In his new illustrated book *The History of the World*, historian Ewald Frie tells the story of the world from an unprecedented, truly global perspective free from eurocentric bias. Australia was populated by Homo sapiens earlier than Europe. People sailed thousands of miles across the open ocean of the Pacific, while the Romans were still anxiously hugging the coastline. The pyramids and cities of the Americas can hold their own with Babylon and Egypt. And while modern-era Western Europe was fighting wars of religion, a multicultural exchange was being negotiated from Hungary all the way to southern India. Our planet has become ... Frie is professor of modern history at the University of Tübingen, where he directs a global history research project.

In fiction, our spring lead title *Kraft* by Jonas Lüscher was just sold to Farrar Straus and Giroux, to Autrement and to Wereldbibliotheek: Jonas Lüscher’s witty novel about professor Richard Kraft who tries to win a competition in the Silicon Valley but to his own surprise does not like at all what he finds there.

A young fresh voice is Stefan Etgeton. In his novel *My Brother’s Happiness* he explores an intricately moving story of two brothers. Sometimes happiness evolves from most messed-up situations.

We’re also looking forward to Norbert Scheuer’s *Secrets of the Universe*, where the construction of an amusement park in a former mine reveals old secrets of the village. His last book *The Language of Birds* was nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize, rights were sold to the UK and to Egypt.
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Translation Funding by
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Gerd Koenen

Red
The Origins and History of Communism

“You close your eyes and look at the sun, and through your eyelids you see the color of your blood—a carmine red. This is the color of your physical existence. Green is the color of external vegetation. Yellow is the color of the sun. Blue is the sky above you.”

This is the sentence with which Gerd Koenen begins his epic story of a dream that is as old as humankind. This dream of a big, world-wide communion in which all men become brothers and no one has to be anyone else’s servant had left a powerful mark across the centuries until in October 1917 the revolutions in Russia brought Communism to power. But as the utopian ideal tries to become reality, the dream turns into a nightmare. With unparallel storytelling ability, Koenen presents the history of Communism in a completely new and fresh way. He lets philosophers, revolutionaries, and politicians have their say and he describes the reasons why the Communist idea was so attractive: the rule and oppression, misery and poverty of the exploited. The master stroke of his book is that he brings home to the reader why the fight for social justice in a world of Capitalism is still legitimate and relevant today – but also how and why the rendezvous of Communism with history ends in terror and paranoia.

Gerd Koenen is a historian and journalist. Until 1982, he held a leadership role in the Communist League of West Germany and then he went on to become the editor of the magazine "Pflasterstrand" and he also collaborated with Lew Kopelew, the Soviet author and dissident. He is the author of the bestselling Utopie der Säuberung (Utopia of the Purge), Das rote Jahrzehnt (The Red Decade) and Vesper, Ensslin, Baader. In 2007 he was the recipient of the Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding.

Navid Kermani

Along the Trenches
A Journey through Eastern Europe All the Way to Isfahan

A strange territory marked heavily by the fissures of wars and catastrophes lies between Western Europe and Russia. Navid Kermani traveled along this rift that has recently ripped open again in Europe, first eastward from his home town of Cologne all the way to the Baltic and then south over the Caucasus all the way to Isfahan in his parents’ homeland of Iran. With an unerring sense for captivating details, this travel journal is filled with descriptions of forgotten regions where even today history is being made and people whose stories are true but also contradictory.

Kermani’s travels lead him right into the middle of the Jewish Pale of Settlement during the time of the Tsars, the “Bloodlands” of the Second World War, along the rift between East and West, where the Cold War isn’t over yet and has developed into a heated conflict in the Donbass region of the Ukraine. He sees the rubble of destroyed cultures and the traces of old and new devastation alike. Most of all, he meets people who are conflicted inside because their search for a homeland and a chance at prosperity forces them to choose one side or another. With broad strokes, Kermani brings to life the nightlife of the big cities, shops right out of the Soviet era, cafes with a hip vintage vibe, the serenity that can be found even on the front, and the fear of others, whoever they might be.

Navid Kermani is a freelance writer who lives in Cologne. His novels, essays, and journalism have received many accolades, including the Kleist Prize, and the Joseph Breitbach Prize as well as the Peace Prize of the German Booksellers’ Association.

Further works published by C.H. Beck:

- Incredulous Awe (10th ed. 2016)
  - English: Polity Press
  - Dutch: Uitgeverij Cossee
  - Spanish: Editorial Trotta
  - Norwegian: Mentor Medier
  - French: Salvador Editions
  - Italian: Marsilio Editori
  - State of Exception (5th ed. 2016)
  - English: Polity Press
  - Italian: Keller Editore
  - Between the Quran and Kafka (5th ed. 2015)
  - English: Polity Press
  - Who Is “We”? (5th ed. 2016)
  - Serbian: Samizdat B92
  - Arabic: Kalimat Arabia
  - God Is Beautiful (5th ed. 2015)
  - English: Polity Press
  - Arabic: Al-Kamel Verlag
  - The Terror of God (2nd ed. 2015)
  - English: Polity Press
  - Turkish: Pınar Yayinlari
The History of the World
A Retelling by Ewald Frie
Illustrated by Sophia Martineck

For the first time, Ewald Frie tells the story of the world from a completely unprecedented and truly global perspective. Athens is on the sidelines, but no one who reads this wonderfully light-hearted book will forget the fantastic beauty of Kilwa in Africa.

Until now, the history of the world was told with Europe at its center and it’s about time for a fresh outlook. Australia was populated by Homo sapiens earlier than Europe. People sailed thousands of miles across the open ocean of the Pacific, while the Romans were still anxiously hugging the coastline. The pyramids and cities of the Americas can hold their own with Babylon and Egypt. And while modern era Western Europe was fighting wars of religion, a multicultural exchange was being negotiated from Hungary all the way to southern India. Of course, the barbarians of the Occident aren’t forgotten. Ewald Frie writes about their discoveries and conquests, revolutions and wars that have changed the world. Our planet has since become a global Megacity, where the rich and poor are segregated, but we are all still inextricably linked. And the Megacities of today’s world stand in the same locations where large cities existed before – outside of Europe.

Ewald Frie is a professor of modern history at the University of Tübingen, where he directs a global history research project. In addition to numerous publications on German, European, and Australian history, he also is the author of the young adult history book Das Schokoladenproblem (The Chocolate Problem, 2009). Ewald Frie is the father of three children.

