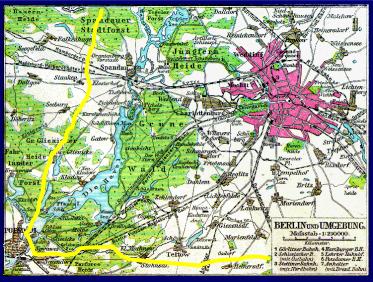
### Sketch of the south-west border of Berlin today



Berlin 1885

1908 Starting with a comparison of sciences in Prussia with that in France, England, and USA, Adolf von Harnack (a protestant theologian) suggested to the Kaiser to found research institutes named "Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes for Scientific Research".

The Kaiser liked the idea and was fully supportive:

1910 "... We need institutions that exceed the boundaries of the universities and are unimpaired by the objectives of education, but in close association with academia and universities, serving only the purpose of research ... it is my desire to establish under my protectorate and under my name a society whose task it is to establish and maintain such institutes ....

1911 Foundation of the "KWI for Chemistry" and the "KWI for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry" (first director: Fritz Haber) -- about 10 more institutes were founded during the coming 10 years.



1912 Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute for Chemistry and for Physical-Chemistry and Electrochemistry -- Most right: Villa of Fritz Haber.



Kaiser Wilhelm II, Adolf von Harnack, followed by Emil Fischer and Fritz Haber walking to the opening ceremony of the first two KWG institutes October 1912



Arial view of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes for "Chemistry" and for "Physical-Chemistry and Electrochemistry" -- around 1918

### A glimpse at the history of the Fritz-Haber-Institute of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

1911 Foundation of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry (first director: Fritz Haber)

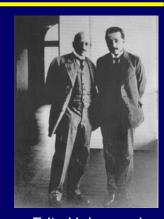
1914 Research and production

-1918 of chemical weapons (mustard gas, etc.)

1918 Haber received the Nobelprize for the development of the ammonia synthesis

1933 Haber leaves Germany

(see also FHI- webpages: history and 2 brief PBS reports.)



Fritz Haber and Albert Einstein at the "FHI" -- 1915

### A glimpse at the history of the Fritz-Haber-Institute of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft

1911 Foundation of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry (1. director: F. Haber)

1914 Research and production

-1918 of chemical weapons (mustard gas, etc.)

1918 Haber received the Nobelprize for the development of the ammonia synthesis

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### After World-War II

The Kaiser-Wilhelm-Society was renamed into Max-Planck-Society

1953 Our institute was renamed into Fritz-Haber-Institut der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft.

# Fritz-Haber-Institut - present structure and research area -

The institute is lead by the "board of directors" with one of them acting as the "chief institute director" ("Geschäftsführenden Direktor").

### Research areas:

Basic research on catalysis and chemical and physical properties of surfaces, interfaces, molecules, clusters and nanostructures.

### 5 Departments:

Physical Chemistry (Gerhard

Theory

Inorganic Chemistry

Chemical Physics

Molecular Physics

(Gerhard Ertl, since 1986)

(Matthias Scheffler, since 1988)

(Robert Schlögl, since 1994)

(Hajo Freund, since 1996)

(Gerard Meijer, since 2003)



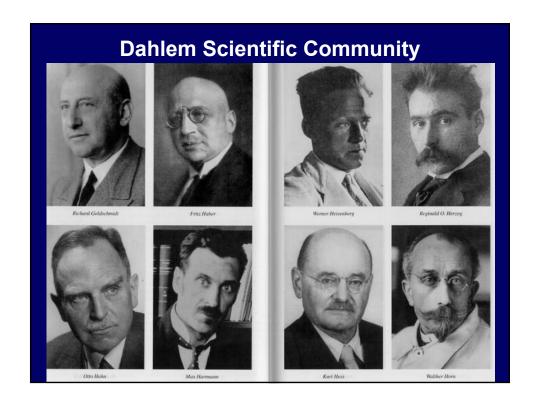
### A glimpse at the history of the Harnack House

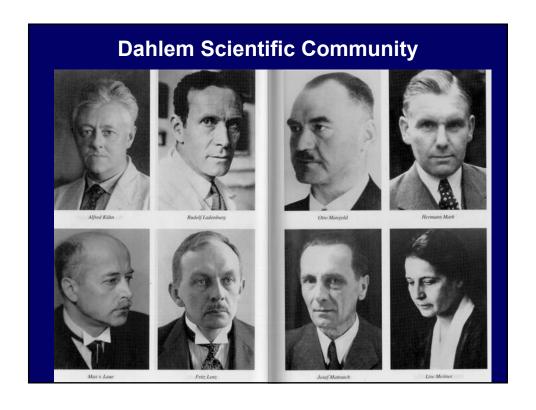
Letter by Adolf von Harnack to Gustav
 Stresemann (Foreign Minister) on the need to
 establish an institute to bring foreign scientists to
 Berlin to an "institute for guest scientists".

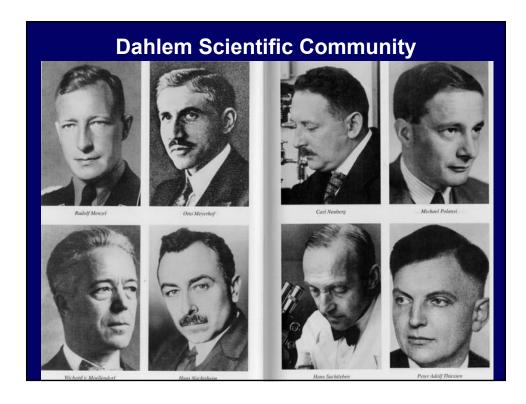
 7.5.1929 Formal opening (79. birthday of Harnack) ...

everyone we know from this time was here and gave talks, e.g. Einstein, Debye, Heisenberg, Hahn, Laue, ...

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### **Harnack House -- continued**

Harnack's great idea of the function of the Harnack House only worked for a short period of time. Since about 1933 there were lectures by the "KWI for Anthropology and Eugenics" on "clean race" and "race hygienic".

- 1935 Commemoration ceremony for Fritz Haber who had died Jan. 1934 (organized by M. Planck and O. Hahn).
- 1941 Lecture by M. Planck on the dangers of nuclear fission.
- 1942 Albert Speer (Minister for Arming and Ammunition) invites generals and nuclear scientists, Heisenberg talks about *The military use of nuclear energy*. Q: How big would be an atomic bomb to destroy a city, e.g. as big as London? Heisenberg: About the size of a pineapple. Q: How long does it take to build one? Heisenberg: about 3-4 years.

## **Harnack House -- continued**

25.4.45 14.7.45	Russian troops take Berlin The US army takes the Harnack House and turned it into an officers club.
Aug. 1994	The US army leaves Dahlem and returns the Harnack House to the MPG.
Oct. 1994	Our first Workshop on DFT computations
1998/99	Major renovations; the Harnack House became a conference center.
	(Further workshops on DFT computations: 1996, 1999, 2001, 2003)



W. Nernst, A. Einstein, M. Planck, R.A.Millikan, M. v. Laue

