

**FOREIGN
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NEWS**

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2024
352 pages with
28 illustrations
and 2 maps
Hardcover
€ 26.00

- A book about the flight of Heinrich Mann, Anna Seghers, Franz Werfel, Hannah Arendt, Lion Feuchtwanger, Walter Benjamin and many others
- A richly detailed chronicle of courage, desperation and humanity
- Marseille 1940: where many writers and intellectuals crossed paths
- 'Februar 33' has sold 40,000 copies
- Digital reading copy available on NetGalley

English translation preempted to Polity Press

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Swedish translation rights sold to Modernista Group AB

Uwe Wittstock

Marseille 1940

The Great Flight of Literature

In flight from Hitler: when the writers left Europe

June 1940: Hitler's army has conquered France. The Gestapo are searching for Heinrich Mann and Franz Werfel, for Hannah Arendt, Lion Feuchtwanger and countless others who found asylum in France in 1933. Meanwhile, an American called Varian Fry is on his way to Marseille to save as many of them as he can. Uwe Wittstock tells the disturbing story of their flight and the deadly dangers surrounding it.

1940 is the most dramatic year in German literary history. In Nice, Heinrich Mann listens to the news on Radio London as the air raid sirens sound. Anna Seghers flees Paris on foot with her children. Lion Feuchtwanger is a prisoner in a French internment camp as the SS units draw nearer. They all eventually end up in Marseille, hoping to find a route to freedom. This is where Walter Benjamin hands over his last essay to Hannah Arendt before setting out to flee across the Pyrenees. Many German and Austrian writers, intellectuals and artists cross paths here. And this is also where Varian Fry and his comrades risk life and limb to try and smuggle them out of France. Uwe Wittstock's rich scene-setting and sensitive narrative tell a story of incredible courage and profound desperation, of defiant hope, and of humanity in dark times.

'Dear Feuchtwanger, we need courage today. What percentage of hope do you give us?'
'How much hope? Five percent.'

Uwe Wittstock is an author and journalist and was the editor of Focus until 2018. Before that he worked as literary editor for FAZ, as an editor at S. Fischer and as deputy editor of the features section and cultural correspondent for Die Welt. He has been awarded the Theodor Wolff Prize for Journalism. His bestseller 'Februar 33. Der Winter der Literatur' was published by C.H.Beck in 2021 and has been translated into nine languages.

René Aguigah

James Baldwin

The Witness - A Portrait

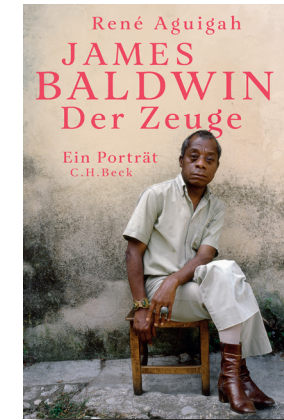
René Aguigah's brilliant portrait of James Baldwin

2 August 2024 marks 100 years since James Baldwin's birth

James Baldwin (1924-1987) is one of the most important writers of the 20th century. During his lifetime, his novels 'Giovanni's Room' and 'The Fire Next Time' made him famous and earned him a place on the cover of Time Magazine. But Baldwin was Black and gay, the society in which he lived racist and homophobic. Out of this tension, a unique body of work was born. This work threw open the gates to the generations of activists that came after him.

In his elegantly written portrait, Baldwin expert René Aguigah traces Baldwin's life from his upbringing in poverty in Harlem to his move to Paris, as he fled the everyday racism he experienced in the USA. He also depicts Baldwin's rapid rise to become a sought-after speaker, and his relationships with Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. Above all, however, Aguigah's essayistic book looks at what Baldwin can still teach us today. He explores the relationship between Baldwin's artistry and his activism, the tension between his literary work and his politics, his advocacy for minorities and his universalist convictions. In his novels and essays, Baldwin, who was so very familiar with hate, sticks to love as a source of hope. Aguigah portrays him as a witness to an era of violence and injustice that are still with us today.

René Aguigah is a cultural journalist and head of the department of literature, philosophy and religion at Deutschlandfunk Kultur.



2024
208 pages with
6 illustrations
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€ 24.00

- 'You gave me a language to dwell in.'
- Toni Morrison, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, on James Baldwin
- An eloquent witness to violence and injustice
- The hope of love in times of hate



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320 pages with
30 illustrations
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€ 28.00

- 'You only find out what life is once you surrender to it without reservation.'
- Franziska zu Reventlow
- In search of a life free from constraints
- Covers the period from 1880 to the First World War
- Else Lasker-Schüler
Edvard Munch
Franziska zu Reventlow
George Sand
August Strindberg
Frank Wedekind
and many more

Andreas Schwab

Freedom, Intoxication and Black Cats A History of Bohemian Life

Paris, Vienna, Munich and Berlin - the wild life of Bohemians

Else Lasker-Schüler, Richard Dehmel, Edvard Munch, Oda Krogh, Henri Murger, Franziska zu Reventlow, August Strindberg, Frank Wedekind – they all belonged to the bohemian world, that artistic subculture which developed in the last third of the 19th century in Paris, Vienna, Munich and Berlin, and which – due to its permissive way of life, rebellious spirit and not least its precarious financial circumstances – clashed with bourgeois society. This book tells its story.

Bohemian life revolutionised ideas about what constituted a good life – less in texts and manifestoes than in day-to-day life with all its ambivalences. Andreas Schwab paints a portrait not only of the writers and artists, the men and women of the bohemian world who started this lifestyle revolution, but also of the places where they met: the 'Schwarze Ferkel' pub in Berlin, the 'Chat Noir' in Paris's Montmartre, the 'Café Stefanie' and the cabaret 'Die Elf Scharfrichter' in Munich. He produces a richly atmospheric description of bohemian life, illustrating the fascination people felt and still feel for it to this day.

Andreas Schwab is an author and exhibition organiser and the mayor of Bremgarten near Bern. He has written books about the Monte Verità and the land cooperative Longo mai. His book 'Zeit der Aussteiger. Eine Reise zu den Künstlerkolonien von Barbizon bis Monte Verità' (2021) is also published by C.H.Beck.

W. Daniel Wilson

Goethe and the Jews

Fascination and Hostility

Goethe's Dark Side

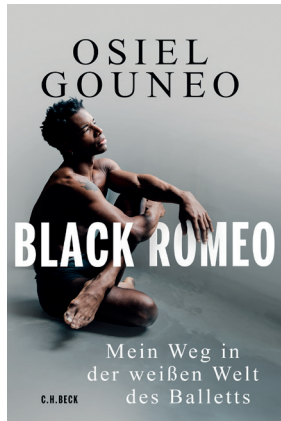
Goethe and the Jews – the topic has been largely avoided in recent decades. But Goethe's relationship with the Jews of his day was highly ambivalent. Along with a certain fascination, he also harboured prejudices and – especially in his later years – downright hostility, although he only expressed this in private. Drawing on previously unstudied sources, renowned Goethe scholar W. Daniel Wilson reveals a problematic side to Goethe's life and work.

'According to old laws, Jews are not allowed to stay overnight in Jena. This commendable decree should certainly be upheld in future, better than it has been until now.' Goethe expressed this view in a letter in 1816. In his public statements and activities he usually portrayed himself as a friend to the Jews, so as not to alienate his many Jewish admirers. But, particularly from 1876 onwards, he was firmly opposed to Jewish emancipation. This attitude was only seemingly in conflict with his friendly interactions with several erudite Jews. W. Daniel Wilson asks how we should judge Goethe's views in a contemporary context, and explains who Goethe actually thought of as 'Jewish'. Wilson shows us Goethe the writer and theatre director, the politician and private individual, and paints a nuanced portrait which nevertheless does not shy away from clear judgements.

W. Daniel Wilson was Professor of German Studies at Berkeley from 1983 to 2005, and at the University of London from 2006 to 2019. He has written many notable books on Goethe, including his widely read book on Goethe as a politician: 'Das Goethe-Tabu. Protest und Menschenrechte im klassischen Weimar'.



2024
288 pages with
20 illustrations
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€ 28.00



2024
300 pages with
10 illustrations
Hardcover
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- 'Equal treatment of people of all ethnicities and genders should be as normal as breathing in and out. In ballet, unfortunately, it is not.'
- From the slums of Cuba to the pinnacle of the European ballet world
- A story of ascendancy and empowerment
- Osiel Gouneo is currently principal dancer with the Bavarian State Ballet in Munich
- Book launch in collaboration with the Bavarian State Ballet in Munich in March 2024

Osiel Gouneo

Black Romeo

My Journey in the White World of Ballet

Havana to Paris: an Afro-Cuban in the White World of Ballet

Osiel Gouneo is one of the greatest ballet dancers of our time. His athleticism and the technical perfection of his pirouettes and jumps are so outstanding that even professional colleagues wonder how this is possible. The Afro-Cuban is also one of the few Black principal dancers in the white world of classical ballet.

He was the first Black Romeo at the Paris Opera, and he was crowned dancer of the year in Germany for his interpretation of the slave Spartacus. Although these successes are pivotal moments on his journey to becoming a star ballet dancer, he says: 'I am not a Black ballet dancer, I am a ballet dancer.' This is surprising partly because his grandparents were slaves in Cuba in the early 20th century, and he himself has repeatedly experienced racism during his rise through the world of ballet. Osiel Gouneo's autobiography is not only an incredible success story but also an eye-opening and important contribution in times of hysterical discussions about cancel culture and cultural appropriation.

Osiel Gouneo was born in Matanzas in Cuba in 1990, and began his training at the Cuban National Ballet School in Havana in 2005. In 2008 he joined the Cuban National Ballet. He then danced with the Norwegian National Ballet for three years, and since the 2016/2017 season he has been principal dancer with the Bavarian State Ballet. Among other guest appearances, he danced Romeo in Rudolf Nureyev's 'Romeo and Juliet' with the Paris Opera Ballet in June 2021.

Philipp Lenhard

Café Marx

The Institute for Social Research From Its Beginnings to the Era of the Frankfurt School

Adorno, Horkheimer, Marcuse: the new history of the Frankfurt School

Café Marx: this was the nickname given by both its friends and its enemies to the Institute for Social Research. And indeed, critical theory and the Frankfurt School have their origins in an engagement with Marxism. Drawing on a wide range of sources, Philipp Lenhard tells the story of the people, networks, ideas and places that shaped the Institute and were shaped by it in turn. He illustrates vividly why the Frankfurt School, more than any other institution, came to define the major intellectual debates of the 20th century.

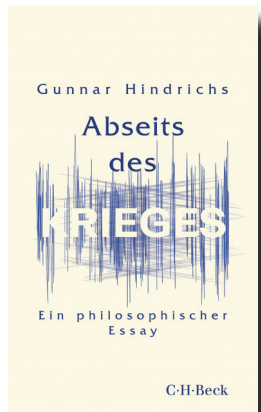
The Institute for Social Research, which opened in 1924, was something special right from the start. It had its roots in the trenches of the First World War and on the barricades of the revolution. Felix Weil, the communist son of an entrepreneur, had helped to found this new research institute which attracted workers and students, politicians and artists, scientists and intellectuals alike. Another special thing about it was the fact that the Institute was able to continue its work after 1933 in spite of closure, persecution and exile. Key works like the 'Dialectic of Enlightenment' were written in California. Philipp Lenhard explores the emergence of critical theory in American exile, and shows how it developed into the Frankfurt School in the early days of the German Federal Republic. Full of surprising insights, this book concisely and vividly illustrates the historical context in which Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Benjamin and many others became key figures of the 20th century.