Sophia Martineck studied visual communication and she has worked in Berlin, New York, and Liverpool as an illustrator, designer and comic artist for German and international publishers. Her work has become well-known through various publications, exhibitions, and prizes.

The West Collapsing? The Current Crisis in Europe and America

The West is in the throes of its most serious crisis. Heinrich August Winkler analyzes the reasons and explains the contexts. In this clearly articulated book, the famous author of A History of the West, provides a political compass enabling us to find our way through this confusing and dangerous crisis cluster.

Is the West collapsing? Floods of refugees, Brexit, authoritarian regimes in the EU (Orbán, Kaczyński) and on its borders (Putin, Erdoğan), and on top of it all, an American President who is causing worldwide instability – Europe and America are facing so many challenges at the same time that a rather apocalyptic mood now prevails. Written as a quasi “history of revocation,” the most knowledgeable expert on the West gives a step-by-step account of recent events—and doesn’t back down from making clear judgements on what went wrong, what still works, and what urgently needs to change if the West wants to survive this crisis.

Heinrich August Winkler is one of the most prominent historians in Germany. His works Der lange Weg nach Westen (The Long Road West) and Geschichte des Westens (A History of the West) are widely read bestsellers. From 1991 until he became emeritus, he was professor of contemporary history at the Humboldt University of Berlin. In 2014 he received the Europa Prize for political culture from the Hans Ringier Stiftung and in 2016 he was the recipient of the Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding.

Further works published by C.H.Beck:
The Long Way West, 2 vols.
English: Oxford University Press
Italian: Donzelli Editore
French: Librairie Arthème Fayard
Polish: Wydawnictwo Univerystetu Wrocławskiego
Hungarian: Osiris Kiado
English: Yale University Press
Italian: Donzelli Editore
Chinese (simplified characters):
Social Sciences Academic Press
Weimar (3rd ed. 1997)
Italian: Donzelli
Russian: DHI Moscow
The Renaissance was a revolution that forever changed first Europe and then the rest of the world. In this grandly written book, Bernd Roeck unfurls an impressive panorama of this restless, dramatic epoch. At the same time, on the level of global history, he explains why this unique concentration of earthshattering ideas, spectacular discoveries, and historic radical changes happened in Europe.

To reveal the roots of the Renaissance, Bernd Roeck looks far back into the Middle Ages and Antiquity – and far beyond the borders of Europe. With sharp analysis and captivating descriptions, he recreates this epoch right before the reader’s eyes – the incredible art that was created under Italian skies and the ideas of Humanists as well as the religious wars and the beginning of the subjugation of foreign continents. He tells the stories of merchants and poets, emperors, and popes, clever women and monstrous men, of the greats of their time and the lesser folk who fought disease and hunger far away from the palaces. Finally, this magnum opus demonstrates that the innovations of the Renaissance didn’t just create dream destinations for beauty and intellect, but also the very foundations of our modern world.

Bernd Roeck has been a professor of modern history at the University of Zurich since 1999 and is one of the most knowledgeable experts on the European Renaissance. C.H. Beck has published several of his other works, including Als wollt die Welt schier brechen. Eine Stadt im Zeitalter des Dreißigjährigen Krieges (As if the World Wanted to Break. A City in the Age of the Thirty Years’ War, 1991), Florence 1900. Die Suche nach Arkadien (Florence 1900. The Quest for Arcadia, 2004) and Murder, Maler und Mäzene. Piero della Francescas “Geißelung” (Murderers, Painters, and Patrons. Piero della Francesca’s “The Flagellation,” 2010).

Karl Schlögel, the great historian of Eastern Europe, invites a new assessment of the Soviet world with his archaeology of Communism. We have always known quite a bit about how “the system” functioned, but we know less about the routines of life during unusual times.

Every empire has its sound, its smell, its rhythm that still lives on even after the empire has ceased to exist. And thus, a hundred years after the Revolution of 1917 and a quarter of a century after the end of the Soviet Union, there emerges the panorama of a civilization that was more than just a political system and without which „the time after“ that we are currently living in can’t be understood. Karl Schlögel explores the terrain, the historical layers of a land marked by wars, revolutions, and civil wars. He allows the early Soviet modern cabaret to be restaged, the battlefields of labor and the scorched earth. It’s as if he is right there when the mega-buildings of Communism are dedicated and the mass graves of Stalin’s Great Terror are uncovered. He is equally interested in the parade of power and the rituals of everyday life. He investigates the expansive railway system and the close quarters of the community apartment where generations of Soviets spent their lives. He tells the story of how this lays bare social places that once were part of daily survival – the Moscow cuisine and the lifetimes spent waiting in lines. Places where happiness could be found and small freedoms as well: the cultural park, the dachas, the vacations along the Red Riviera.

Karl Schlögel, born in 1948 and now professor emeritus, taught Eastern European history first at the University of Constance and then, from 1995, at the European University Viadrina. He is the author of many significant books on Soviet and Eastern European history as well as an active journalist. In 2016, his book Terror und Traum. Moskau 1937 (Terror and Dream. Moscow 1937) received the prize of the Historischen Kollegs, also known as the German Historian Prize. He wrote The Soviet Century while he was a fellow of the Karl Friedrich von Siemens Stiftung in Munich.
Manfred Hildermeier
The Rise and Fall of the First Socialist State
Second Edition

On the occasion of the 100-year anniversary of the October Revolution, Manfred Hildermeier has updated his classic history of the Soviet Union to reflect the most current research. This definitive work now includes a chapter on the Putin era, which brings the content up to the immediate present.

The history of the Soviet Union stretches like a huge monolith through almost the entire 20th century. The first socialist state didn’t just influence the course of world history during the „Great Patriotic War“ against Hitler’s armies and the Cold War era. It was also a departure point and a result of the revolutionary experiment, a way of making a social utopia into reality. Manfred Hildermeier is able to craft an informative as well as interpretive and easily understandable overview based on an incredible wealth of materials. His guiding point of view is to investigate the shared “socialist” principles of political, social, economic, and culture development.

Manfred Hildermeier is a professor of Eastern European history at the University of Göttingen.

Further works published by C.H.Beck:
A History of Russia. From the Middle Ages to the October Revolution (2016)

György Dalos
The Last Tsar
The Fall of the House of Romanov

During the night of July 17 to July 18, 1918, Czar Nicholas II along with his wife and entire family were murdered by a Cheka commando in Yekaterinburg. The worst nightmare of all monarchies, which had been predicted by the uprisings, conspiracies, and assassinations, had become reality. In this lively, historically accurate account, it is made apparent how the persistent political failures of the Romanov dynasty had fueled a revolutionary process that the last czar could no longer hold at bay.

