Dear Publishers and Friends,

1st of May 1945, the last week of the Third Reich has begun. Hitler is dead, but the war is not yet over. Everything seems to come to a standstill, and yet everything is in breathless motion. In his forthcoming book *Eight Days in May*, Volker Ullrich, by retelling this „timeless time“ from minute to minute, day to day, abducts the reader into a collapsing world full of drama and violence, hope and fear. His book is an unforgettable journey, more captivating than many a thriller. Translation rights have already gone to Penguin (UK), W.W. Norton (US), Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Editore (IT), De Arbeiderspers/Het Getij (NL), Mondadori Random House Madrid (ES), Corvina kiado (HU), Albatros (CZ), Subarusya Linkage (JP), Social Sciences Academic Press (CN) and Gutenberg (GR).

In case you missed out: there's much more in our spring basket of 2020. In his new biography of Charles V, widely praised Martin Luther biographer **Heinz Schilling** tells the story of the most powerful ruler of his time - and the most powerless at the same time. The sun does not set in his empire, but he cannot shape it according to his will. Together with Schilling’s bestseller *1517* (2017, translated into Italian and Simplified Chinese) and his hallmark biography of *Martin Luther* (2012, translated into English, Slovakian, Italian, Norwegian, Simplified Chinese, Turkish, Polish, French, Russian and Danish), this new biography forms a triptych of early modern age.
Furthermore, Peter-André Alt, who has taught Modern German Literary History and served as president of Free Berlin University, in his new books takes us on a journey through world literature led by illustrious examples of first sentences from antiquity to the present: “Someone must have slandered Josef K. …”. And in Country Life: History and Future of an Endangered Way of Life, the well-known geographer and Alpine researcher Werner Bätzing provides a comprehensive picture of rural life from the origins of agriculture 12 000 years ago to the present situation.

On the fiction side, we want to point out that we hold world rights for Amir Cheheltan’s new novel (originally written in Persian). Also, don't miss Jochen Schmidt’s funny as ever Conversations between [famous] Couples and Michael Lüder’s political thriller, proving that he's not only the expert for the Middle East but also for international fictional crime...

We look forward to being in touch with you!
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Translation: deepl and Susanne Simor
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NON-FICTION
From Hitler’s suicide to surrender – the last week of the Third Reich.
The last week of the Third Reich has begun. Hitler is dead, but the war is not over yet. Everything seems to come to a standstill, and yet everything is in breathless motion. Volker Ullrich describes this „timeless time“ day after day and carries the reader off into a collapsing world full of drama and hope, violence and fear. His book is an unforgettable journey through time into doom.

While the Dönitz government evade to Flensburg, the Allied forces continue to advance inexorably. Berlin capitulates, in Italy the army group C capitulates. Rocket scientist Wernher von Braun is arrested. There is a suicide epidemic and mass rape. Last death marches, wild expulsions, submerging Nazis, liberated concentration camps – all that belongs to that „gap between the no longer and the not yet“ which Erich Kästner notes in his diary on 7 May 1945. Volker Ullrich, the great journalist and Hitler biographer, has put together a panorama of these „Eight Days in May“ from historical miniatures and mosaic stones that reads more captivatingly than many a thriller.

From 1990 to 2009, Volker Ullrich was an editor at the weekly newspaper „Die Zeit“, where he was responsible for the „Political Book“ section. He recently published a two-volume biography of Hitler, which has been internationally successful as well.
Power and Powerlessness of an Emperor -
Heinz Schilling's Masterful Biography
Charles V is the most powerful ruler of his time -
and the most powerless at the same time. The sun
does not set in his empire, but he cannot shape it
according to his will. Nor does he succeed in stop-
ning the great division of the Church, which broke
the unity of the Christian world.

In this biography, Heinz Schilling describes how the emper-
or did everything in his power between the epochs to stop
the course of time - and in the end, failed and humiliated,
withdrew from the world into the loneliness of the Spanish
Extremadura.
Heinz Schilling's biography liberates Charles V from the
Habsburg myth of the 19th century and takes him back to his
historical world - the culturally rich Burgundy of his youth
and Spain with the Atlantic Overseas Space. This book also
traces the secluded man Charles with his short love rela-
tionships, and his underestimated artistic side. It situates
him in the religious battles of his times and portrays him as
a deeply religious person - comparable to Luther. Above all,
however, Schilling shows the tragedy of power: a peace po-
litician at heart, the emperor rarely leaves the military camp
during his reign feeling obliged to dynastic and religious
goals he can no longer achieve.

Heinz Schilling is Professor Emeritus of Early Modern Euro-
pean History at the Humboldt-University Berlin. Together
with his famous biography „Martin Luther. Rebel in a Time
of Change“ (2017) and the bestseller „1517. World History of a
Year“ (2019), the new biography of Charles V forms a trip-
tych of early modern age.
Fundamentalist Islam and its consequences - a sociologist takes stock.
In many places, the „House of Islam“ has become the home of war, terror, economic stagnation and dictatorship. In his pioneering analysis of this desolate situation, the renowned social scientist Ruud Koopmans opposes hard facts against Islam-critical sweeping judgements and a fashionable self-criticism of the West. He shows how fundamentalism is strangling Islam worldwide, and asks for ways leading out of this dead end.