Philipp Lenhard is DAAD Professor of History and German at the University of California, Berkeley. His last book was entitled 'Friedrich Pollock. Die graue Eminenz der Frankfurter Schule' (2019).



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624 pages with
6 illustrations
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€ 34.00

- 'Progress occurs where it ends.' - Theodor W. Adorno
- The first up-to-date history of the Frankfurt School in decades
- New perspectives: the women of the Frankfurt School, Jewish employees, places of exile
- The author transports the reader to the most important settings, in masterful fashion
- Based on extensive archival research



2024
112 pages
Softcover with
flaps
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- 'In truth, war is a sickness in which the saps that ensure our health and survival are used to nourish something alien, something that goes against nature.'
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- A philosophical essay about war and peace in the present day
- A story of ascendancy and empowerment
- 10 related essays show how military violence has changed in our modern world
- Featuring a discussion of important points of contention in the history of philosophy
- How can philosophy help to bring about peace?

Gunnar Hindrichs

Beyond War

A Philosophical Essay

Thinking about war - how we can get closer to peace

With the military escalations of the recent past, the multiple crises of our society have reached a new peak. Therefore we need to re-examine what defines war today. In ten related short essays, Gunnar Hindrichs engages in a philosophical reflection on the self-determination of war, in the particular context of our time.

There is no such thing as a philosophy of war. But it is possible to identify basic categories as lenses through which to view our warlike present – world history, law, power, self-preservation, heroes, institutions and others. Philosophical reflection must not allow itself to be conscripted. Instead, it must take place in the space beyond war: philosophy cannot become party to war, nor can it remain neutral. For behind all its reflections stands an unspoken 'No' to war. By following this path, it tries to get closer to the aim of all reflections about war: peace.

Gunnar Hindrichs is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Basel. In 2007 he was awarded the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences' Academy Prize. His recent publications include 'Zur kritischen Theorie' (2020), 'Philosophie der Revolution' (2017) and 'Die Autonomie des Klangs. Eine Philosophie der Musik' (2014).

Günter Zöller

A History of Political Philosophy

From Antiquity to the Present Day

Political philosophy from antiquity to the present day - an introduction

The history of political philosophy mirrors political history. Günter Zöller guides us through two and a half millennia of philosophical thought about politics – from Greek and Roman antiquity to the European Middle Ages and the modern era, right up to the recent past and the present day.

In each of the book's fourteen geographically and historically organised chapters, Zöller introduces three philosophers as well as their classic texts, in a clear and concise way. His focus is always on the fascinating interplay between political history and political philosophy: political philosophy is both a direct reflection of the conditions of the time but also a critical reflection on them. The leitmotif of this overview is thus the ambivalent character of political philosophy, which lies somewhere between historical dependency and supra-historical aspirations.

'Man is a political animal.' - Aristotle

Günter Zöller is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Ludwig Maximilian University Munich. His books 'Hegels Philosophie. Eine Einführung' (2020) and 'Philosophie des 19. Jahrhunderts. Von Kant bis Nietzsche' (2018) have recently been published in the C.H.Beck Wissen series.



2024
368 pages
Paperback
€ 22.00

- A compact, accessible overview of the most important thinkers and concepts in political philosophy
- For students, teachers, and anyone interested in politics



2024
624 pages with
10 illustrations
Hardcover
€ 32.00

- 'In view of the chaos that previously reigned in Chile, the word 'order' suddenly takes on a sweet sound for the Chileans once again.' - Franz Josef Strauß after Pinochet's coup in 1973
- One of the most explosive issues of our time: dealing with dictatorships like China or Iran
- Previously unexamined material from the German Federal Archive, the archives of the BND and Amnesty International
- A revealing look behind the scenes of foreign policy and economic relationships
- What protests and sanctions against dictatorships can achieve – and what they cannot

Frank Bösch

Deals with Dictatorships

Talking to Dictators - An Alternative History of Germany

Dealing with dictators – from right-wing generals to communist general secretaries to the autocrats of the 'Third World' – is a challenge faced by German federal democracy since its beginnings. Frank Bösch shows, based on extensive archival research, which interests were at play both publicly and in the backrooms, and which official and obscure channels were used to engineer various deals. He describes how the public were affected, how they reacted and how, under social pressure, values and sanctions gradually came to play a more important role in the process. His brilliant account is an eye-opening 'alternative' history of Germany.

December 1964: the Congolese Prime Minister Tschombe is received with pomp and circumstance in Berlin. Demonstrators storm the barriers. The 'murderer of Lumumba' gets a tomato 'right in the face', as Rudi Dutschke notes with satisfaction. For Dutschke, this was the 'beginning of our culture revolution'. In the 1950s, people had cheered the 'emperors' from Iran and Ethiopia – but in the 1960s, protests by migrant opponents, anticolonial groups and Amnesty International led to a more values-based diplomacy with dictators. In this brilliantly written book, Frank Bösch shows how, in the decades following the Nazi era, economic, political and civic interests intersected in Germany's dealings with dictators, and how the contradictions and consequences of this still affect us to this day.

Frank Bösch is Professor of European Twentieth Century History at the University of Potsdam and director of the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary Research (ZZF). His Spiegel Bestseller 'Zeitenwende 1979. Als die Welt von heute begann' (2019, C.H.Beck Paperback 2020) is also published by C.H.Beck.

Carlos Alberto Haas, Lars Lehmann, Brigitte Reinwald and David Simo (editors)

The Foreign Office and the Colonies

History, Memory, Legacy

New perspectives on German colonial history

With their study on the Nazi history of the Foreign Office, Eckart Conze, Norbert Frei and others earned widespread recognition. This book looks at the Foreign Office as a key player in German colonialism, responding to the new urgency now being accorded to an engagement with Germany's colonial past – for reasons of historical justice but also in light of the changing global situation.

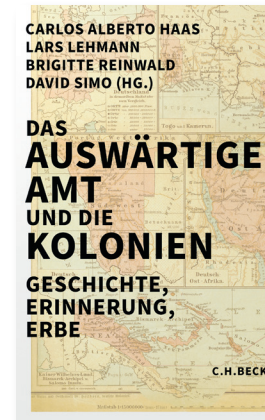
Few institutions still in existence today played as pivotal a role in German colonial history to 1918/19 as the Foreign Office. Even now it has significant involvement in finding appropriate ways to address the country's colonial past. Against this backdrop, 'The Foreign Office and the Colonies' analyses the role of the Foreign Office in German colonial history and puts it into the wider social, cultural and political context. It covers much of the 20th century and also looks at the period of the Weimar Republic and the Nazi era, as well as the decades following 1945. The authors focus not only on Germany but also on the societies affected by colonialism in Africa, Asia and Oceania. In this way they make an important contribution to the controversial debate about colonial legacies in a global world.

Carlos Alberto Haas was a research assistant at the Munich-Berlin Institute of Contemporary History, and since April 2020 he has served as an academic advisor in the history department of LMU Munich.

Lars Lehmann is academic coordinator of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences' Schelling Forum at the University of Würzburg.

Brigitte Reinwald is Professor of African History in the history department at Leibniz University Hannover. April 2020 he has served as an academic advisor in the history department of LMU Munich.

David Simo is Emeritus Professor of German Studies at the Université de Yaoundé in Cameroon. He has been awarded the Reimar Lüst Prize by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Fritz Thyssen Foundation.



2024
608 pages with
20 illustrations
Hardcover
€ 36.00

- The Foreign Office and its colonial legacy - examined for the first time
- German colonial history is currently the subject of much debate
- There is still too little awareness of German colonial crimes
- New perspectives for a postcolonial era
- The authors hail from Germany and from the former colonies



2024
688 pages
Hardcover
€ 44.00

- The first comprehensive study of universities in the Third Reich
- The culmination of 30 years' worth of research by a leading expert
- Victims or perpetrators? Institutions and individuals on a spectrum from enforced conformity to enthusiastic collaboration
- What do prominent thought leaders such as Martin Heidegger and Carl Schmitt reveal about universities in the Third Reich?
- The universities: Berlin | Bonn | Breslau | Erlangen | Frankfurt am Main | Freiburg | Gießen | Göttingen | Graz | Greifswald | Halle | Hamburg | Heidelberg | Innsbruck | Jena | Kiel | Cologne | Königsberg | Leipzig | Marburg | Munich | Münster | Rostock | Tübingen | Vienna | Würzburg | 'Reich universities' Posen and Strasbourg

Michael Grüttner

Cap, Gown and Swastika

The Universities during the Third Reich

The universities during the Third Reich - the first overview

For a long time, Germany's universities have been seen primarily as victims of the Nazi regime. Only gradually and reluctantly have people started to realize that this is not the whole story. Since then, many studies have been published on individual universities, disciplines and academics. In this book, based on years of studying the source material, Michael Grüttner has produced the first overview of universities in the Third Reich.

The 23 universities that existed in Germany at the end of the Weimar Republic were subjected to extensive 'cleansing' after 1933; the main targets were students and academics of Jewish descent. This 'takeover' from above corresponded to a 'takeover' from below: many professors joined the Party and some, like Martin Heidegger and Carl Schmitt, tried to position themselves as thought leaders of the Nazi regime. Michael Grüttner paints a haunting portrait of this surprisingly silent takeover, describes the Nazis' university policies, which had very different implications for different subjects, and explains why academic disciplines did not all become less free in the service of National Socialism; some actually gained a broader scope for action than before. This was the case in the field of medical experiments on human beings, for example. An epilogue on the aftermath of the Nazi era concludes this masterful and long-overdue history.

Michael Grüttner taught modern history in Hamburg, Berlin and Berkeley. Since publishing his book 'Studenten im Dritten Reich' (1995), he has focused on the universities during the Third Reich and on Nazi policies on academia. He wrote the volume on the Third Reich from 1933 to 1939 (2015) for the 'Gebhardt', the most important handbook of German history.

Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk

Walter Ulbricht

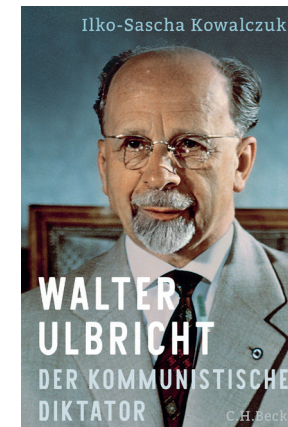
The Communist Dictator

How the GDR became what it was

The first volume of Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk's monumental Ulbricht biography was extremely well received. Now, the second volume shows how the German communist became a communist dictator. Kowalczuk's study is a definitive work for many years to come: on Walter Ulbricht, but also on the history of the GDR and German communism.