György Dalos – one of the most internationally renowned writers in the field of Eastern European history – vividly describes the growing grievances in czarist Russia as the causes of the revolution. Along the way, he paints an unspiring picture of the czars of the 19th century who alternated between progressive thinking, half-hearted liberalism, and brutal repression without ever addressing the sources of the distress felt by the workers and farmers. When Nicholas II took the throne in 1894, he showed himself to be completely incapable of managing the various problems of his enormous empire. Catastrophes, wars, and personal suffering, which the author effectively portrays, deeply affected the weak ruler in whose court the itinerate preacher Rasputin was winning greater and greater influence. By the time Nicholas prepares to enact reforms, it is too late. The unsuccessfully conducted First World War pushed the czar further on the defensive until he and the House of Romanov were pulled under by the rushing current of the Bolshevik revolution.

György Dalos is a freelance writer and historian. In 1995 he was awarded the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize. In 2010 he received the Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding. C.H. Beck has published several of his other works.
Mozart in a new light: this unusual portrayal offers not just another biography of one of the greatest composers in musical history, but also shows Mozart as a child of his times. This inquiry into his intellectual environment becomes an exciting hunt for clues in the world of the Enlightenment and illuminates how Mozart incorporated contemporary debates into his music, reflected them, in order to set the stage for the reception of his music and himself.

Marked by various experiences from his travels as a „wunderkind“, Mozart discovers in 1780s Vienna – in an atmosphere of radical reforms, boundless tolerance, and lively intellectual exchange – the ideal showroom for his self-actualization. He erases the boundaries between private and public life, bourgeois and courtly audiences, and through his music makes himself the main protagonist in a Vienna that was reinventing itself. In his works, he moves the discussions about the role of music among the arts, its moral qualities or its ability to portray reality to a new artistic level and pushes them towards their apex. Using numerous examples from Mozart’s instrumental and opera works, internationally renowned musicologist Laurenz Lütteken provides an unusual portrait of Mozart in this passionate „intellectual biography“.

Laurenz Lütteken teaches as the chair of Musicology at the University of Zürich. He has been recognized many times for his contributions to research and in 2015/14 he was a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg of Berlin. He is the editor in chief of the MGG Online Encyclopedia.

Franziska Meifort
Ralf Dahrendorf
A Biography

“I am getting the impression, Herr Dutschke, that there are not only nerds in politics, but also nerds in protest movements.”

Ralf Dahrendorfs legendary verbal sparring with Rudi Dutschke in January 1968 at the height of the student revolt is the opening scene of the first biography of perhaps the most important German intellectual of his generation after Jürgen Habermas. Based on extensive research, Franziska Meifort sketches out the great liberal’s life and world of ideas. Sociology professor, education reformer, FDP politician, an EC commissioner, director of the London School of Economics and, finally, a Lord and member of the Upper House of the British Parliament—with breathtaking virtuosity, Ralf Dahrendorf kept starting brand new chapters in his life. From the influence of his father’s resistance and his own experience in jail from 1944-45 to his late writings and opinions, this biography shows the inner structure of a public intellectual, who pledged himself passionately to democracy and stuck to his own interpretation of liberalism.

Franziska Meifort is a research assistant at the Institute for History at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg. In 2016, her dissertation on Ralf Dahrendorf received the Wolf Erich Kellner Memorial Prize.
Hibernation is one of nature’s great puzzles. How do animals do it? For half the year, actually half their lives, they lay cold and lifeless in a hole in the ground and are none the worse for wear. Yet, when we human beings are laid up in a cast for just three weeks then our leg muscles start to become thin and weak.

On her journey through the hidden world of hibernation, biologist and researcher Lisa Warnecke tells the story of four animals she has observed during their “winter sleep” on four different continents often under adventurous circumstances: a hedgehog in a major German city, a lemur in tropical Madagascar, a bat in the arctic desert of the Canadian prairie, and a small marsupial in sunny Australia. Her book clears up a lot of widespread misconceptions, such as the presumption that the animals are asleep the whole time, that they lay there motionless the entire time, or that hibernation only happens in cold climates. There are animals that will begin to hibernate even when the temperature is a cozy 85 degrees. They conserve an astonishing 99 percent of their energy by doing so. Hibernation is a success story for the conservation of species.

Dr. Lisa Warnecke born in 1978 in Frankfurt am Main holds a Ph.D. in biology. She worked on a species conservation project on the west coast of Australia and she researched the hibernation pattern of diseased bats in Winnipeg, Canada. Today, she lives in Hamburg and researches the ecophysiology of hedgehogs in the urban environment.
Arne Effenberger
Neslihan Asutay-Effenberger

**Byzantium
Empire of Art**

The Byzantine Empire at times encompassed the entire Mediterranean region and its culture shone all throughout Europe. But nowhere did Byzantium’s light shine brighter than in the realm of art. This generously illustrated volume impressively presents the history of an empire that would have been unimaginable without art.

In contrast to today’s thinking, Byzantines viewed their images and structures as more than just beautiful things. Art was part of political life and was seen through the eyes of believers; heavenly rapturous mosaics, the icons that established a personal proximity, and the church spaces that provided a sensual-mystical experience. Arne Effenberger und Neslihan Asutay-Effenberger unlock the visual language of Byzantium that just like „western“ art has its roots in the Roman Antiquity. They reveal how much Byzantine art shaped Europe, how it responded to political events, religious and cultural upheavals, and how it developed an astonishing variety throughout its over 1000-year history. This volume provides a fantastic overview of what has long been considered the most important culture of the Middle Ages.

Arne Effenberger was director of the Early Christian Byzantine collection at the Berlin State Museums (East) from 1973 to 1992 and then from 1992 to 2007 he was the director of the sculpture collection and the Museum of Byzantine Art (Bode Museum) of the reunified Berlin State Museums. Since 1996, he has been teaching Byzantine art history as an honorary professor at the Free University of Berlin.

Neslihan Asutay-Effenberger is a professor of Byzantine art and archaeology as well as Turkish Islamic art at the University of Bochum and also teaches at the University of Mainz.