More and more Muslims flee from dictatorship and deprivation of freedom, terror and war, poverty and unemployment to the West bringing the problems of the Islamic world with them. Ruud Koopmans shows for the first time on a broad empirical basis comparing systematically Muslim and non-Muslim countries and migrant groups, how the Islamic world and the Muslims in the West on the other are falling further and further behind.
He describes how Islam has been increasingly dominated for about forty years by fundamentalist currents restricting the rights of women, homosexuals and other minorities and fighting secular education thus isolating Muslims from modern world.
At the end of his illuminating book, Koopmans shows, that the hope of many Muslims for peace, justice and prosperity can only be fulfilled by a consistent repression of Islamism.

Ruud Koopmans is Director of the Department „Migration, Integration, Transnationalization“ at the Science Center Berlin and Professor of Sociology and Migration Research at the Humboldt University of Berlin. He also performs important advisory functions, for example as a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. To a large audience he is known through regular contributions in major newspapers and television appearances.
First Sentences of World Literature and what they Reveal to Us

The first sentence is known to be the most difficult - and the most important. It must seduce the reader and usually reveals more than we perceive when we first read it: Sometimes it even contains the whole plot. Peter-André Alt's pleasurable journey through world literature demonstrates in illustrious examples from antiquity to the present day how their beginnings transform the curiosity of the reader into a lasting reading delight.

"Someone must have slandered Josef K. ...". Some first sentences of world literature have become so famous that one knows them, even without having read the book. The beginnings of novels and stories win over their readers by surprising or overwhelming, flattering, frightening, enticing or arousing. They can create tension or moods, bring the hero or heroine of the story to life or take the reader to the place and time of the event. Sometimes ironic, sometimes pathetic, confessional or dark, they introduce the story. Peter-André Alt's sparkling-lucid essay on the poetry of the beginning is illustrated by 251 examples from Homer to Walter Moers, from Tolstoy to Paul Auster. His book offers literary history in a nutshell and is itself a great temptation to read.

Peter-André Alt has been Professor of Modern German Literary History at Freie Universität Berlin since 2005, where he was President from 2010 to 2018. He has been President of the German Rectors' Conference since 2018. His publications with C.H. Beck include "Schiller. Life -Work-Time. A Biography" (2009), "Franz Kafka. The Eternal Son" (2008), "Aesthetics of Evil" (2011) and "Sigmund Freud. The Doctor of Modernity" (2016).

Further works published by C.H. Beck:

Sigmund Freud (2016)
Englisch: Oxford University Press
Italian: Ulrico Hoepli S.p.A.
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press
Aesthetics of Evil (2011)
Korean: Shi ua Jinshil
Turkish: Sel Yayıncılık San. Tic. Ltd. Sti.
Simplified Chinese: Central Compilation and Translation Press
Korean: Shi ua Jinshil
Franz Kafka. The Eternal Son (2008)
Simplified Chinese: Gingko (Beijing) Book Co. Ltd.
Kafka and the movie (2009)
Japanese: Hakusuisha Publishing
If you really want to understand rural life, you need to know agriculture, rural landscapes, village life, traditions and their close links. The well-known geographer and Alpine researcher Werner Bätzing provides a comprehensive picture of rural life from the origins of agriculture 12 000 years ago to the changes in antiquity, from the Middle Ages to modern times and to the present situation. Werner Bätzing’s new book examines what rural life actually means, how it differs from urban life, and whether it still has a future in today’s globalized world. Since the country has always been and still is in close contact with the city, Bätzing emphasises on the development of cities and on the effects of Industrial Revolution. He also focuses on the discovery of the country as a „beautiful landscape“. Bätzing develops five guiding ideas for upgrading country life in order to prevent it from permanently losing residents. His broadly based, historically well-founded portrayal differs from the usual point of view and presents rural life in a completely new light.

Werner Bätzing, Prof. em. for Cultural Geography, has become known as an Alpine researcher in science and politics. He has received numerous awards for his work on the Alpine region. Since 1995 he has also been deeply involved with rural areas in Bavaria and is committed to their revaluation.

Further works published by C.H. Beck:

- Italian: Bollati Boringhieri Editore
- French: Éditions LEP Loisirs et Pédagogie
Personalities with pronounced peculiarities do not only exist among humans and other mammals, but also in the world of birds. For a long time, however, individuality was considered a taboo subject there. Not in this book: The ornithologist Walter A. Sontag, who lives in Vienna and conducts research all over the world, reports on the most amazing bird observations and spectacular bird experiments.

Birds live in polar ice deserts as well as in lush tropical forests, on distant islands and in our urban agglomerations. Their abundance of forms corresponds to an equally spectacular variety of ways of life and behaviour. Among blue tits, for example, late risers can be found as well as early risers or night owls. In Africa, bee-eaters let themselves carry around by bustards; the long-legged run-birds serve them as lookout and mobile starting-places for hunt-trips. And dunnocks live in the middle of our gardens in a relationship variety, which can keep up with each modern society. But as the urban environment grows, even the most intelligent birds face new challenges. How do they cope with the changes caused by humans? How do some species, some individuals succeed, and why do others fail? And how does man react to birds in his environment or how should he react?