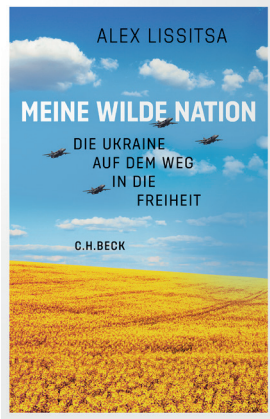
From the spring of 1945 onwards, Ulbricht pursued his long-cherished dream of creating a communist Germany and, as Stalin's most important man in Germany, became the true founder of the GDR – even though he was not formally appointed as the GDR's highest-ranking official until 1960. He managed to assert his power again and again, including during the uprising of 17 June 1953 which was motivated by opposition to his rule. When his authority was in danger again in 1960/61, he built the Wall. After this, Ulbricht reinvented himself and tried to make limited changes to the GDR as 'father of the nation', but this attempt was thwarted by his conservative opponents in the upper echelons of the SED. This powerful Moscow-backed group was not responsible for Ulbricht's fall in 1970/71, however – for by this time he was old and ill. Kowalczuk's biography traces all these political developments in a precise way, drawing extensively on the source material, as well as showing how Ulbricht lived outside of the Party protocol, who the most important people around him were, and why the history of the GDR and of communism cannot be understood without a knowledge of his biography.

Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk is a historian, journalist and research assistant at the Hamburg Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Culture. He is one of Germany's most renowned experts on the history of the GDR and communism. His books '101 Fragen: DDR' (2009), 'Endspiel. Die Revolution von 1989 in der DDR' (2009, C.H.Beck Paperback 2015), '17. Juni 1953' (2013), 'Stasi konkret' (2013), 'Die Übernahme' (2019) and 'Walter Ulbricht. Der deutsche Kommunist' (2023) are also published by C.H.Beck.



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880 pages with
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- 'Kowalczuk's Ulbricht is a boon to historiography.' - Alexander Cammann, Die Zeit
- The first comprehensive scholarly biography
- What led to the founding of the GDR, the popular uprising of 1953, the building of the Wall in 1961, and Ulbricht's fall from power in 1971
- Based on extensive archival research
- Many sources analysed for the first time
- Written in a highly readable style
- By one of the leading scholars of the history of German communism and the GDR



2024
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2 maps
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- 'My Ukraine is a wild and contradictory nation, but it is on the right road, the road to Europe.'
- A Ukrainian journey through the war
- A vivid account that makes you feel as if you were really there
- An open and unfiltered portrait of the country
- Alex Lissitsa has been campaigning for the westernisation of his country for years
- His position gives him invaluable insights into Ukrainian politics and society
- A Ukrainian voice – also for German talk shows

Alex Lissitsa

My Wild Nation

Ukraine on the Path to Freedom

Life in peacetime and wartime - a Ukrainian's portrait of his country

For far too long, Germany has taken very little interest in Ukraine. This has changed now, but there is still a lack of knowledge about the country and its people. Ukrainian entrepreneur Alex Lissitsa tells his story and simultaneously paints a portrait of Ukraine as a country that is not only on its way to becoming part of Europe, but which also has much to offer us.

Alex Lissitsa is CEO of one of Ukraine's biggest agricultural producers and has an intimate knowledge of Ukrainian society and politics. On 23 February he hears of the impending Russian attack from a friend in the secret service. Thus begins an odyssey through the war – which is the unifying thread of this book. But Lissitsa also looks to the past, and explores the history and the present of his 'wild nation'. He weaves his own experience into an analysis of historical trends, turning points, key decisions and missed opportunities since 1991. He describes his first-hand experience of his country's path through the post-Soviet turmoil and the adventures of casino capitalism, right up to the outbreak of war. He tells of generation upon generation of oligarchs, and of the country's battle with endemic corruption. His view of Ukraine is openminded, good-humoured, sometimes brutally honest, but always underpinned by hope – a hope nourished by the willpower and resourcefulness of the Ukrainian people, who do not want to miss their chance at freedom and democracy.

Alex Lissitsa is director of the Ukrainian IMC agricultural holding company and one of the best-known agriculturalists in Ukraine. He is an internationally sought-after expert on agricultural and food production and has an intimate knowledge of Ukraine. Lissitsa did his doctorate at the Humboldt University in Berlin and speaks fluent German.

Michael Thumann

Revenge

How Putin Created the Most Dangerous Regime in the World

Michael Thumann's bestseller

With a new chapter on the current situation

In his Spiegel Bestseller, Die Zeit's Moscow correspondent Michael Thumann gives a breath-taking account of Russia's descent into increasingly totalitarian dictatorship and the path to Putin's imperialist war, viewed from within.

What drives the dictator and his followers is a desire for revenge: revenge for the way Eastern Europe was opened up to democracy after 1991, and for the supposed humiliation it suffered at the hands of the West. Putin's rule is becoming ever more radical. His is the most dangerous regime in the world. This thoroughly revised and updated paperback edition includes previously unpublished insights into Putin's relationship with the radical nationalists in his own country, and the stability of his rule following the rebellion and the death of his opponent Prigozhin.

Michael Thumann is a foreign policy correspondent for Die Zeit and lives in Moscow. He has been reporting for Die Zeit from Russia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East since the 1990s. His articles, podcasts and books about Russia as a multi-ethnic state and Putin's new nationalism have given us a better understanding of the country. He has been familiar with Russia since his student days, when he spent time at Lomonosov University in Moscow.



2024
301 pages
16 illustrations
Paperback
€ 16.00

- 'A magnificent book about recent contemporary history – brilliantly written.' - ndr Kultur
- SPIEGEL bestseller author
- 40,000 copies sold in hardback
- With a new chapter on the stability of Putin's rule following the rebellion and Prigozhin's death
- Michael Thumann is Die Zeit's Moscow correspondent and a leading expert on Russia
- 'An astute, eye-opening book.' - Denis Scheck



2024
256 pages with
10 illustrations
Softcover with
flaps
€ 18.00

- 'Take that cheerful look off your face, stop grinning from ear to ear. I see you're in a happy mood, but that's not how we do things here.'
- Song lyrics from 'Russia for the Melancholy'
- Why is there so little resistance to Putin's brutal war?
- How does Russian society work?
- The historical cycle of violence and lies – and how it can be broken
- By a journalist with many years' experience in this field
- An important resource for understanding present-day Russia
- A striking panorama, sensitively written and human.

Julian Hans

Children of Violence

A Portrait of Russia in Five Crimes

Russian noir – a portrait of a society in five crimes

The Russian army's war crimes and the atrocities committed by the invaders against the civilian population in Ukraine show a level of violence nobody would have thought possible in 21st century Europe. Shocked, we ask ourselves why so many Russians are willing to be complicit in this, and why there is not more resistance within Russia?

Even once Putin is out of the Kremlin, Russian society will not change overnight. These are people who have been demeaned their whole lives, and who are therefore more than willing to demean others. People who have never had the experience of their own lives being protected and respected, and who therefore find it hard to feel respect and compassion for others. People who have learned there is no truth that cannot be overturned and replaced with its opposite from one day to the next. Julian Hans explores the interplay of fear, violence and lies in Russia through the lens of five criminal cases – a brutal gang terrorises a small town, young 'cop killers' become national heroes, three sisters kill their tyrannical father, a grandchild accuses his great-grandfather's executioner, and a torture victim overcomes hatred. He also explains what could help Russian society break out of these patterns of violence that have become ingrained over the course of generations.

Julian Hans was Süddeutsche Zeitung's Moscow correspondent for many years. He lives in Munich and works as a freelance journalist.

Karl-Heinz Kohl

Nine Cultures

The Legacy of Indigenous Peoples and the Roots of Modernity

What the West Owes to Indigenous Cultures

What do Montaigne's cultural critiques and American democracy, Freud's totemism theory and Lévi-Strauss' structuralism, Brücke painters and Surrealists, and hippies and the sexual revolution have in common? Karl-Heinz Kohl shows, using the examples of nine different cultures, how these and many other theories, avantgardes and emancipation movements were shaped by a fascinated view of indigenous peoples – often the same ones.

Since the first great voyages of discovery, Europeans have been captivated by reports of foreign lands and peoples. Their social systems have inspired protest movements. Their art has inspired the European avantgarde. And ethnographic descriptions have led to a glut of theories – from Friedrich Engels' materialist conception of history to postcolonial 'anthropophagism' – some of which shape our view of humanity to this day. Karl-Heinz Kohl explains why the West has found its alter-ego in nine cultures in particular. He looks at reports of these peoples, illustrating vividly how they turned European culture on its head for 200 years, and shows using many surprising examples how the indigenous cultures themselves were also altered in the process.

Karl-Heinz Kohl is Emeritus Professor of Cultural Studies and Ethnology at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main and a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. From 1996 to 2016 he was director of the Frobenius Institute for research into cultural anthropology. His introduction 'Ethnologie' (2012) and 'Die Macht der Dinge' (2003) are also published by C.H.Beck.



2024
320 pages
Hardcover
€ 32.00

- 'Simultaneously ultra-modern and ultra-archaic, uncannily familiar and mysterious.' - William B. Seabrook on the art of the Dogon people, 1931
- Avantgardes, subcultures, emancipation movements: how indigenous peoples' worlds have shaped modernity.
- From Pablo Picasso to Ernst Ludwig Kirchner: the cultures of indigenous peoples and the art of the modern era
- From Sigmund Freud to Bruce Chatwin: nine indigenous peoples who have changed Western thought
- An important contribution to the debate about cultural appropriation
- The nine indigenous peoples:
 1. Tupinambá (Brazil)
 2. Iroquois (USA)
 3. Aranda (Australia)
 4. Bororo (Brazil)
 5. Palau (Micronesia)
 6. Kwakiutl (Canada)
 7. Hopi (USA)
 8. Samoa (Polynesia)
 9. Dogon (Mali)



2024
352 pages with
24 illustrations
and 1 map
Hardcover
€ 29.90

- 'Inspire me, inflame me, ignite me, distil me, dissolve me in liquid, turn me into sap!' - Giordano Bruno
- The adventurous life of the most famous heretic and greatest freethinker of the modern era
- The first Giordano Bruno biography for decades
- Based on new archival research into the various places where Bruno stayed
- A re-evaluation of Bruno's heresy trial based on the study of Vatican Inquisition files

Volker Reinhardt

The One Who Reached for the Stars

Giordano Bruno

A Heretical Life

Admired, persecuted, burnt – the life and death of a famous heretic

Nobody was more free and yet more persecuted than Giordano Bruno (1548-1600), who believed that the infinite cosmos has space for a multitude of worlds and that human thought also has no limits. With this message he travelled all over Europe, trying to unify a world that had been torn apart by religious 'follies'. Volker Reinhardt draws on new sources to trace Bruno's journey. His biography of this fascinating freethinker is also a portrait of an inquisitorial, dogmatic century that should serve as a warning to us today.

Giordano Bruno travelled to the stars in his thoughts. And his life on Earth was an incredible tour of the intellectual and religious centres of Europe: Geneva, Toulouse, Paris, Oxford, London, Wittenberg, Prague, Zurich... Everywhere he went, this intelligent disbeliever of all religious truths was received as a scholar, and sooner or later driven out as a heretic. He eventually ended up in Venice, where he fell into the clutches of the Inquisition. He was sent to Rome and there, after being imprisoned for several years, he was burned at the stake in 1600. Volker Reinhardt offers a new reading of Bruno's writing, traces his wanderings from place to place, and analyses newly discovered documents about his trial at the hands of the Roman Inquisition, which is revealed to be a coldblooded judicial murder.