**Further works published by C.H. Beck:**
- *Am Anfang war das Korn. Eine andere Geschichte der Menschheit* (In the Beginning There Was Corn. A Different History of the Human Race, 2013)

Hansjörg Küster

**German Landscapes
From Rügen to the Danube Valley**

Heligoland and the Lange Anna, the Lüneburg Heath, Heidelberg and the Neckar Valley, Lake Starnberg, the Wetterstein mountains—German landscapes are as diverse as they are extraordinary and distinctive. The well-known landscape historian and ecologist Hansjörg Küster goes on a journey of discovery and introduces the reader to the loveliest German landscapes. On the way, many hard to find and even hidden features are revealed along with those that are readily apparent.

This book is about much more than geography. Landscapes are more than that, they have a variety of cultural meanings, no precisely fixed borders, they can be small or large, spectacular or ‚totally normal‘. Our gaze falls upon the wide North Sea, the high Black Forest, and the Kaiserstuhl (Emperor’s Chair), which in spite of its name is just a hill country area. The journey takes us into the Bavarian Forest with Friedrich Nietzsche and to Heligoland with James Krüss. It also shows us that Karl May most likely had the deeply cut valleys of the Elbsandstein mountain in mind when he described the canyons of the American West in his famous novels about the Wild West.

Hansjörg Küster is a professor of plant ecology at the Institute for Geobotany at the Leibniz University of Hanover. C.H. Beck has published many of his other works, including *Die Entdeckung der Landschaft. Einführung in eine neue Wissenschaft* (The Discovery of Landscape. Introduction to a New Science, 2012), *Am Anfang war das Korn. Eine andere Geschichte der Menschheit* (In the Beginning There Was Corn. A Different History of the Human Race, 2013).
Fifty years ago the State Antiquities Collections – restored after the destruction of the war – were reopened to the public. Since then this incomparable German museum has presented unique exhibitions of vases, bronzes, statues, and jewelry. This volume uses these masterpieces to provide an overview of the development of ancient art over the span of more than 5000 years – from the Cyclades to the works of Late Antiquity.

Florian S. Knauß, the director of the State Antiquities Collections, has brought together in this 4-color book a selection of ancient art work that doesn’t just provide a lively impression of this world-class and unparalleled collection. Rather, it offers a cohesive presentation of ancient art history through these fascinating objects and offers an explanation of the stories they tell us – about gods and heroes, about rulers and craftsmen. Knauß invites us into his school of seeing and teaches us to understand the art of the ancient world as a familiar strangeness.

Florian S. Knauß is a Classical archeologist and has been the director of the State Antiquities Collections and Glyptothek in Munich since 2011.

Love endures even in times of high treason – behind bars, in jails, and even in the shadow of the gallows. For Joy und Günther Weisenborn it was a kind of sustenance that gave them confidence and courage. Their diaries and letters are touching documents that show how two opponents of the Third Reich survived the final phase of the Second World War.

On September 26, 1942, the Weisenborns were arrested. They were part of the circle of friends around Harro Schulze-Boysen, who carried out various forms of resistance against National Socialism. The Gestapo considered him to be a member of a resistance group called the „Red Chapel“ controlled by Moscow. During their imprisonment, the prominent writer and his wife wrote letters to each other. With their correspondence they preserved their own private world and even protected themselves against the intrusion of the seemingly almighty National Socialist regime. After their release in April 1943, Joy kept a diary that is being published for the first time in this volume. These very personal documents attest to a great love and a resistant alternate world that persevered in the face of isolation and mortal fear.

Christian and Sebastian Weisenborn are the sons of Joy und Günther Weisenborn. The documentary filmmaker Christian Weisenborn’s most recent film is „Die guten Feinde. Mein Vater, die Rote Kapelle und ich“ (The Good Enemies. My Father, the Red Chapel, and I), which will be shown on the German television station ZDF on September 2017 for the anniversary of the arrest of the „Red Chapel“.

Hans Woller is a research contributor at the Institute for Contemporary History and from 1994 to 2015 he was the editor-in-chief of the Quarterly Yearbook for Contemporary History. C.H.Beck is also the publisher of his books Mussolini (2016), and Geschichte Italiens im 20. Jahrhundert (A History of Italy in the 20th Century, 2010).
Klaus Bringmann
A History of the Roman Republic
From its Beginnings to Augustus
Third Edition

Rome’s rise to world power occurred in many stages on a long, intermittent path from its small, rural peasant beginnings to becoming an ancient empire. The decisive junctures in this historical process took place in the time of the Roman Republic. This epoch is brought to life in Klaus Bringmann’s grand history of the Roman Republic.

In an accessible and vivid style, he describes the decisive markers and turning points in more than five hundred years of Roman history. Overviews of longer time periods alternate with the portrayal of important, momentous events of internal and external history – such as the war against Carthage or the struggle over the efforts at reform spearheaded by the Gracchi brothers. The protagonists of the Roman Republic are introduced via close-up views – the legendary Brutus, who is said to have expelled the last Roman kings, the proverbially stern Cato, but also Marius and Sulla, Caesar and Pompey, and finally, Augustus, who would transform the Republic into a monarchy.

For this new edition, Klaus Bringmann has revised and expanded the chapter on the history of money in the Roman Republic.

Klaus Bringmann taught at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main until he became professor emeritus. C.H.Beck has published several of his other works: Römische Geschichte. Von den Anfängen bis zur Spätantike (Roman History. From its Beginnings to Late Antiquity, 2010), Kleine Kulturgeschichte der Antike (A Brief Cultural History of Antiquity, 2011) and Im Schatten der Paläste. Geschichte des frühen Griechenlands (In the Shadow of Palaces. A History of Early Greece, 2016).

Further works published by C.H.Beck:
Roman History. From its Beginnings to Late Antiquity (8th ed. 2010)
Italian: il Mulino
Simplified Chinese: Beijing
Phoenix-Power Cultural Development

Christian Marek with Peter Frei
A History of Asia Minor in Antiquity
Third Edition

The Zurich-based ancient historian Christian Marek maps out an impressive survey of the history of Asia Minor in Antiquity – from the first permanent settlements to Late Antiquity.

This volume describes one of humanity’s most important cultural regions over a time period of ten thousand years: from the monuments of Stone Age hunters at Göbekli Tepe through the spread of the early advanced civilizations, the Greek cities, the Persian empire, Alexander the Great’s military campaign, and the Hellenistic period to the Roman Empire and the spread of Christianity. Egyptians, Hittites, Urartians, Lycians, Karians, Phrygians, Lydians, Assyrians, Greeks, Persians, and Romans have left their impression on a territory of more than 750,000 square kilometers, which is almost exactly the size of present-day Turkey. This new edition has been completely revised and expanded to reflect current research.

