of Sorbian Catholics

Maaëica Serbska Registered learned society - established in 1847.

Sorbischer Schulverein e.V. ("Association of Sorbian Schools ")

Sorbischer Kùnstlerbund e.V. ("Association of Sorbian Artists")

Works in four groups covering the areas of work carried out by Sorbian artists to date (Sorbian painters' group, Sorbian writers' group, Sorbian music group, Sorbian film group)

Verband sorbischer Gesangsvereine e.V. ("Association of Sorbian Choral Societies")

Förderkreis füür sorbische Volkskultur e.V. ("Association for the promotion of Sorbian national culture")

Public organization with the sole aim of preserving and maintaining traditional and present-day Sorbian national culture. Headquarters: Wendish house, Bautzen/ Budyšin

Stiftung füür das sorbische Volk ("Foundation for the Sorbian People") Official public charity foundation in the Free State of Saxony Headquarters: Wendish house, Bautzen/ Budyšin

Sorbisches Institut e.V. ("Research Institute for Sorbian Ethnography")

Special areas of research:

- Sorbian social and cultural history
- Development of the language
- Folklore
- Cultural studies and aesthetics

premises:

- the Sorbian cultural archives
- the Sorbian Library

Institute of Sorbian studies at the University of Leipzig Headquarters: 04109 Leipzig, Augustusplatz 9

Lower Sorbian Language School

Lower Sorbian High School Cottbus/ Choœebuz Headquarters: 03044 Cottbus, Sielower Str. 37

Upper Sorbian High School, Bautzen/ Budyšin

Sorbische Fachschule füŕr Sozialpädagogik ("Sorbian college of social education") This college is affiliated to the Sorbian Centre for Education and Development. Headquarters: 02625 Bautzen, Franz-List-Str. 8

Sorbian National Ensemble, Bautzen/ Budyšin Headquarters: 02625 Bautzen, Äußere Lauenstr. 2

Sorabia film Studio, Bautzen/ Budyšin Headquarters: 02625 Bautzen, Postplatz 2, Wendish house

Haus füŕr sorbische Volkskultur ("Institute for Sorbian National Culture") Active in the areas of music, dance, literature, fine arts and Sorbian folklore

Affiliated are:

Sorbian Cultural Information (SKI), Bautzen/ Budyšin, 02625 Bautzen, Kurt-Pchalek-Str. 26

Sorbian Cultural Information "Lodka", Cottbus/ Choœebuz, 03046 Cottbus, August-Bebel-Str. 82 premises: * in Weißwasser/ Bi³a Woda and Cottbus/ Choœebuz

Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk Broadcasting Company

Upper Sorbian studio Bautzen/ Budyšin, Headquarters: 02625 Bautzen, Postplatz 2, Wendish house

Ostdeutscher Rundfunk Broadcasting Company

Lower Sorbian editorial office, Cottbus/ Choœebuz Headquarters: 03046 Cottbus, Wilhelm-Külz-Str.11

Deutsch-Sorbisches Volkstheater Bautzen/ Budyšin ("German-Sorbian National Theatre") Headquarters: 02625 Bautzen, Seminarstr. 12

Domowina-Verlag GmbH Bautzen/ Budyšin (Sorbian publishing company) Headquarters: 02625 Bautzen, Tuchmacherstr. 27

SERVIsound (Music publishing company) Headquarters: 15370 Fredersdorf, Hebbelstr. 36

ENA - Musikverlag GbR Litschen/ Z³yèin (Music publishing company) Headquarters: 02999 Litschen, no. 32

THE REGION OF THE CATHOLIC SORBS

The region of the Catholic Sorbs comprises 85 parishes and districts in the areas of Bautzen/ Budyšin, Kamenz/ Kamjenc and Hoyerswerda/ Wojerecy. The dominands of the Marienstern nunnery near Kamenz and the cathedral chapter of St. Peter in Bautzen have been the mainstays for the survival of Catholicism in the region from the Reformation up to the present day. The Sorbs account for well over half the current population of the region. Originally, they lived primarily from agriculture and, to a lesser extent, from fish farming. In the small town of Wittichenau, which was populated by townsmen who farmed smallholdings, the manufacturing sector then started to intensify, alongside handicrafts. Today, the population lives from agriculture, the surrounding industry and the service sector.

Special ethnic features include:

- Upper Sorbian language, Sorbian schools,
- independent traditional costume (varies for different purposes), still worn by some children and young people today; apart from preserving customs, the traditional costumes are also worn above all for church festivals and events such as first communion, confirmation, Corpus Christi and pilgrimages; this is the only Sorbian region in which marriages still take place in traditional costume, observing the appropriate customs; typical features of the Catholic Sorbs' costume are beadwork for festive costumes and flat stitch embroidery,
- still practised customs throughout the year:
 - o Bird's wedding / Vogelhochzeit (25th January), [Children's custom depicting the birds' thanks for having been fed through the winter months]Easter riding on Easter Sunday, witch burning (30th April),
 - o maypole dancing and hurling,
 - o singing on St. Martin's and St. Nicholas' Day, fairs or procession around the "Borborka" (Sollschwitz near Wittichenau)
 - o "Mik³awš" at Christmas time.