Volker Reinhardt is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Fribourg. His bestseller 'Die Macht der Seuche' (C.H.Beck Paperback 2022), the acclaimed book 'Die Macht der Schönheit. Kulturgeschichte Italiens' (2022) and 'Montaigne. Philosophie in Zeiten des Krieges' (2023) are also published by C.H.Beck. Volker Reinhardt was awarded the Kythera Cultural Foundation Prize for his life's work in 2020.

Johannes Willms

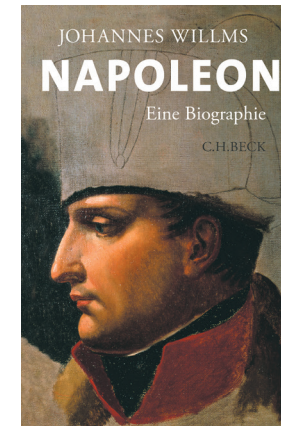
Napoleon A Biography

Johannes Willms' definitive work is available again

This is the first comprehensive biography of Napoleon by a German historian in over a hundred years. For his magnificent portrait of probably the most famous commander in world history, Johannes Willms draws on his decades of work on the history of France. His book depicts the breathtaking life of a man who came from nothing and within a few years had risen to become the ruler of France and Europe, but also paints a panoramic picture of an entire age.

'Willms gifts the reader this story of a life, a story you read as breathlessly as if its 839 pages were a newspaper article; and when you get to the end of the chapter on St Helena, you just want to go straight back to Corsica: again!' - Nils Minkmar, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Johannes Willms (1948 - 2022) a journalist and historian. He published many books, mainly on the history of France, including 'Der General. Charles de Gaulle und sein Jahrhundert' (2023), 'Mirabeau oder die Morgenröte der Revolution' (2017) and 'Louis XIV. Der Sonnenkönig und seine Zeit' (2023).



2024
848 pages with
26 illustrations
Hardcover
€ 36.00



2024
464 pages with
5 maps
Paperback
€ 18.00

- 'This knowledgeable, well-written and measured book is essential reading for anyone wanting to acquire a sound knowledge of Ukraine.' - Reinhard Vesper, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
- Updated edition with a new afterword
- The definitive work on Ukrainian history

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Andreas Kappeler

A Short History of Ukraine

9th updated edition

'The best book ever written in German on the national history of Ukraine.' - Tobias Rapp, Der Spiegel

Ukraine is the second-largest nation in Europe, but until the Russian invasion in February 2022 it occupied a much smaller place in the German national consciousness than Russia – and the same was true of its history. This definitive work by renowned Eastern Europe historian Andreas Kappeler sets out to remedy this.

The book explains the most important events and their context, provides a Ukrainian perspective as a counter to the Russia-centric one that still prevails, and looks critically at some of Ukraine's national myths. The book not only explores the history of Ukrainians from the Middle Ages to the present day, but also addresses the history of Poles, Russians, Jews and Germans living in Ukraine. It includes a new preface and a new afterword.

Andreas Kappeler is a leading historian of Eastern Europe and Emeritus Professor of Eastern European History at the University of Vienna and a member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. His books 'Russland als Vielvölkerreich' (2008), 'Die Kosaken' (2013), 'Russische Geschichte' (2022) and 'Ungleiche Brüder' (2023) are also published by C.H. Beck.

Uwe Wittstock

February '33

The Winter of Literature

Uwe Wittstock's bestseller – now in paperback

It all happened so fast. February 1933 was the month that decided the fate of Germany's writers. Uwe Wittstock gives a day-by-day account of how, in the space of just a few weeks, the glamorous literary life of the Weimar Republic gave way to a long winter, and how the net closed around Thomas Mann, Bertolt Brecht, Else Lasker-Schüler, Alfred Döblin and many others.

Monday, 30 January. Joseph Roth does not want to wait around in Berlin for the news that the day will bring. And so, early in the morning, he goes to the station and takes the train to Paris. Thomas Mann in Munich, meanwhile, will pay little attention to politics over the next ten days: he is focused on his lecture about Richard Wagner. Drawing on a wealth of detail about the personal lives of his subjects, Uwe Wittstock pieces together the dangerous events immediately following Hitler's 'takeover', which plunged Germany – including its writers – into crisis. He paints a vivid picture of the atmosphere during those days: the fear and self-deception among Germany's writers, the passivity of some, the determination of others. Who would cosy up to the country's new rulers? And who would have to flee in fear of their lives? Based on archive material (some of it unpublished), Uwe Wittstock paints an incredibly detailed picture of a dark time.

Uwe Wittstock is an author and journalist and was the editor of Focus until 2018. Before that he worked as literary editor for FAZ, as an editor at S. Fischer and as deputy editor of the features section and cultural correspondent for Die Welt. He has been awarded the Theodor Wolff Prize for Journalism.



2024
288 pages with
30 illustrations
Paperback
€ 16.00

- 'A shockingly exciting book.' - Elke Heidenreich, Spiegel Online
- 'Gripping and alarming: Germany's transformation into a hellscape of dictatorship and terror.' - Sten Nadolny
- 'A great account of the downfall of a great literary epoch.' - Hilmar Klute, Süddeutsche Zeitung
- 'The danger posed by literature and journalism to authoritarian regimes is at the very heart of this book.' - Stephan Lamby
- 'A snapshot of the bleakest period in German literary history, illuminated by the genius of a keenly attentive author.' - Jan Küveler, Literarische Welt

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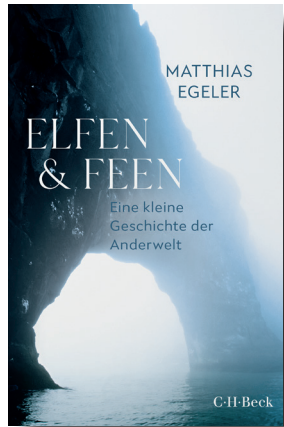
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2024
192 pages with
14 illustrations
and 2 maps
Paperback
€ 20.00

- 'There is a place called Álfheimr (Elfhome). In this place live a folk called the Light Elves, but Dark Elves live under the ground.' - Snorri, Edda
- The world of fairies and elves from Iceland to Central Europe
- Big and small stories from the Otherworld – expertly explained and interpreted

Matthias Egeler

Elves and Fairies

A Little History of the Otherworld

From the nature spirits of Iceland and Ireland to Avalon and Dobby's kingdom

Which elves do you like best? The little flower fairies whose charms even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle succumbed to? Or do you prefer J.R.R. Tolkien's warlike elves, who are based on figures from medieval legends? Then there are the elves of the Icelandic 'elf commissioner' Erla Stefánsdóttir on the island of fire and ice in the far north. Or how about the house elves in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter novels? In this cultural history you can look forward to a magical tryst with the mythical creatures of Iceland, Ireland, Scotland and England, and their Central European cousins.

Matthias Egeler takes his readers on a journey through enchanted landscapes and literary worlds that are still inhabited by elves and fairies to this day. He describes both their friendly and their dangerous – even deadly – sides. We encounter them in the legends of King Arthur's round table and in Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, in the terrible era of the witch trials, in magic's peaceful conquest of bourgeois salons, in the child-friendly form of Peter Pan, and even as a helpers in the fight against environmental destruction. Elves and fairies – as this book shows – are a firm fixture of our Otherworld.

Matthias Egeler occupies a Heisenberg post at the Institute for Nordic Philology at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich.

Emran Feroz

Nothing New on the Western Front

A Muslim Life Between the Alps and the Hindu Kush

Why the West needs to get past its clichés about the Muslim world

Emran Feroz is an Afghan from Tyrol who now lives in Germany. Ever since his childhood he has moved between these worlds. In this book, Feroz tells the unique story of a life lived between the Alps and the Hindu Kush – and dismantles the dangerous clichés about the Muslim world that are so prevalent in the West.

Feroz's father came to Europe from Kabul by bus in the late 1970s. He was only coming to attend university, and was planning to go back to Afghanistan afterwards. But then the Soviets invaded his homeland, and so Feroz's father stayed in Tyrol: the first Afghan to make his home there. In the 1990s his son Emran, who grew up in Innsbruck, found that even knowing the national anthem off by heart and speaking Tyrolean dialect was not enough to make the locals accept him. While his Turkish and Croatian friends spent the school holidays in their parents' native countries, the Feroz family could not: war was still raging in Afghanistan. And after 9/11, Emran the Tyrolean suddenly became Emran the Afghan, an object of suspicion and a potential terrorist. Years later, as a journalist and human rights activist, he discovered the country which, according to other people, was supposed to be his homeland. This gave him a new, critical perspective on the West. In his book, Emran Feroz looks back on his childhood in Tyrol, tells the story of his diverse family and his political coming of age, and reveals the racism in the West's attitudes towards the Muslim world. The Taliban's return to power in Kabul and the new war in Gaza are widening a gulf that only a true unifier will be able to bridge.

Emran Feroz was born in 1991. He has been reporting on and from Afghanistan for several years, for the New York Times, taz and many other media outlets. Feroz is the founder of a virtual memorial for the civilian victims of drone strikes; in 2021 he won the Austrian Concordia Prize in the human rights category. His Spiegel Best-seller 'Der längste Krieg. 20 Jahre War on Terror' was published in 2021.



2024
192 pages
Softcover
with flaps
€ 18.00

- 'As a Muslim man, whatever you wear you get pigeonholed. Smart and formal? There must be something dodgy about you. Casual, informal, wearing a track-suit? Workshy scrounger!'
- The story of a builder of bridges between the West and the Muslim world
- A very personal manifesto against xenophobia
- Emran Feroz is an internationally sought-after war journalist and human rights activist (40,000 followers on X)



2024
176 pages with
3 maps
Paperback
€ 16.00

- 'The most dangerous place in the world.'
- Headline about Taiwan on the cover of the Economist
- The most important information about Taiwan's history and present
- A concise yet thorough introduction
- By one of the world's leading experts
- The background to the conflict between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China
- A book about one of the most dangerous flashpoints in global politics

Gunter Schubert

A Short History of Taiwan

Who does Taiwan belong to? The history of a contested island

There are few places that play such a pivotal role in global politics as Taiwan. China's claims to the island have the potential to start a war between the two strongest military powers in the world. Gunter Schubert, a leading expert on modern-day Taiwan, gives us an introduction to its history and present, and helps us to better understand the conflict.

Taiwan has had a turbulent history, with periods of belonging to the Chinese mainland alternating with periods of colonial rule. After being ruled for almost 200 years by the Qing dynasty, Taiwan came under Japanese colonial rule from 1895 to 1945. As a consequence of the Chinese Civil War, Taiwan became a refuge for the losing party, the Kuomintang, under Chiang Kai-shek. For a long time, both Taiwan and the Communist regime on the mainland saw themselves as the true representatives of China and laid claim to the other's territory. Since then, Taiwan has increasingly distanced itself from mainland China, and a majority of the population see their country, despite its many cultural and historical ties to China, as a sovereign state. In this compact but illuminating book, Gunter Schubert shines a light on Taiwan's complex cultural, political and national identity, helping the reader to understand the island republic's fraught relationship with the People's Republic of China.

Gunter Schubert has been Professor of Greater China Studies at the Asia Orient Institute, Department of Chinese Studies, University of Tübingen, since 2003. He has been travelling to Taiwan (as well as the People's Republic of China and Hongkong) for over 30 years and regularly carries out field research there. In 2008 he founded the European Research Centre on Contemporary Taiwan at the University of Tübingen and has been its director ever since. He is one of the world's foremost experts on present-day Taiwan.