„Brilliant. A great story.”
Mischa Meier, Süddeutsche Zeitung

„Christian Marek has presented us with nothing less than a definitive work of ancient history.”
Stefan Rebenich, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

Christian Marek taught as chair of the Department of Ancient History at the University of Zürich until he became professor emeritus. He is an internationally renowned researcher in the field of the history of Asia Minor in Antiquity.

Peter Frei (1925–2010) taught as professor of ancient history at the University of Zürich.
An Ice Age prevails between Russia and the West. Hardly a day goes by without a new horror story coming out of the „Evil Empire“. Why is this? Is it really about human rights and Western values? Or is this a sign of anti-Russian feelings that have a long tradition in German history? And how come it is always those states that are geostategic challenges for the West, which are targeted?

In her new book, Gabriele Krone-Schmalz warns of a backslide into the simple thought patterns and clear images of the enemy that were predominate during the Cold War. Vladimir Putin’s goals are expensive, it is claimed, and he threatens Poland and the Baltic states. But on what basis are these conclusions actually drawn? Who acts, who reacts? Which policy should we pursue: containment through deterrence or change through rapprochement? These questions should be openly debated. Instead, dissenters are defamed and marginalized as defenders of Russia. Despite the fact that this concerns the most important question of all: the peaceful coexistence with our neighbors.

Gabriele Krone-Schmalz was the Russia correspondent for the German ARD public television network from 1987 to 1991 and then was the moderator of the ARD Cultural World Mirror until 1997. Since 2011, she has been a professor of television and journalism at the Iserlohn College. She is a member of the Petersburger Dialogue and, as the leading Russia expert in Germany, she makes regular television appearances. C.H.Beck has also published her book Russland verstehen (Understanding Russia, 2016). More information is available on the author’s website http://www.krone-schmalz.de

Putin is considered the strong man of Russia. But how far does his power really reach? Margareta Mommsen has been observing the Russian leadership circle for many years. In her illuminating book, she shows how Putin came to power, who he is beholden to, who else sits behind the wheel of this “guided democracy” and why the intelligence leaders and oligarchs wield the true power.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, it looked as if Russia would orient itself towards the West, but the West spurned the Russian overtures. Since then, the aggrieved superpower has drawn on its own strengths. The notorious „Kremlin Family“ took power under Yeltsin and in Putin they fashioned a willing, tailor-made president who portrays himself as an athletic nature lover and has even found admirers in the West. Margareta Mommsen describes how the intelligence leaders, captains of industry, and the Orthodox Church want to make Russia great again. She demonstrates how a secret oligarchy runs the media, the judiciary, and key industries, organizes the leader’s cult, mobilizes the military, and defends Russia’s superpower interests in the Ukraine or Syria. The Putin Syndicate has a firm grip on Russia. Margareta Mommsen reveals just how firmly Putin himself is under the thumb of the intelligence service.

Margareta Mommsen is professor emeritus of political science at the University of Munich. C.H.Beck most recently published her book Das System Putin (The Putin System, co-authored with Angelika Näßberger, 2009).
Stefan Mey
Dark Net
Weapons, Drugs, Whistleblowers
An Inside Look at How the Digital Underworld Works

A 19-year-old, who sells nearly a ton of drugs from his parents’ living room … whistleblowers, who under cover of anonymity transmit explosive information … people, who out of curiosity purchase counterfeit money online. All of this can be found on the dark net. What does this parallel world look like? Is the dark net good, bad or something in between? Who is looking for protection in digital anonymity?

The dark net is polarizing and confusing. Many people find it just as frightening as it is alluring. At some point, journalist Stefan Mey wanted to draw his own picture. And that’s how he found out just how easy it is to get „in“. In a few seconds, the anonymizing Tor Browser opens the gateway to a digital parallel world is installed. He quickly realized how much of the information swirling around the dark net are myths and how little real knowledge exists. This inspired him to unlock the secrets of this difficult-to-explore place. Mey sought out conversations with people from the „dark“ side of the dark net. His book will satisfy the curiosity of a broad audience as well as appeal to the IT professional.

Stefan Mey is a freelance journalist. He has written about the dark net for Heute.de, the youth magazine Fluter.de, Spektrum der Wissenschaft magazine, the IT news sites Heise Online and Golem, the medical industry magazine Deutsches Ärzteblatt, as well as the political magazine Le Monde Diplomatique. Through his investigative research, he has been able to provide deep insight into the reality, contradictions, and potential of the dark net beyond what any other journalist has accomplished to date.

Susanne Billig
The Piri Reis Map
The Forgotten Knowledge of the Arabs and the Discovery of America

The Atlantic map of the Ottoman General Piri Reis has long been a mystery: the east coast of South America is drawn with astonishing precision – much more precisely than the Europeans would have been capable of at that time. This book posits that there were likely Arabic models for this map. It reveals the prodigious astronomical, nautical, and geographical knowledge of the Arabs during the Middle Ages and explains why Columbus would never have discovered America without this knowledge.

Since the 12th century Arab sailors have attempted to cross the „sea of darkness“ by heading westward. They were following reports of the riches that could be found on the other side, but they also trusted their highly-developed nautical skills. Centuries before the Europeans, the Arabs could reliably determine longitude and latitude and draw exact maps. Susanne Billig provides numerous illustrations that demonstrate Arab astronomy, nautical science, cartography, and sea navigation and shows how this knowledge was then adopted by the technically backward Europeans, who concealed its Arab origins. Her fascinating book follows in the footsteps of the groundbreaking research of the great Orientalist Fuat Sezgin, whose work is being made accessible here for the first time to a broad audience.

Susanne Billig works as a science journalist for the large public radio stations in Germany. She also is an author and script writer. The film „Verfolgt“ (Punish Me, 2006), for which she wrote the script, received the Golden Leopard at the Locarno Festival.

Fuat Sezgin is professor emeritus of the history of natural sciences at the University of Frankfurt as well as the founder of the Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic Sciences. He has gathered together a collection of Arabic scientific instruments and maps that is the only one of its kind in the world and he founded a museum of Arabic science in Istanbul.
Most people would say that mathematics is the art of calculating. The mathematician Christian Hesse thinks this is wrong or at least short-sighted. Math, he says, is the art of using thinking to make calculating unnecessary. He shows you how this can work by sharing the whole cornucopia of his magical calculation tricks for doing math in your head. They make calculating so simple that no one will be frustrated anymore and, in fact, they will find it completely effortless.