THE BAUTZEN/ BUDYŠIN REGION

Over centuries the town Bautzen was considered as the "capital of the Sorbs/ Wends". It is the traditional centre of the Sorbian national movement. Today here is the majority of the Sorbian institutions. But the Sorbian national culture strongly fades in the about 150 villages of the Bautzen/ Budyšin region. Traditional costumes were given up, the number of speakers of the Sorbian language is decreasing. Only a few national customs preserved alive. Because the Bautzen surrounding belongs to the most fertile areas of Lusatia, a distinct agrarian structure developed here. So agriculture, handicraft and the service sector form the subsistence basis of the population.

Special ethnic features include:

- Upper Sorbian language region (now spoken almost exclusively by the older generation, Sorbian is an optional subject in many primary schools,
- Upper Sorbian high school in Bautzen)
- independent costume region (at the end of the 19th century the costumes were given up, only the confirmation and festive costumes occasionally were preserved up to the time of national socialism; with the foundation of costume groups the interest awakes again)

Still practised customs throughout the year:

- Bird's wedding/ Vogelhochzeit (25th January)
- witch burning/ Hexenbrennen (30th April)
- maypole dancing and hurling

THE SCHLEIFE/ SLEPO REGION

The Schleife/ Slepó region is comprised of 7 towns and villages, with Sorbs accounting for around one third of the population. The Schleife/ Slepó area, which is situated to the north-west of Weißwasser, is similar to Lower Lusatia in terms of language, customs, and indeed the overall character of its national culture. The people of this region traditionally lived from forestry and agricultural work, but today's main employer is brown coal mining, which has made considerable inroads into the Schleife/ Slepó region, and remnants of the glass industry.

Special ethnic features include:

- special ethnic architecture (log construction, clinker construction)
- independent Schleife dialect
- independent traditional costume (variations for different purposes and from village to village, still worn by some older women); the embroidery on the Schleife costumes largely preserves the character of traditional ethnic work, and is to be found primarily in the form of hemstitching, white eyelet embroidery and black cross-stitch work on tuckers, headscarves and chin straps,
- traditional ethnic music with the Sorbian bagpipes, the small and large Sorbian fiddle (e.g. in the Schleife Sorbian folklore ensemble)

Still practised customs throughout the year include:

- Zampern, [a traditional Carnival custom depicting the driving out of winter]
- Easter fire, Easter singing, Easter egg decoration according to family tradition,
- maypole dancing,
- cock-beating, cock-plucking,
- spinning evenings - formerly groups of women and girls would gather to spin flax

- and sing songs or procession around the "dŷiætko" in the season of Advent (present-giving ceremony; varies from village to village).

THE HOYERSWERDA/ WOJERECY REGION

The Hoyerswerda/ Wojerecy region today comprises 25 towns and villages, in which Sorbs account for around one quarter of the population. In 1880 the region was still populated almost exclusively by Sorbs. The Kingdom of Saxony lost the region to Prussia at the Congress of Vienna, but today it again belongs to the north-eastern part of the Free State of Saxony. In former times, the population lived from agriculture and village handicrafts. Today, life in the region around Hoyerswerda is dominated by brown coal mining.

Special ethnic features include:

- Intermediate dialect between Upper and Lower Sorbian
- independent traditional costume (varies for different purposes and from village to village, still worn by some old women today); embroidery work on the traditional Hoyerswerder costumes worn by the Sorbian peasant population primarily takes the form of cross-stitch work, eyelet embroidery, embroidered tulle and flat stitch embroidery,
- village traditions have been preserved (for decades, by the most diverse generations, e.g. in Bröthen/Michalken - Britnja/ Micha³ki),

customs throughout the year (some still practised) include:

- driving out the winter at shrovetide
- Good Friday and Easter singing, decoration of Easter eggs,
- maypole dancing and hurling, harvest-time customs
- spinning evenings
- procession around the dŷiætko (present-giving) at Christmas time and
- Christmas singing.

THE LOWER LUSATIA/ DOLNA ŁUŻYCA

The Lower Sorbian region is comprised of over 60 towns and villages. Only a minority of the Sorbs/ Wends living in this area are able to speak the Sorbian language. The Lower Sorbian population originally lived primarily from agriculture and fish farming. In the Spree forest, part of Lower Lusatia, tourism continues to this day to be an important source of income. Concentrated brown coal mining operations are today destroying the Lower Sorbians' village communities.