Gudrun Krämer

The History of Islam

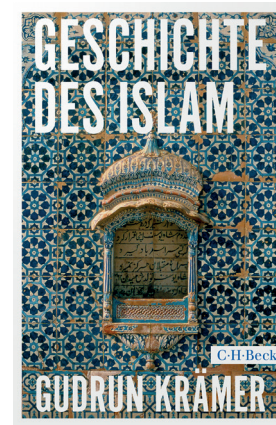
Islam from Muhammad's time to the present day

Gudrun Krämer's definitive work – completely revised and updated

Gudrun Krämer gives a clear account of the history of Islam from Muhammad's time to the present day, with a keen eye for its most important aspects. She skilfully links the religion's development with the history of politics, law, society and culture. Going beyond romantic views of the Orient and modern caricatures, this book takes a clear-eyed look at Islam and its history.

Islam was a cosmopolitan religion right from the start: from the time the first community was set up by Muhammad and the first conquests took place, it was constantly in contact with other cultures. The Islam that emerged in the Arab world, therefore, was different from that which emerged in Iran, Indonesia and the Balkans. This is evident from their different styles of art, as well as their differing ideas about law and social order. Today, Islam finds itself in conflict with the West as it undergoes profound changes. Gudrun Krämer paints an impressive portrait of the astonishing diversity of Islam. She explains the importance of crusades for the Islamic world, the way Islam spread across Southeast Asia, and the different paths towards modernisation taken by Turkey and Egypt. She also looks at why religious protest movements have sprung up all over the Islamic world over the past few decades, despite its considerable differences.

Gudrun Krämer is Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies at the Free University of Berlin. She is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and the Science Council, and co-editor of the Encyclopaedia of Islam Three. In 2010 she won the Gerda Henkel Prize. Her books 'Geschichte Palästinas' (2015) and 'Der Architekt des Islamismus. Hasan al-Banna und die Muslimbrüder' (2022) are also published by C.H.Beck.



2024
336 pages with
5 maps
Paperback
€ 22.00

- 'This very readable book covers a third of world history.' - Rheinischer Merkur
- This successful standard reference work has been completely revised and updated for a new edition
- 'This history of Islam is an accomplished book in every respect.' - Friedrich Niewöhner, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
- 'This is a brilliant achievement by Gudrun Krämer. Elegantly written, with ironic undertones that make it a pleasure to read.' - Reinhard Schulze, Tagesanzeiger



2024
400 pages with
70 illustrations
Paperback
€ 20.00

- ‘These accessible portraits of different languages, written in an anecdotal narrative style, come together like a mosaic to create an overall picture which demonstrates the huge span of humanity’s expressive possibilities.’
- Wolfgang Krischke, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Gaston Dorren

Around the World in Twenty Languages

The Most Widely Spoken Languages and What Makes Them So Special

‘You couldn’t wish for a better guide to the wonders of our world’s astonishing linguistic diversity.’ - Mail on Sunday

Why was little Portugal able to produce a global language, but not the Netherlands? To what extent do Japanese women speak differently from Japanese men? And why do non-alphabetic scripts work just as well as our 26 letters? In this brilliantly written book, Gaston Dorren takes us on a unique journey around the world, bringing us closer to the majority of humanity.

Three quarters of people on earth speak one of the 20 languages featured in this book. Gaston Dorren looks at the origins of these languages and their incredible rise to prominence. He explains the scripts they use, introduces the gems and the gaps in their vocabularies, sheds light on linguistic anomalies, and explores the relationship between a language’s grammar and the world view of its speakers. He also delves into the puzzle of why Vietnamese has a dozen forms of ‘I’, illustrates the wonderful vocal richness of Portuguese, and shows that we all know more Arabic than we think.

Gaston Dorren is a journalist and freelance author, and has written a whole series of acclaimed books about languages. He speaks Dutch, Limburgish, English, German and Spanish, and can read French, Afrikaans, Frisian, Portuguese, Italian, Catalan, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Luxembourgish and Esperanto.

Hansjörg Küster

Mudflats

Cradle of Life

Where land and sea meet – a meander through the mudflats

The Wadden Sea on the southern North Sea coast is the largest area of mudflats in the world. It is rich in plant and animal species, and large swathes of the flat sea can still be described as true wildernesses. Hansjörg Küster paints a knowledgeable and loving portrait of this unique landscape, which has been declared a UNESCO natural World Heritage site, but which is also fascinating from a cultural and historical point of view.

Most life in the ocean is found not in the unfathomable depths but in the shallows. Mudflats are particularly productive: there is no other ecosystem that removes more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, provides a habitat for more organic mass, and releases more oxygen. Many forms of life developed there. But mudflats are under threat from all sides. And they do not always look like the mudflats which people in Germany and its neighbouring countries are used to. Küster also writes about the atmospheres connected with this 'seascape': the smells, the almost incessant strong winds, the sound of the surf, the cries of birds – as well as special encounters with people.

Hansjörg Küster is Emeritus Professor of Plant Ecology at the Institute of Geobotany at Leibniz University Hannover. His books on European landscapes, encompassing both nature and culture, have garnered a wide readership. These include 'Geschichte der Landschaft in Mitteleuropa' (1995), 'Die Ostsee' (2002), 'Die Elbe' (2007), and 'Deutsche Landschaften. Von Rugen bis zum Donautal' (2017). C.H.Beck recently published his book 'Flora. Die ganze Welt der Pflanzen' (2022).



2024
239 pages with
31 illustrations,
some in colour
Hardcover
€ 32.00

- 'In this fascinating and brilliantly clear book, Küster shows how nature became part of human history.' - Ulrich Raulff, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
- The mudflats are the most biologically productive habitat on earth
- Küster's book is a synthesis of natural history, cultural history and emotional history
- There are mudflats in the tropics too: they are found wherever the status of belonging to land or water changes continuously over time



2024
128 pages with
10 illustrations
Flexcover
€ 12.00

- 'Schwab shows how people tested out certain lifestyles before they became mainstream.' - Daniel Di Falco, Neue Zürcher Zeitung Geschichte
- 'An entertaining journey through the best-known art colonies of the 19th and 20th centuries. Schwab takes an interesting approach, focusing in particular on tracing the influence of women in these colonies.' - Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger
- 'It is really gorgeous here. We are both enjoying the peace and the quiet life in the countryside.' - Marie Krøyer, Danish painter and architect
- The search for an authentic life – a history of the art colonies
- 'Fascinating stories of people who opted out of society, and the idyllic places where they did it!' - Anja Brockert, SWR 2 Lesenswert

Andreas Schwab

A Journey to the Most Beautiful Art Colonies

From Barbizon to Monte Verità: the most beautiful art colonies

From the 1830s until well into the 20th century, people from all over Europe set out to create living and working communities far away from the big cities, in unspoilt, beautiful, sometimes wild environments. Life in Barbizon, the mother of all art colonies, in Capri, in Worpswede and in Ascona is defined by a deliberate separation from bourgeois society.

Barbizon | Pont-Aven | Skagen | Capri | Taormina | Tangier | Corfu | Worpswede | Monte Verità

Andreas Schwab is an author and exhibition organiser and the mayor of Bremgarten near Bern. He has written books about the Monte Verità and the land cooperative Longo mai. His book 'Zeit der Aussteiger. Eine Reise zu den Künstlerkolonien von Barbizon bis Monte Verità' (2021) is also published by C.H.Beck.

Laurenz Lütteken

The Magic Flute

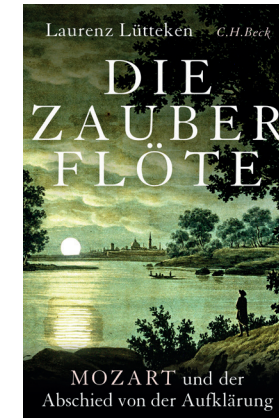
Mozart and His Farewell to the Enlightenment

The most famous opera in musical history - newly depicted

Mozart's 'Magic Flute' is widely seen as a highly mysterious work. The opera's meteoric rise after its premiere was matched by the explosion of attempts to decipher its secret. Renowned music scholar Laurenz Lütteken explores the major themes of the opera and puts them into the context of Mozart's epoch. In this way he achieves a radical new understanding of the 'Magic Flute' and its spectacular music.

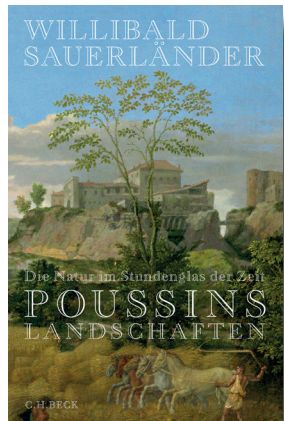
The world of the 'Magic Flute' is not merely a fantasy world. Instead, it reflects the Age of Enlightenment with its urgent themes, from good governance to suicide to tamed and unfettered nature. In Vienna, Mozart became very familiar with an uncompromising form of the Enlightenment – and in his last opera he bid farewell to it. At the heart of the 'Magic Flute', as Laurenz Lütteken so impressively demonstrates, is the disturbing realization that the multifaceted nature of the world can no longer be understood via reason. Only music is capable of expressing this diversity. And so 'The Magic Flute', the most performed opera in the German-speaking world – notwithstanding its comedy and highly charged nature, and all its talk of virtue and justice – is shot through with a melancholy that foreshadows the end of an epoch.

Laurenz Lütteken is Professor of Music Studies at the University of Zurich. He is an internationally respected Mozart scholar and has won many prizes for his academic achievements. His books 'Richard Strauss: Die Opern. Ein musikalischer Werkführer' (2013) and 'Mozart. Leben und Musik im Zeitalter der Aufklärung' (2018) are also published by C.H.Beck.



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- 'Laurenz Lütteken has achieved an unusual feat: by portraying Mozart as a central figure of the Enlightenment, he opens up new perspectives.' - Alfred Brendel on Laurenz Lütteken, 'Mozart'
- The most performed opera in the German-speaking world and one of the most mysterious works in the history of music
- A brilliant interpretation by Laurenz Lütteken
- Mozart's 'Magic Flute' as the mirror and the end of an epoch



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- 'My nature compels me to seek out and to love well-ordered things, to flee confusion, as the light flees the deepest darkness.' - Nicolas Poussin
- The legacy of the great Willibald Sauerländer
- Nicolas Poussin – the most important French landscape painter of the 17th century
- Forays into Poussin's storytelling landscapes

Willibald Sauerländer | Reinhold Baumstark (ed.)

Nature in the Hourglass of Time Poussin's Landscapes

How Nature becomes a stage: Willibald Sauerländer on Poussin's landscapes

Nicolas Poussin (1594-1665) is widely seen as one of the most important painters of the 17th century. His clear yet poetic compositions were a major influence on the generations of artists that came after him.

'Nature in the Hourglass of Time' is the last book by the great art historian Willibald Sauerländer, who made a name for himself mainly with his insightful works on French art. He had a lifelong love affair with Poussin's painting – particularly the landscapes, which are never just about nature but always about places of remembrance, history, myth and fate. Immersing yourself in these storytelling pictures, and discovering their sources in literature and art history through Sauerländer's expert eyes, is as fascinating as it is eye-opening. These texts from Sauerländer's estate, edited by Reinhold Baumstark, are a late gift to all readers with an interest in art.