Isn’t it super cool to be able to square even three figure numbers like 271 in your head in just seconds? Or to solve the daunting product of 396 x 178 in just a few quick steps without giving yourself a headache? Or to divide the mighty number 2134215 by 9 in a single short line? Or to pull the reciprocal of 19 from right off the top of your head decimal by decimal? Or to announce to an astonished audience which day of the week Christmas Eve, New Year’s Eve or your own birthday will fall on without looking at a calendar? All of this can be found between the covers of this book. It has been designed for not only those who want to improve their mental calculation skills – yes, even take them up to full-speed – but also for those who are interested in the ideas behind these tricks that make the mind-boggling possible.

Christian Hesse holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and has taught at the University of California, Berkeley. Since 1991, he has been a professor of mathematics and statistics at the University of Stuttgart. He has advised the German Bundestag, is an expert for the Federal Constitutional Court, and writes books. C.H. Beck has published several of his other works, including Das kleine Einmaleins des klaren Denkens, 22 Denkwerkzeuge für ein besseres Leben (The Little Guide to Clear Thinking, 22 Thinking Tools for a Better Life, 2013); Warum Mathematik glücklich macht: 151 verbüffende Geschichten (Why Mathematics Makes You Happy, 151 Amazing Stories, 2012); Was Einstein seinem Papagei erzählte. Die besten Witze aus der Wissenschaft (What Einstein Told His Parrot, The Best Science Jokes, 2013); Wer falsch rechnet, den bestraft das Leben. Das kleine Einmaleins der Alltagsmathematik (He Who Miscalculates Will Be Punished by Life. The Little Guide to Everyday Mathematics, 2014).

More than 75 years after the beginning of the Holocaust, two journalists traveled to the places that were the centers of Eastern European Jewry before the Second World War. They wanted to know how Jewish life in seven former Communist countries in Eastern Europe had evolved after 1945.

Were their rights recognized once again, was restitution given for their property and were the perpetrators held accountable? Did the anti-Semitism disappear or was it merely suppressed? What is Jewish life like today in Krakow, Prague or Budapest? The authors talked to the last remaining survivors, with rabbis, congregants, Jewish intellectuals, museum founders, cemetery keepers, with children placed in institutions in Odessa, and inhabitants of retirement homes. They tell of their respect and awe for the life experiences that flooded in on the current of the regime change, the thawing and the repression, to the implications of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. For these Jewish communities today a lot depends on whether the countries of Eastern Europe are prepared to give Jewish history its rightful place in their national cultural memory. But that’s not what seems to be happening. Some believe there will be a Renaissance of the Jews but the hate has returned to the Europe of this young 21st century.

Eva Gruberová is a freelance journalist and filmmaker. She also is a consultant at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site.

Andreas Kappeler
Unequal Brothers
Russians and Ukrainians from the Middle Ages to the Present Day

For centuries, Russians and Ukrainians have considered themselves brother nations, although the Russians see themselves as being in the role of an older brother. This book tells the story of these unequal brothers as an interplay between entwinement and disentanglement, thus enabling us to to a better understanding of the current Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

The Russian annexation of the Crimea and the subsequent occupation of the industrial region in the southeast of Ukraine by militia controlled by Russia in Spring 2014 have sparked a military conflict between the two countries that continues today. Since the 18th century, the relationship between these closely connected peoples has increasingly demonstrated an asymmetry. This culminated in the 19th century, when Russia refused to recognize the „Little Russians“, which was how the Ukrainians were officially referred to at that time, as an independent nation with a separate history from Russia. This is still the viewpoint of Russia today and is also widespread in the West.

Andreas Kappeler is professor emeritus of Eastern European history at the University of Vienna and a member of both the Austrian and the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

Dietmar Süß
„One People, One Empire, One Leader“
German Society during the Third Reich

„One People, One Empire, One Leader“ – when in March 1938 the campaign for the „Annexation of Austria“ was moving full speed ahead, this triad was heard again and again in the squares and markets. It linked the hope for social harmony with the desire for national strength and also made it clear that underneath the beautiful facade of the National Socialist people’s community lurked the brutal exclusion of everyone who couldn’t or didn’t want to belong.

Racial inequality, according to this impressive overview, was the structural principle of German society in the Third Reich, the ever increasing state violence was the central pillar of the new political order, and a radical antisemitism was the fuel that kept the entire machine going. With virtuosity, Dietmar Süß weaves the concrete fates of individual people into his analysis and describes how the National Socialist regime fundamentally changed the lives of Germans.

Dietmar Süß is a professor of modern and contemporary history at the University of Augsburg.
No other African politician is quite as polarizing a figure as Robert Mugabe. Christoph Marx offers an unvarnished and considered account of the life of this dictator, who is as intelligent as he is unscrupulous and is driving his country to ruin.

Whereas in the West, Mugabe is regarded as the prototype of an African despot, he still receives an astonishingly positive response in Africa despite his decades-long tyranny over Zimbabwe and the destruction of the country. But also in Europe, Mugabe was heralded for a long time as a liberator. The idea that he is a fallen revolutionary still persists. Christoph Marx paints a new picture of Mugabe and demonstrates that this supposed beacon of hope was from the very beginning willing to use any means to satisfy his all-consuming desire for power.

Christoph Marx is a professor of Non-European history at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Bernd Stöver, after holding appointments in Bielefeld and Washington D.C., now teaches at the University of Potsdam as professor of modern history with an emphasis on global history. C.H. Beck has published some of his other works, including Der Kalte Krieg (The Cold War, 2012), Geschichte des Koreakriegs (A History of the Korean War, 2015) and most recently CIA. Geschichte, Organisation, Skandale (The CIA. History, Organization, Scandals, 2017).

This volume is the first „histoire totale“ of the United States of America in decades and it deftly combines the political and military history of this superpower with the history of its economy and culture. This fascinating book provides a better understanding of both the American Dream and the current deep divides across the country.

From dishwasher to millionaire: the myth of a land of unlimited opportunities is still alive today. Bernd Stöver explores the roots of the American Dream, but also the many contradictions of American history: slavery and genocides against the Native Americans on one hand, philanthropy on the other, global mass culture and subversive counterculture, worldliness and patriotism. The election of Trump took the world by surprise. Bernd Stöver’s grand depiction shows that surprising new beginnings are an essential part of American history. „What a stroke of luck... a historical search for clues to America’s inner self.”

