

Through the Eyes of Youth – 175 Years of Austrian-American Diplomatic Relations

In my opinion, the Austrian-American relationship is more profound than it may seem at the very first look. When I started searching for connections between those two states, I found more than I expected. Austria and the U.S. converge not only when it comes to trade, sports or tourism, but also through policy and culture. From my point of view, the most significant aspect of the Austrian-American relationship is social media. Today, modern technologies and social media define not only nearly every teenager's, but also every adult's life. On the world we live in, at this point, media is everywhere. Every step you take, every move you make, is followed by social media and accompanied by technology.

I'd like to further explain the aspect of social media as a connection between the Austrian youth and the U.S.:

1) TV

Today, television is one of the most common entertainment-facilities worldwide. This form of data communication is no longer only used as a news platform, but as a leisure activity as well. US-American films and TV-series cause amusement and satisfaction among millions of viewers.

2) Social networking sites

If you'd ask me to – somehow - contact anyone in the U.S., the first association crossing my mind would be social media. Facebook, Twitter etc. basically rule some people's lives. Although social networking sites are hobbies to some people, they are a great way to meet people from all over the world or to stay in contact with them. Many of these sites have been set up and evolving in the U.S.

From my experience, these two aspects of modern technology are the most developed and the ones that are automatically connected with the U.S.

Thinking about it, it's no surprise, as I am taking advantage of these ways of communication every single day.

I'd like to give an example of my life in order to visualize my point of view:

About one and a half years ago, I started watching an U.S.-American TV-Series called "The Vampire Diaries". Because I disliked the German translation and the latest season hadn't been released at that point, I started to watch the show in English. I developed a real "obsession", so when I heard there was going to be a "TVD-Convention" in Vienna, I didn't hesitate to buy my ticket. This convention was one of the most impressive experiences I've made in my entire life. Meeting some of the actors caused memories that I'll keep with me forever. About half a year later, I decided to create myself an account on Twitter in order to socialize with other fans of the show. And I did. One thing I've been experiencing every single day since then is: It's a pretty special feeling to talk to these people from all over the world and to be connected by and through that one thing that made us bond. Social media.