Special ethnic features include:

- Lower Sorbian language (now spoken almost exclusively by the older generation), a Lower Sorbian high school and Lower Sorbian language school serve to preserve the language
- independent traditional costume (varies for different purposes and from village to village, still worn by some older people, and by the young generation to preserve old customs, traditional costumes are decorated with flat stitch embroidery, which is to be found primarily on skirt ribbons, aprons, neck scarves and parts of the large head scarves; white embroidery is also to be found in charming motifs; a characteristic feature of the Lower Sorbs' traditional costume is the "Lapa" (hood or tucked-in head scarf), which varies in size and shape from village to village,

Customs throughout the year (some still practised) include:

- shrovetide, when traditional costume is worn
- harvest-time customs and at Christmas time, "Janšojski bog" visits the children in Jänschalde/ Janšojce near Cottbus/ Choœebuz.

Excerpt from the Constitution of the Free State of Saxony Concerning the Sorbian People

Article 2 (State capital and state symbols)

(1) The capital city of the Free State is Dresden.

(2) The state colours are white and green.

(3) The state coat of arms shows a field divided nine times into black on gold with a green diagonal lozenge to the right. The further details are stipulated by a law.

(4) In the area of Sorbian settlement, the Sorbian colours and coat of arms enjoy equal status to the State flag and the State coat of arms; in the Silesian part of the State, the colours and coat of arms of Lower Silesia enjoy equal status to the State flag and the State coat of arms.

Article 5 (The population of the Free State of Saxony)

(1) The population of the Free State of Saxony is comprised of citizens of German, Sorbian and other nationalities.

(2) The State guarantees and protects the rights of national and ethnic minorities of German citizenship to preserve their identity, language, religion, culture and customs.

(3) The State respects the interests of foreign minorities legally resident in the State.

Article 6 (The Sorbian people)

(1) The citizens of Sorbian nationality who live in the State constitute an inherent part of the people of the State and enjoy equal rights with the remaining people of the State. The State guarantees and protects their right to preserve their identity and to preserve and develop their traditional language, culture and customs, in particular by way of schools, pre-school and cultural establishments.

(2) The necessities of the Sorbian people are to be taken into consideration in regional and local planning. The German-Sorbian character of the Sorbian ethnic group's area of settlement is to be maintained.

(3) The cooperation between Sorbs beyond the State boundaries, particularly in Upper and Lower Lusatia, is in the interests of the State.

Excerpt from the Constitution of the State of Brandenburg

Section 4: Rights of the Sorbs/ Wends

Article 25 (Rights of the Sorbs/Wends)

(1) The right of the Sorbian people to protect, preserve and maintain their national identity and their traditional area of settlement is guaranteed. The State, the local government authorities and municipal bodies shall promote the implementation of this right, in particular supporting cultural independence and contributing towards effective political organization of the Sorbian people.

(2) The State shall work towards securing cultural autonomy for the Sorbs beyond the State boundaries.

(3) The Sorbs possess the right to preserve and promote the Sorbian language and culture in public life and to teach the language at schools and nurseries.

(4) In the area of Sorbian settlement the Sorbian language is to be incorporated into official notices. The Sorbian flag has the colours blue, red and white.

(5) The organization of the Sorbs' rights is regulated by a law. This law is to ensure that Sorbian representatives are involved in matters concerning the Sorbs, in particular legislation.

Excerpt from the Act on the Basic Features of the Rights Held By the Sorbs/ Wends In the Federal State of Brandenburg

(dated 7th July 1994)

Article 1 (Sorbs/ Wends) - Preamble

Recognizing the will of the Sorbs/ Wends, which have been resident in Lusatia since the 6th century and have been able to preserve their language and culture by this time in spite of numerous attempts in history to assimilate this people, to preserve their identity also in future; cognizant of the unity of the Sorbian/Wendish people, the hereditary settlement area of which is situated in the Federal State of Brandenburg and the Free State of Saxony; regarding to the fact that the Sorbs/ Wends do not belong to any mother country beyond the borders of the Federal Republic of Germany that feels under obligation to them and takes care of the preservation and promotion of their language and culture; conscious of the fact that there is a particular responsibility of the State for the protection, preservation, care and promotion of the Sorbian/ Wendish identity; in the interest of the preservation and strengthening of the bicultural character of Lower Lusatia; having regard to international standards of the protection and promotion of national minorities and ethnic groups; with reference to article 3 of the German Basic Law and to the record note no. 14 annexed to the article 35 of the reunification agreement, as well as in the execution of article 25 of the constitution of the Federal State of the Brandenburg, the State Parliament passes the following: ...

- 1 Areas of traditional costume in Lausitz
- 2 Traditional Lower Sorbian costume
- 3 Traditional Sorbian Catholic costume
- 4 Traditional Sorbian costume in Schleife
- 5 Traditional Sorbian costume in Hoyerswerda
- 6 Poland

WENDS: 1. historical name for Sorbs (Latin), increasingly in use again today

2. name for various slavonic tribes and peoples in the Middle Ages

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