Thomas Speckmann, Die Welt „Even long-standing experts on America will find information in this book that is newsworthy.”

Gert Raithel, Süddeutsche Zeitung „Impressive and an enjoyable read.”

Jörg Nagler, Damals „A concisely written book ... that shines a new light on the current news of the day.”

Gerhard Klas, WDR

Bernd Stöver
A History of the United States of America
From the First Colony to the Present Day

Christoph Marx
Mugabe
An African Tyrant

536 pages with 11 images and 3 maps
€ 18,-
German title: Christoph Marx
Mugabe
Ein afrikanischer Tyrann

Bernd Stöver
A History of the United States of America
From the First Colony to the Present Day
781 pages with 84 images, 19 maps, and 15 graphs
€ 19,95
German title: Bernd Stöver
Geschichte der USA
Von der ersten Kolonie bis zur Gegenwart
There are very few countries that are as politically and culturally diverse as Afghanistan. Different languages, ethnicities, religions, and powerful clans have hindered a national state unity, but also control of the country by foreign powers. Years later, the US still has failed to defeat the Taliban.

Conrad Schetter presents the history and culture of Afghanistan from ancient times through great conquests and waves of immigration up to the present day. The focus is on the last two centuries in which the tensions between city and country, between modernity and tradition are constantly erupting into rebellions and wars. This book describes the turmoil of a civil war that has been going on since 1979, the Islamic rule of the Taliban, and the invasion by the US after 9/11. Those who read this concise and knowledgeable representation will gain a better understanding of why this rugged land along the Hindu Kush still can’t find peace despite years of effort by the West.

Conrad Schetter is a professor of peace and conflict research at the University of Bonn and director for research at the Bonn International Center for Conversion. He has spent over twenty years studying Afghanistan. C.H. Beck has also published his book Pakistan. Land der Extreme (Pakistan. Land of Extremes, co-authored with Katja Mielke, 2013).

Anyone who would like to understand modern Greece in all its contradictions and conflicts should take the time to learn a little bit about its history. This book offers a compact and well-informed overview of the moving development of this country from the time of the Ottomans up to the present day.

By highlighting the great historical markers of the 19th and 20th centuries – the War of Independence of 1821 and the founding of the nation, the Asia Minor Catastrophe of 1922, the German-Italian occupation and the ensuing civil war of 1941-1949 as well as the entry into the European Community in 1981, the political history is embedded into the economic, social, and cultural development of the country. A balanced overall picture emerges from this groundwork and this contributes to a better understanding of Greek society at a new turning point in its history. The author has added a new chapter to this second edition in which he describes the crisis time after 2014, the current Grexit discussions, and the first years of the government under Alexis Tsipras and his SYRIZA coalition party.

Ioannis Zelepos teaches as a professor of modern Greek studies at the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich. Through his many publications, he has become known as an expert on modern Greek history and culture.
Are there genes that make people distinguishable by race? Whose skin is actually skin-toned? Why does Europe sit at the center of our world maps? Where is sub-Saharan Africa? Is it racist to ask a Black person if you can touch their hair? How do I recognize racist language? And finally, is it possible to have a world without racism?

In this book, Susan Arndt offers a view into the past, present, and future of racism. There aren’t many people who would gladly describe themselves as racists. Although racism is in no way restricted to small extreme right-wing groups. It is far more likely to lurk in the seemingly harmless words found in our everyday speech. Asking yourself what you know about racism – and what you don’t – and what it has to do with you, is the best way to defy racism. The 101 most important questions to ask are answered in this book.

Susan Arndt is a professor of English literary studies and anglophone literature at the University of Bayreuth.
Petra Terhoeven
The Red Army Faction
A Story of Terrorist Violence

“Rarely has so much been written about so few”, is something that already was said thirty years ago about the Red Army Faction (RAF).

Petra Terhoeven doesn’t present yet another chronicle of events rather she uses the most advanced current research to explain how a terrorist group emerged from the urban guerilla experiments of a small minority of radicalized „68ers“. The RAF not only sparked a profound disruptive moment in German post-war history, but also still holds a morbid fascination long after its political failure.

Petra Terhoeven is professor of European culture and contemporary history at the University of Göttingen.

Jürgen Heyde
A History of Poland
Updated Edition

In a study that has now become a classic, Jürgen Heyde provides an overview of the more than thousand-year history of Poland.

Alongside the political, societal, and cultural development of this country, special attention is paid to the representation of the European dimensions of Polish history as well as the development of the German-Polish neighboring state relationship. For this new edition, the text has been thoroughly revised throughout and brought up to date.

Jürgen Heyde is a project manager and researcher at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe in Leipzig and associate professor at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg.
Eduard Mühle
The Slavs

Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Russians, Ukrainians, Croats, Bosnians, Serbs – these and several other peoples are referred to as „Slavs“.

But what do these nearly 250 million people have in common besides the similarities of their languages, what connects them? Eduard Mühle presents a brief and well-informed description of the history of the Slavic ethno-linguistic group from the 6th to the 20th century and points out both the real historical associations as well as the imagined commonalities that are still utilized for political purposes today.

Eduard Mühle is a professor of East Central European and Eastern European history at the Westfälischen Wilhelms University of Münster. He is the author of Die Piasten: Polen im Mittelalter (The Piasts: Poland in the Middle Ages, 2011), which has also been published in the C.H.Beck Wissen series.

Jürgen Kocka
A History of Capitalism
Revised Edition

Jürgen Kocka, one of the world’s leading experts on the topic, describes the most important forms and changes that commercial, industrial, and financial capitalism has gone through from the Middle Ages in Europe to today’s globalization.

In this comprehensive introduction, Kocka also asks what kind of light the recent crises have shone on capitalism and whether its history can teach us something about the present.

Jürgen Kocka is a retired professor of the history of the industrial world at the Free University of Berlin and is considered one of the most influential social historians of our time. He has been awarded the Leibniz Prize and the Holberg Prize for his outstanding achievements.
Mesopotamia was the land located between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.

Here one of the earliest forms of writing developed by pressing a stylus into wet clay to form wedge-shaped marks. Large numbers of these clay tablets, hardened in the fire of destruction, have been found intact and they bear invaluable witness to the history of cities and kingdoms such as Ur, Uruk, Akkad, Babylon, Mittani, and Assyria. Karen Radner recounts the fascinating history of this culture and community of states from their beginnings to the turning point in history at the start of the Common Era.

Karen Radner is the Humboldt Professor of Ancient History of the Near and Middle East at Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich.