Willibald Sauerländer (1924 – 2018) was one of the most important art historians of his generation. From 1970 to 1989 he was director of the Central Institute for Art History in Munich, and visiting lecturer at the university there. Several of his other books are published by C.H.Beck, including 'Der katholische Rubens' (2011) and 'Manet malt Monet' (2013).

Peter Schäfer

The Ashkenazi Jews

Origins, Heyday, Migration Eastwards

The first major history of the Ashkenazi Jews

Ashkenaz: this was what the Jews who had been living in Europe since the Middle Ages called the area in which they lived, most of which was located in Germany. In this book, Peter Schäfer has produced the first overview of the origins and heyday of the Ashkenazi Jews and their forced migration to Eastern Europe, based on archaeological and written sources. His brilliant account encompasses more than 2000 years of Jewish history from ancient times up until the 20th century, and is sure to be a definitive work for a long time to come.

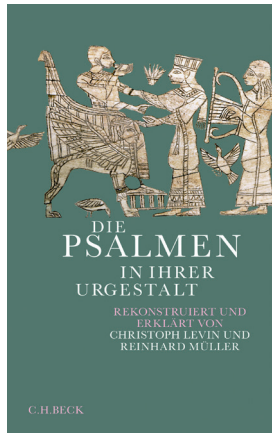
An edict issued by Emperor Constantine in the year 321 refers to the Jews in Cologne, but concrete evidence of Jewish communities in Cologne, Mainz, Speyer, Worms, Regensburg, Prague and Frankfurt does not appear until around 1000 A.D. Where did these Jews come from? How were their communities organised? How did they make a living, and what were their relationships with their Christian neighbours like? Peter Schäfer is a leading expert on the texts of medieval Jewry and, based on these texts, he describes the everyday lives and the mystically-inflected piety of the Ashkenazi Jews. He goes beyond the clichés that persist to this day, and tells of the persecution and displacement of the Jews in the late medieval period, the renewed flowering of Jewish life in Poland, Lithuania and Russia, and the Jews' path to an ambivalent modernity that promised emancipation and delivered annihilation. Since then, the centres of Ashkenazi Jewry have been located in the USA and Israel, but its roots go all the way back to Eastern European Jewry, to medieval Germany and to antiquity.

Peter Schäfer is Emeritus Professor of Jewish Studies, has taught at the Free University of Berlin and at Princeton University, and was director of the Jewish Museum in Berlin until 2019. He has won many prizes, and in 2021 he was admitted to the Order Pour le Mérite. His book 'Kurze Geschichte des Antisemitismus' (2020) and 'Die Schlange war klug. Antike Schöpfungsmythen und die Grundlagen des westlichen Denkens' (2022) are also published by C.H. Beck.



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- 'Peter Schäfer is currently the top international expert on Jewish life from antiquity to the Middle Ages.' - Hermann Parzinger on the occasion of Peter Schäfer's admission into the Order Pour le Mérite, 2021
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- From the Jewish Enlightenment to Zionism: a new approach from the perspective of Eastern European Jewry



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- 'Nothing is more wonderful than the psalms. Once you start to read them, it's hard to put them down.' - Michael Krüger
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- The ancient Oriental original forms of the psalms, reconstructed for the first time by two leading psalms experts
- Featuring numerous ancient Oriental and ancient Egyptian parallel texts

Christoph Levin | Reinhard Müller

The Psalms in Their Original Form

Where do the psalms come from?

In search of the ancient Oriental original forms

The psalms are a wonder. For over 2000 years they have been prayed and sung. As a result of countless adaptations and settings to music, they have shaped elements of our culture far beyond the bounds of religion. Where do these old songs come from? In this book, the psalms are presented in their fascinatingly alien original form. The authors shed light on their original political and ritual functions, compare them to other ancient Oriental poems, and explain how the original versions became the biblical psalms whose verses are still capable of moving people deeply to this day.

The Book of Psalms was long seen as a vade mecum for every situation in life. These poetic works of art were initially ascribed to King David. They did not emerge in their biblical form until many centuries later, but Christoph Levin and Reinhard Müller, based on years' worth of research, identify forty original versions from the time of the kings of Israel and Judah, hidden within the psalms that have been handed down to us. They explain their original function in royal palaces and temples, look at incredibly similar songs from Ugarit, Babylon and Egypt, and show how, following the decline of the religious kingdoms in Israel, the old prayers were enriched and transformed. Their book is an invitation to rediscover the psalms: as messengers of a long-lost culture which, in a new guise, have stood the test of time and speak directly to us.

Christoph Levin is Emeritus Professor of Old Testament Studies at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, and a member of the Lower Saxony Academy of Sciences and the Finnish Academy of Sciences. His book 'Das Alte Testament' (2018) is also published by C.H.Beck.

Reinhard Müller is Professor of Old Testament Studies at Georg August University in Göttingen. He is writing a commentary on the psalms for the 'Handbuch zum Alten Testament'.

Charlotte Schubert

The Death of the Tribunes

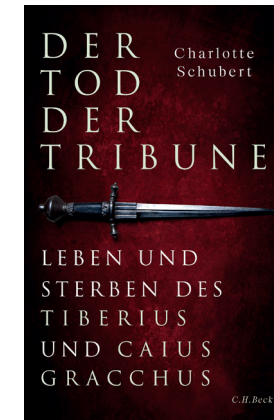
The Lives and Deaths of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus

Revolutionaries and Philosophers - the Gracchus brothers' fight for a different republic

Rome has never seen such a thing before in the 600 years and more since it was founded: in 133 B.C., members of the venerable Senate become a raging mob and kill the tribune Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus, who is inviolable according to holy law. He had dared to bring in a law on land reform which helped the poor but was not welcomed by the Roman elite. The murderous senators now fear an even greater calamity, however – a shift in the political balance of power to their detriment.

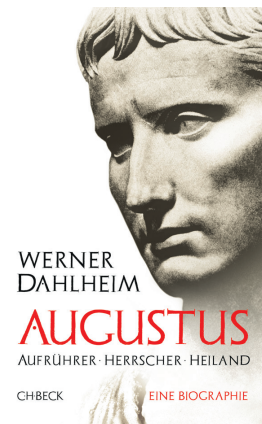
Ten years later the tragedy is repeated when the younger of the Gracchus brothers, Gaius, launches a complex political programme which once again has land reform at its heart. He too meets his death at the hands of his senatorial opponents. Charlotte Schubert has written an exciting book about the beginning of the end of the Roman Republic. She sheds light on the complex motives that inspired the Gracchis' politically pioneering projects, and describes the dramatic impact of the following conflicts. Rome's reactionary circles felt that their only option was to strike down the brothers and their projects in a bloodbath, instead of seeking alternative solutions to the Republic's urgent economic and social problems. They would pay a high price for this decades later, in Rome's darkest hour, when the Republic was plunged into civil war.

Charlotte Schubert is Emeritus Professor of Ancient History at the University of Leipzig. Her research focuses on the history of medicine and science, on the digital humanities, and on land distribution in the ancient world.



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- 'We both face the same fate: to live and to die in the service of the people.' - Plutarch, Dream of Gaius Gracchus
- The tragedy of the Gracchis and the beginning of the end of the Roman Republic
- Philosophical reformers and murderous senators



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- ‘Lively, multilayered... close-up perspectives.’ - Aloys Winterling, Süddeutsche Zeitung
- Werner Dahlheim is Emeritus Professor of Ancient History at the Technical University of Berlin and a specialist in Roman history

Werner Dahlheim

Augustus

Rebel - Ruler - Saviour

One of the most incredible figures in Roman history – Werner Dahlheim’s masterful biography

On the Ides of March in the year 44 B.C., Caesar is knifed by his murderers. His heir is Octavian – a very young man, inexperienced in politics and war. Fifteen years of civil war lie ahead, during which he will have to fight first to survive and then to unite the empire. With his victory over all his rivals, he takes the name Augustus and begins to reshape the world, coming to define a whole era. When he dies at the age of 76, there is little doubt in the minds of everyone from the Atlantic to the Euphrates that he has brought peace and general happiness back to the world for good.

Werner Dahlheim, one of the greatest storytellers among German historians, paints a magnificent picture of an epoch of splendour and misery. He depicts a ruler who fought his way to power by fire and sword, and showed mercy only when it was to his own benefit. Dahlheim explores historical decades that we can still catch glimpses of today thanks to the works of their poets, sculptors and builders. He sheds light on an imperialist who augmented the empire like no other Roman. And he explains why the Christians, persecuted by Augustus’s heirs as criminals, venerated the Roman emperor whom God had chosen to be in power at the time when he sent his son to live on earth..

Tanja Stelzer is a member of the editorial board of the weekly newspaper Die Zeit and writes for the ‘Dossier’ section.

Frauke Rostalski

The Vulnerable Society

The New Vulnerability as a Challenge to Freedom

How the new vulnerability threatens our freedom

Many of the most heated debates in our society today are the expression of a shift in values. This shift is fundamentally changing our society almost without us being aware of it. Increasingly, we seem to be willing to accept restrictions of our individual freedoms in order to accommodate a heightened sense of vulnerability. We are gradually turning into a 'fragile' society.

In her compelling study, Frauke Rostalski makes us aware of this new conflict between freedom and vulnerability and makes a plea for an open conversation: how much vulnerability do we want to lay claim to at the expense of our freedom? Rostalski shows how ideas about vulnerability have already led to changes in the law – not only in terms of medical risks such as those faced in a pandemic, but also in the areas of gender self-identification, assisted suicide, protection against discrimination, and abortion. Vulnerability, however, is not only the secret guiding principle of a new set of laws and a new ethics. This new sensitivity has also taken over our public discourse, and is standing in the way of processes of social negotiation. Frauke Rostalski calls for this 'discourse vulnerability' to be kept in check – so that we can have a proper, and urgently needed, conversation about freedom and vulnerability.

Frauke Rostalski was born in 1985. She is a professor of criminal law, criminal procedural law, the philosophy of law, commercial law, medical law and comparative law at the University of Cologne. Since 2020 she has been a member of the German Ethics Council. Her recent publications include 'Der Tatbegriff im Strafrecht' (2019) and 'Das Natürlichkeitsargument bei biotechnologischen Maßnahmen' (2019).



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- 'Postmodern society turns out to be an increasingly vulnerable society.' - Andreas Reckwitz
- Freedom and vulnerability – a conflict of our era
- How vulnerability is changing our laws and our ethics
- A critique of the disruptive influence of increased sensitivity on our debate culture



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- From the 'Scientists for Future' to Karl Lauterbach: the dangers of an authoritarian understanding of science
- Divorced from reality and authoritarian - when science replaces democratic politics
- Authoritarian scientism versus lateral thinkers - the most renowned German science manager of the last 20 years highlights alternatives

Peter Strohschneider

Truths and Majorities

A Critique of Authoritarian Scientism

When democratic politics is replaced by faith in science

Be it a climate, environmental or health crisis: science's edicts promise solutions to our problems under the banner of modern rationality. In fact, however, a naïve faith in science often goes hand in hand with rather undemocratic claims to power.

