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Subject: Re: Rick Scott sucks ass

Posted by [Herr Surth](#) on Sun, 13 Mar 2011 10:56:02 GMT

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Quote:With tax rates that are considerably higher than the US, and a population that's three times more dense on a per-kilometer basis, Germany better have a more developed infrastructure than the US. Well, its not my fault that america is so afraid of high taxes

Quote:Reality check here... Germany has better rail infrastructure because it had to all be rebuilt after the country was pretty much bombed back to the stone age in the closing months of World War II. France- same story. Most of that reconstruction was undertaken at the expense of the Allies in an effort to rapidly rebuild Germany's defenses in preparation for a potential attack by the Soviet Union.

The word rebuilt seems to imply that the infrastructure existed before WW2 already, doesnt it?

(stolen from german wikipedia. x-axis = year, y-axis = railway length in km.)

As you can see, the infrastructure was already well developed before 1945/1949 (The fact that it was actually longer than today from around 1885 on is due to the fact that the german bund was larger than germany is today.)

If I remember correctly, Germany has used standard gauge well before 1945 already, so im not quite sure how having blown up half the tracks has done much to help the infrastructure. By the way: The reparation Germany had to pay after WWI were quite at the expense of the german railway system. Not saying that the reparations were wrong or anything, just keep that in mind when you're saying things like "for good or ill, without WWII, the current railway infrastructure wouldnt exist", because thats a pretty bolt piece of speculation.

Quote:

The foundation of Germany's present land transportation network was built in large part by American taxpayer money

Do you have actual numbers for that? Because im rather interested in that.

I actually didnt want to start a discussion btw, just point out the fact that im happy to live in germany and not in america

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