Francis of Assisi is among the most fascinating saints.

Because of „The Canticle of the Sun“ and his sermon to the birds, he is considered the founder of a completely new, brotherly relationship to nature. Helmut Feld vividly describes the life of Francis, delves into his religious inner world, and explains why the Poverello and his order were recognized by the pope rather than branded as heretics. A new chapter on the history of the Franciscans rounds out this expanded volume.

Helmut Feld is honorary professor of historical theology at the Saarland University. His biography of Francis of Assisi (new edition 2014) is considered the definitive work of its kind.
Daniel Deckers
Wine
History and Enjoyment

From the religious rituals of the ancient Greeks and Romans to the global wine culture of the present day, this expert and entertaining book covers over three thousand years of wine history.

Daniel Deckers helps the reader become familiar with winegrowing and its regional conditions, the history of the wine trade and wine consumption, and, last but not least, wine as an endless source of enjoyment and inspiration. The world of wine, as this delightful introduction demonstrates, always provides an enlightening reflection of each time period.

Daniel Deckers is an editor at the Frankfurt Allgemeinen newspaper and a lecturer on the history of winegrowing and wine trade at the Hochschule Geisenheim University (Rheingau). C.H. Beck has also published Deckers’ Papst Franziskus. Wider die Trägheit des Herzens. Eine Biographie (Pope Francis. Against the Inertia of the Heart. A Biography, 2015).

Peter Wicke
Rock and Pop
From Elvis Presley to Lady Gaga
Updated Edition

This book tells the story of rock and pop music from its beginnings to the present day.

Bands, songs, styles, sound forms, and recording techniques are explored as well as changes in the music industry and the revolutions in youth culture that have accompanied the evolution of popular music since Elvis Presley arrived on the scene.

Peter Wicke is professor emeritus of the theory and history of popular music at the Humboldt University of Berlin.
Architectural theory concerns itself with the fundamental questions of building – from the ideal forms to the purpose of structures and the relationship between architect and society.

Dietrich Erben provides a concise, clear overview from the most important ideas that came out of Antiquity to the chorus of voices that inform present day discussions. Architectural theory is fed by the gaze and it can make silent structures speak, which makes this book a wonderfully exciting guide to appreciating architecture.

Dietrich Erben is a professor of the theory and history of architecture, art, and design at the Technical University of Munich. C.H. Beck has also published Erben’s Die Kunst des Barock (Baroque Art, 2008).

Claude Monet (1840–1926), known as the founder of Impressionism, is one of the most beloved painters of the 20th century.

Felix Krämer presents Monet as preparing the way for the modern, as the first “contemporary artist”. He conveys the particular fascination that his paintings inspire through their ability to capture a transitory moment with virtuosity, but also an incredible effortlessness. This book offers a concise overview of Monet’s life and work and also puts into perspective the influence his oeuvre had on the generations of artists who followed him.

Felix Krämer is the collection curator of modern art at the Städel Museum in Frankfurt.
**Epilepsy**
Symptoms – Causes – Treatment
Updated Edition

Epilepsy has become not only one of the most well-known, but also one of the most common chronic disorders.

Despite its spontaneous occurrence and its often seemingly ominous symptoms, today epilepsy is among the most treatable neurological disorders. Schneble begins with a historical account of the „holy disease“, describes the causes and triggers, and explains the drug and surgical options. The mental and social impact of epilepsy are considered as well as the steps an afflicted person might take to cope with this disorder.

**Dr. Hansjörg Schneble** is a specialist on childhood diseases and epilepsy. He directs the clinic for children and youth at the Epilepsy Center in Kork, Germany and until 2002 he was the medical director of the entire center. In 1998, he founded the world's only epilepsy museum in Kehl-Kork.
This lively and well-crafted novel explores the paradoxical and tragi-comic story of two brothers proving that just because you are well-adjusted, you can’t also be lost and being damaged doesn’t mean you can’t find happiness.

Botho and Arno van Dijk decide to take one last trip to the Belgian town of Doel, where their grandparents lived and where they spent many summer and Christmas holidays during their youth and childhood. Arno’s future wife has come along for the ride as well. Their adventure starts out carefree, but soon old grudges rise to the surface and so many repressed feelings are stirred up that the foundations of the brothers’ lives and their relationship to each other are shaken to the core.

It becomes clear that Arno is the more vulnerable brother and whatever happiness he has found with Anja will eventually be put in jeopardy. Botho is on his own search for Lenie, his childhood sweetheart. Although finding her doesn’t give him the peace of mind he was seeking. Melancholy and funny, intense and touching, My Brother’s Happiness is an irreverent romp through Belgium, Germany and Holland.

Stefan Ferdinand Etgeton was born in 1988 and lives in Berlin. He studied economics in Cologne, Warsaw, Utrecht, and Berlin. In 2015 he received the Evangelical Literature Prize, and the 2014 MDR Literary Contest jury prize and audience prize, and the top prize at the 2016 Wuppertal Biennale of Literature. C.H. Beck also published his first novel rucksackkometen (backpack comets, 2015).
Nina, a seventeen-year-old orphan, takes care of Sophia Molitor, who spends her days inside her beautiful, old villa pining for her husband Eugen, gone missing in China years ago.

Paul Arimond, protagonist of Scheuer’s previous novel „The Language of Birds“, is a soldier who has miraculously survived an attack in Afghanistan. He will recover and Nina will fall in love with him. Just like The Gray Hairs – a group of old men who observe and comment on everything that goes on in the surrounding small towns and villages – Nina sees everything happening in the Urf district. She constantly thinks about her disappeared brother, Gregor, as she discovers all the secrets, everyday goings-on, and hidden intrigue in this corner of Germany: A treasure trove of silver in the abandoned mine? Lünebach launched himself into outer space inside his own homemade space capsule? Sophisticated and thrilling, suggestive and poetic, Scheuer’s new novel reveals the dashed hopes and requited desires of a universe constantly in motion and revealing some of its secrets.

Norbert Scheuer was born in 1951 and lives in Eifel, Germany, where he works as a systems programmer. He has been the recipient of numerous literature prizes and his recent work includes the novels Peehs Liebe (Peeh’s Love, 2012) and Die Sprache der Vögel (The Language of Birds, 2015), nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize. His novel Überm Rauschen (The Sound of the Weir, 2009) was on the shortlist for the 2010 German Book Prize and also was named the 2010 Book of the City for Cologne and the surrounding region.
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