The majority principle ensures our freedom. Democratic rule combines this freedom with expectations of political rationality. Activist science or scientist politics, on the other hand, promote the regime of an unconditional truth with no alternative. 'Follow the science!' is an oft-repeated refrain in modern knowledge-based societies. But what it usually means is 'End of discussion! The situation is too grave for that.' As this book shows by way of recent examples, scientism can quickly become authoritarian – to the detriment of liberal democracy and its ability to process epochal challenges in an intelligent and effective way.

Peter Strohschneider taught literary studies at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. He spent several years as Head of the Science Council and the Future Commission on Agriculture, as well as President of the German Research Foundation, which shaped his views on science and politics.

Peter Gritzmann

Plausible, Logical, Wrong

On the Wrong Track of Common Sense

On the wrong track of common sense - recognising and avoiding 'thought traps'

'Obviously right' is often completely wrong. Common sense is far more limited and far more susceptible to illusions than we realize, and certainly more so than we would like. Luckily, in mathematician Peter Gritzmann we have a skilled guide who knows the many 'wrong tracks' common sense can lead us down, and is able to shed light on them.

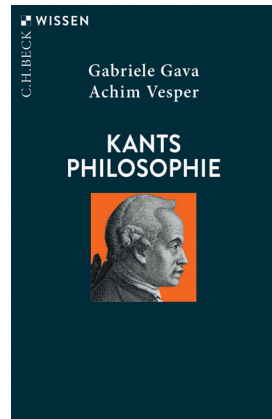
Aren't things that are clear, simple and obvious also right, especially if everyone else agrees? Not always, unfortunately! Because just as there are optical illusions, there are also logical ones, which we fall for all too easily. This entertaining, accessible book examines these logical illusions using anecdotes and case studies taken from the areas of everyday decision-making, medicine, political electoral systems, the prognosis of share prices, economic policy, transport policy, advertising, coronavirus vaccinations, and weight loss diets. We are all far too quick to be intimidated or impressed by supposed authorities. In a very clear, amusing and unformulaic way, Peter Gritzmann shows us how to see through pseudo-truths and helps us to stay critical, so we can avoid going off on the wrong track of common sense.

Peter Gritzmann is Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the Technical University of Munich. He has spent time as a visiting professor in the USA and France, and has won several international awards for his work. He now serves as an advisor to scientific institutions and scientific companies in Germany and abroad.



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- An enjoyable adventure that reveals the pitfalls in the way our minds work
- 24 stories about intuition and misconceptions
- This book is a threat to entrenched ways of thinking



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Gabriele Gava | Achim Vesper

Kant's Philosophy

‘The most important revolution in man’s inner life is his emergence from his self-imposed immaturity.’

Immanuel Kant is rightly regarded as one of the most important philosophers in the history of Western philosophy. This introduction looks at his life, his intellectual development and the most important works produced during his critical period. These works are explained via their key concepts. The book also sheds light on Kant’s novel philosophical approach and the idea at its core: namely that not only human behaviour but all our most important relationships with the world are ‘normatively structured’.

Gabriele Gava is Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Turin. He is an expert on Kant’s theory of knowledge and metaphysics.

Achim Vesper teaches philosophy at the University of Frankfurt am Main where he is currently Professor of Modern Philosophy. He is an expert on Kant’s ethics and aesthetics.

Angela Ganter

Greek History

From the Bronze Age to Hellenism

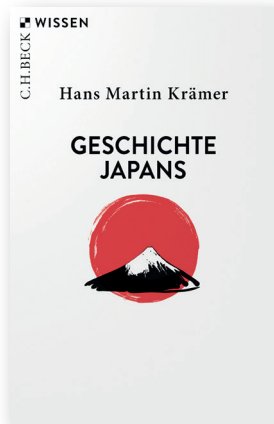
The History and Culture of Ancient Greece

This book provides a nuanced introduction to the history and culture of Ancient Greece. It covers a geographical area spanning the mainland, the islands, Asia Minor, North Africa and Sicily, and a time period beginning with the Minoans and the Mycenaeans and ending with the fall of the great Hellenistic monarchy, the Ptolemaic dynasty (30 B.C.) The book looks at socioeconomic conditions, mythology, poetry, religion, politics and history (the Greco-Perian Wars, the Peloponnesian War, Macedonian rule and the wars of Alexander the Great) up until the start of the Roman era. Finally, it explores the legacy of Greek antiquity and issues around looted art.

Angela Ganter is Professor of Ancient History at the University of Regensburg. Her research focuses among other things on the history of Archaic and Classical Greece.



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Hans Martin Krämer

The History of Japan

History and contemporary culture

Japanese popular culture in the form of manga, anime, J-pop, TV series and computer games is hugely popular in the Western world, and Japanese brands are firmly established in global consumer culture. This book sheds light on the history that has made Japan what it is today. It looks briefly at premodern history but spends a lot more time on the modern era, which is more useful to us in terms of understanding the social and cultural aspects of contemporary Japan. The book begins with a short introduction to the geographical and climactic conditions that have shaped Japan's history.

Hans Martin Krämer is Professor of Classical German Philosophy at the University of Jena and one of the leading international experts on Hegel. His book 'Hegel. Der Philosoph der Freiheit. Biographie' (2020) is also published by C.H.Beck.

Thomas Maissen

A History of the Early Modern Period

From the invention of printing to the French Revolution

Thomas Maissen's book spans a period beginning with the invention of printing and the discovery of America and ending with the Industrial revolution and the French Revolution. He explores important developments like humanism, the Reformation, the Spanish empire of Charles V and Philip II, the Thirty Years War and the court of King Louis XIV, and the conditions that led to Great Britain and Prussia becoming so powerful on the European stage. This exciting account provides a multifaceted overview of the political, social, economic and cultural changes that took place over the course of this era.

Thomas Maissen is Professor of Modern History at the University of Heidelberg and a member of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences.



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Philip Ursprung

Contemporary Architecture 1970 to the Present

An up-to-date overview

This book takes a thought-provoking and critical look at the architecture of the last 50 years. It focuses on important architects like Herzog & de Meuron, Zaha Hadid, Renzo Piano and Rem Koolhaas. Contemporary architecture from 1970 to the present day cannot be divided up into periods or categorised according to different national schools. Based on a few exemplary buildings, Philip Ursprung explores current issues, debates and challenges in an expert and knowledgeable way.

Philip Ursprung is Professor of Art and Architectural History at ETH Zurich. In 2023 he co-curated the Swiss pavilion at the Architecture Biennale in Venice. His books 'Die Kunst der Gegenwart' (2010) and 'Joseph Beuys' (2021) are also published by C.H. Beck.

Manuela Lenzen

Artificial Intelligence

Facts, Opportunities, Risks

The foundations, capabilities and limits of AI

There are high hopes, but also grave concerns, about the development of artificial intelligence. From ChatGPT to Alpha Fold and Pepper, Manuela Lenzen explores the foundations, capabilities and limits of artificial intelligence, its most important applications and the changes it will bring about, or has already brought about, in our society. AI research is still in its infancy. But we need to start paving the way for the results of this research to be put into practice.

Manuela Lenzen has a doctorate in philosophy and works as a freelance journalist. She writes about digitalisation, artificial intelligence and cognition research.



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Nando Belardi

Supervision and Coaching

Foundations, Techniques, Perspectives

A practice-oriented introduction

Supervision is work-related consultation, support and reflection for individuals, groups and teams. It is used in many areas, such as health and social care, education, administration, industry and the services sector. Coaching, on the other hand, is consultation and support for managers and 'individual specialists' such as doctors and lawyers or top sportspeople. In this practice-oriented introduction, the development, possibilities and successes of supervision and coaching are clearly explained, and the book also provides tips for interested parties.

Nando Belardi is a social scientist, psychotherapist (HPG), supervisor (FPI) and Emeritus Professor of Social Pedagogy in the Philosophy Faculty at the Technical University of Chemnitz. His publications on the subject of consulting and supervision have been translated into six languages.

Helmut Remschmidt | Sanna Stroth

Autism

Forms, Causes, Support

The latest findings from autism research

Autism – when a person closes themselves off from the outside world and remains within a world of their own thoughts and imaginings – is one of the most mysterious neurodevelopmental conditions. This book describes various autistic disorders and their diagnoses, explains key treatment methods, and outlines the latest findings from autism research.

Helmut Remschmidt is Emeritus Director of the Clinic for Children's and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy at the University of Marburg, and a member of the Leopoldina National Academy of Sciences. He was awarded the prestigious Max Planck Research Prize in 1999 for his internationally important achievements.

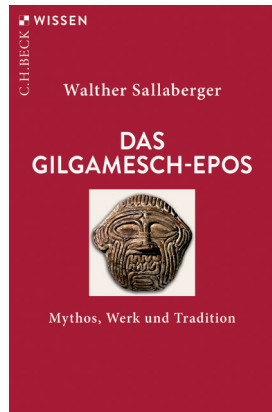
Sanna Stroth is a project leader at the Marburg Institute for Autism Research and Therapy, She studies the biological and social foundations of autistic spectrum disorder.



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Walther Sallaberger

The Epic of Gilgamesh

Myth, Work and Tradition

This book gives an overview of the content of the Epic of Gilgamesh and explores the cultural context in which this, the oldest work in world literature, was produced. It explains the myth and its historical reference points, introduces its protagonists and looks at its dissemination, its literary form, its anthropological aspects and its reception throughout history.

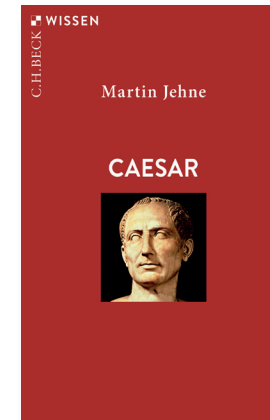
Walther Sallaberger is Professor of Assyrian Studies at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich.

Martin Jehne

Caesar

The way Caesar rose to power was not a novel one. But what was new about Caesar was the scale of his ambition and his dedication to achieving it. It was common to incur debts while climbing the ladder to a successful career, but Caesar got into such severe debt that he found himself on the brink of catastrophe; any setback could have spelled disaster. But Caesar did not experience any setbacks, and had clearly never expected to. His belief in his own luck and superior talents was so unshakeable that it seemed only logical and natural to him to stake everything on achieving his goals. He played a game of 'all or nothing', and never seems to have been in any doubt that he would win.

Martin Jehne was Professor of Ancient History at the Technical University of Dresden. His book 'Der Staat des Dictators Caesar' has become a definitive work in research and teaching.



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Stefan Matuschek

Romanticism

Themes, Currents, Personalities

A brilliant portrait of the epoch

Romanticism marked the beginning of the modern era in literary and artistic terms. After the French Revolution, the Romantics wanted to rejuvenate society by mobilising the power of the imagination. They developed a new style, but also a new perception of the importance of art in the way people lived their lives. Stefan Matuschek paints a brilliant portrait of the epoch, taking in Germany, England, France and Italy. He shows how the Romantic movement shaped not only literature but also music and painting, philosophy and natural history, religion and politics. He also looks at its legacy, which endures to this day.

Stefan Matuschek is Professor of Modern German Literature and General and Comparative Literary Studies at the University of Jena, and a renowned expert in European Romanticism. His book 'Der gedichtete Himmel. Eine Geschichte der Romantik' (2011) is also published by C.H. Beck.

Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz

The Mongols

From Genghis Khan to the Present Day

In the 13th century, the Mongols created the largest empire in history. Their mounted troops terrorised Central Europe and, with the conquest of Baghdad in 1258, changed the course of the history of Islam. Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz paints a vivid picture of the history of the Mongols, from the unification of Mongol tribes in the 12th century and the conquests of Genghis Khan to the Mongolia of today.

Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz is Emeritus Professor of Religious Studies and Central Asian Studies at the University of Bern. Her book 'Kleine Geschichte Tibets' (2014) is also published by C.H.Beck.



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Hartmut Leppin

The Church Fathers and Their Era From Athanasius to Gregory the Great

Hartmut Leppin tells the story of what are probably the eight best-known theologians in early Christianity. He looks at the lives of the four Latin Church Fathers Jerome, Ambrose, Augustine and Gregory the Great, and the four Greek Church Fathers Athanasius, Basil, Gregory of Nazianzus and John Chrysostom. The book also explores the main features and messages of their teachings. A number of newly translated quotations aid our understanding and shed light on the lasting impact of these eight key figures in ecclesiastical history.

Hartmut Leppin is Professor of Ancient History at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main. He was awarded the Leibniz Prize in 2015.

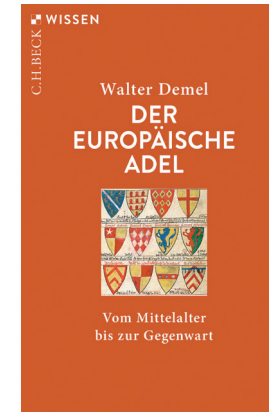
Walter Demel

The European Aristocracy

From the Middle Ages to the Present Day

The aristocracy has shaped European history in a unique way for over a thousand years. This book gives an overview of the aristocracy's central structures and distinct stages of development. It looks at what percentage of the population was and is made up by the aristocracy, and at its hierarchies, privileges, cultural forms and economic foundations. It examines aristocratic views on marriage and raising children, and gives an insight into the role of the aristocracy today.

Walter Demel was Professor of Early Modern History at the University of the Armed Forces in Munich. His book 'Der deutsche Adel. Lebensformen und Geschichte' (co-authored with Sylvia Schraut, 2014) is also available from C.H.Beck Wissen.



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- 'Brings together the contemporaneities and contradictions of the aristocracy.' - Stephan Speicher, Berliner Zeitung



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Karl-Heinz Leven

The History of Medicine

From Antiquity to the Present Day

This book gives a concise overview of the history of medicine from antiquity to the present day. It looks at the cultural contexts which shaped the different incarnations of medicine, at important doctors, treatments and prophylaxis, at medicine in the Nazi era, and at fundamental questions about different aspects of medicine ranging from the scientific to the religious.

Karl-Heinz Leven is a professor, doctor, medical historian and director of the Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

FICTION

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2024
128 pages
Hardcover
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- 'I wonder what is still to come from Laura Lichtblau – hopefully a lot,' - Alexander Solloch, NDR Kultur (on her first book)
- When the past becomes a story
- In many German families, coming to terms with the Nazi past is still an issue
- 'A discovery! Laura Lichtblau only needs a little gunpowder to fire her sentences at us with pinpoint accuracy. But the effect is enormous. A very impressive debut!' - HR2
- '... if you like language that seduces, beguiles and - wow, wow, wow - sounds like no other narrator in the country, you will appreciate Laura Lichtblau's Black Powder and wish for no other reading ammunition for this autumn.' - Nora Gomringer

Laura Lichtblau

SUND

A Novel

Ghosts that are part of the family - what do you do with them?

In her second novel, Laura Lichtblau circles around gaps of the kind created in many German families after the war:

When the narrator arrives at the SUND (a narrow stretch of sea in northern Germany), she has no idea of the secrets the area holds. Her lover's arrival is delayed, and the narrator gets caught up in fantasies and decides to set off for the island Lykke alone.

Here she soon realises that although it seems an idyllic place, something is not quite right: The people are closed off, no one is allowed to ask certain questions, and visitors are not welcome. But she stays on and learns that this is the place where forced sterilisations were carried out in the past. The dark history of the island intersects with her own family history and the life of her great-grandfather, who campaigned for 'racial hygiene' measures during the Nazi era. 'SUND is a determined attempt at exorcism which is as free and non-conformist as the narrator herself.'

Laura Lichtblau was born in Munich in 1985. She lives in Berlin and works as a freelance author and translator. Her poetry and short prose has been published in many magazines and anthologies. Her first novel 'Schwarzpulver' was published by C.H.Beck in 2020.

Charles Simmons

Salt Water

A Novel

'In the summer of 1963 I fell in love, and my father drowned.' So begins this story of a summer that changes everything. Fifteen-year-old Michael is spending the holidays with his parents on the Atlantic coast, as he does every year. But this year something is different: the seductive Mrs Mertz and her twenty-year-old daughter Zina have moved into the guesthouse next door. Michael is not the only one to be captivated by the otherness and openness of the two women. He promptly falls in love with the beautiful Zina and finds himself hopelessly at the mercy of her caprices. But when he sees his romantic feelings betrayed in the cruellest way, the innocent world of his childhood is destroyed, and the summer takes a tragic turn. In this retelling of Turgenev's novel 'First Love', Simmons paints a sensitive and almost wistful picture of the loss of childhood innocence that comes with the turmoil of first love. It is set against a backdrop of a summer by the sea, full of colour and atmosphere.

Charles Simmons (1924 – 2017) was the editor of the New York Times Book Review. His acclaimed novel 'Salt Water' made his name in Europe as well as the United States. He lived and worked in New York.



2024
136 pages
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- 'A small masterpiece.' - Barbara von Becker, Frankfurter Rundschau
- **A classic, now available in paperback again: 75.000 copies sold** in Germany
- '[His style] is succinct but not cold, pared-down but not dry, calm but not placid... The wonderful thing about this book is that it is actually better than Turgenev's.' - Harald Jähner, Berliner Zeitung
- 'Here we find the images we strive for in life.' - Martin Lüdke, Die Zeit



2024
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- 'A novelistic triumph, a beautifully crafted story. It is a fantastic book.' - Daniel Kehlmann on his previous book, 'The Conspiracy of the Crows'
- The rousing story of a successful woman who has made powerful enemies
- Gripping, moving and timeless – the brilliant businesswoman Lillian Cutting and her creative campaign against the people who are trying to deprive her of her rights
- Entertaining and exuberant – the new novel by Markus Gasser

Markus Gasser

Lil

A Novel

A fearless woman fights back against a society that wants to break her

She is an anomaly in the New York of 1880, and not only among the city's most prominent and wealthy families, the Belmorals and the Vandermeers. For a long time, railway magnate Lillian Cutting (with her loyal husband Chev at her side) has managed to outwit even the most cunning speculators. But she has also made some powerful enemies. Because of this, her son Robert thinks it will be easy, after Chev's death, to get an overzealous psychiatrist to declare Lillian insane and have her locked away in an institution. But Lil fights back against a society that denounces idiosyncrasy as illness.

Fast-paced, funny and bold, Markus Gasser's book shows how a fearless woman takes creative revenge on her supercilious tormenters. 'Lil' is a universal story full of anger and consolation, a story about the pursuit of big bucks, about sly sons and hostile daughters, about the right to determine the course of our own lives, and about the kind of power struggles we still engage in today. It is narrated by Lil's descendant Sarah, who has her own scores to settle with psychiatry's insidious methods.

Markus Gasser is an author of many books, a university lecturer and the creator of the popular YouTube channel 'Literatur ist Alles'. His novel 'Die Verschwörung der Krähen' was published by C.H.Beck in 2022.

Michael Lüders

Radiant Ice

Thriller

The new political thriller from Michael Lüders

Michael Lüders' new book takes us to Greenland, to the heart of a power struggle between the global superpowers. As climate change starts to bite, all the major powers are desperate to gain control of the Arctic and its raw materials. In 1968, an American B52 bomber crashes on Greenland's northwestern coast. On board are four hydrogen bombs whose whereabouts have never been entirely clear.

Over 50 years later, Danish workers contaminated by radiation during the clean-up operation are determined to blow the whistle before they die of cancer. They set out to give a presentation on the fringe of an Arctic conference in Reykjavik, in order to tell people what really happened back in 1968. But there are powerful forces trying to prevent the radiation-contaminated ice from coming to public attention – particularly now, with a shady firm carrying out a top-secret mission in the Arctic. When the Danes are attacked in Iceland, with only one witness left alive, the case is taken up by Sophie Schelling and her team from the small Norwegian secret service unit E39. The agents are drawn ever deeper into a dangerous game of shadows, in which their lives hang by a thread. For beneath the eternal ice, the sins of the past and the treasures of the future are buried side by side.

Michael Lüders is a well-known author of successful non-fiction books and novels. The two previous books in the Sophie Schelling series are 'Never Say Anything' (2016) and 'Die Spur der Schakale' (2022).



2024
352 pages
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with flaps
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- 'He manages to create a terrifying scenario that's enough to bring you out in a cold sweat.' - Andreas Wallentin, WDR5, on 'Die Spur der Schakale'
- Spiegel Bestseller author
- Beneath the eternal ice – the sins of the past and the treasures of the future
- A deadly struggle for supremacy in the Arctic
- Greenland: the superpowers battle for control of trade routes, spheres of influence and raw materials
- The third case for Sophie Schelling
- The Sophie Schelling series has sold 50,000 copies



2024
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42 illustrations
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- 'An impressive commitment, a poetic project unparalleled in contemporary German poetry.' - Beate Tröger on 'Der Körper meiner Zeit'
- Sarcastic, melancholy verses about precarious situations and states of mind
- Defiant and witty, poems as a bastion of resistance

Kurt Drawert

Everything Tends Towards the Incomprehensible

Poem

'When you have a plan and then a farmer trips you up and you break your leg – it's enough to make anyone unhappy.'

In the 14 chapters – or 'paragraphs' – of his new long poem, the sequel to 'Der Körper meiner Zeit', and in similarly expansive lines of verse, Kurt Drawert, through the language of his lyrical self, strikes the same half fatalistic and melancholy, half sarcastic and ironic tone that also characterises his previous work.

Except that the situation almost seems even more precarious now. In 'Everything Tends Towards the Incomprehensible', even love seems no longer to be possible – it is too weighted down by the dangers of the world. At the same time, imagination, richness of language, wit, and a determined refusal to merely exist, all function as a stubborn bastion of resistance. Switching between the Odenwald, Lisbon and Los Angeles, the poems record how the lyrical self seems to lose all security. And yet nothing escapes the attention of these verses; they span a wide range of themes and different mental states, all while achieving great beauty. Just as the movement of a river carries material along with it, which washes up on the banks or sinks in the whirling water only to resurface in a different place, so this text moves through time – both tragic and comic, reflective and narrative, in free verse and in metric structure. A requiem, a great song.

Kurt Drawert is an author of poetry, prose, drama and essays. He lives in Darmstadt, where he also serves as the director of the Centre of New Literature. His novel 'Dresden. Die zweite Zeit' (2020) is also published by C.H.Beck. He has been awarded many literary prizes for his work, most recently the Georg Christoph Lichtenberg Prize (2020), the Walter Kempowski Prize for Biographical Literature (2021) and the Italo Svevo Prize (2023).

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