Walter A. Sontag is Associate Scientist at the Museum of Natural History in Vienna. For more than 40 years, the biologist has been researching the variability and personality of birds around the world. In addition, he regularly writes articles on nature and culture for the newspaper „Wiener Zeitung“.
Albrecht Beutelspacher
Zero, Infinite and the Wild 13
Albrecht Beutelspacher's entertaining Numerology

Invented more than 20 000 years ago for practical reasons, numbers have something magical to many of us. Albrecht Beutelspacher tells the most exciting stories about the most important numbers. A book readable without any previous mathematical knowledge and in which everyone will discover their favourite number.

1 there can be only one - 2 the number that makes the difference - 7 the number that does not exist - 8 uncompromising beauty - 0 the symbol of nothing - 13 the unlucky number - 14 B+A+C+H - 17 the Gauss number - 42 the answer to all questions - 60 the best number - 666 the number of the animal - 1001 the Cliffhanger number - 1729 a number for extraterrestrial - 2016 the ramanujan number - -1 an absurd number - 3,125 simple, but ingenious - j the golden ratio - p the mysterious transcendent - i is the imaginary imaginable? – ∞ bigger than anything.

Albrecht Beutelspacher is Professor emeritus for Discrete Mathematics and Geometry at the University of Gießen and founding director of the Mathematikum. He has received numerous awards and prizes, including the Communicator Prize (2000), the Hessian Culture Prize (2008) and the Medal for Scientific Journalism of the German Physical Society (2014).

Various publications with C.H. Beck, his latest publication here was: „How to slip into a Soap Bubble. The World of Mathematics in 100 Experiments“ (2015).

Further works published by C.H. Beck:
Complex Chinese: Morning Star Publishing Inc.
Russian: Publishing House
Korean: Shinhan Publishing Media Co. Ltd.

Numbers (2013)
English: Dover
Italian: Carocci
Mathematics: The 101 Most Important Questions and Answers (3rd edition 2010)
Spanish: Alianza
Italian: Adriano Salani
Korean: Planet B
Simplified Chinese: Jilin
Complex Chinese: CommonWealth Magazine

Italian: Adriano Salani
Simplified Chinese: China Children's Press & Publication Group
Complex Chinese: Planter Press
Korean: DaekyoBertelsmann

Pasta all’infinito (4th edition 2001)
Korean: Clio Publishing
Italian: Ponte alle Grazie S.r.l.

Classified Languages (2013)
Simplified Chinese: Beijing Publishing Group Co. Ltd.
Prussia’s General and his Time
Winner of Königgrätz and Sedan, pioneer of the German Reich, consummator of the General Staff, cosmopolitan and national icon, poet and politician, adventurer and „great quiet man“ - Helmuth von Moltke (1800-1891) was one of the most influential generals of the century. The Germans worshipped him, even idolized him. In his masterfully told biography, Olaf Jessen wipes the dust off this monumental figure of the century in German and European history.

His career began as a Danish cadet. Moltke joined the army of the King of Prussia, translated Gibbon’s monumental Roman history and was detached to the Ottoman Empire, the decline of which he witnessed very closely on campaigns and journeys. His „Letters from Turkey“ became a bestseller. He married a half-English woman, cultivated music and literature, found access to the Berlin court and was promoted to Chief of the Great General Staff. His victorious campaigns against Denmark, Austria and France led to the foundation of the German Reich and at the same time opened the gate to industrialised war. Subsequently the Chief of Staff warned against total wars.

Olaf Jessen succeeds in bringing Moltke to life showing him behind the scenes of model Prussia as melancholic, adventurous and cosmopolitan German who unites all the contradictions of the century.

Olaf Jessen is a historian and journalist living in Schleswig-Holstein.

Further works published by C.H. Beck:

*Die Moltkes (The Moltke Family)*
(2010)
Simplified Chinese: Bookzone
Publication Service Co. Ltd.
Matthias Drobinski and Thomas Urban

John Paul II
The Pope, who came from the East
A Biography

The Pope of the Century
John Paul II (1920-2005) was the pope of the century. He inspired the masses and his visits to Poland showed the people in the Eastern Bloc that there was a force stronger than the communist state apparatus.

But as much as Karol Wojtyla in his homeland had always supported the reformers in the church - as Pope he ruled authoritarian, curtailed the independence of the local churches and disciplined theologians. Matthias Drobinski and Thomas Urban do not tell the story of a saint, but rather portray a fascinating personality who was revolutionary and reactionary all in one. Under the impression of the National Socialist terror regime, Karol Wojtyla opted for the priesthood. He developed a theology based on the freedom and dignity of man who strives beyond himself and his material existence. He helped to tear down the Iron Curtain by his actions against communism, but he also relentlessly criticized the materialism of the West. In a courageous step, he asked forgiveness as Pope for the guilt of the past. But with his adherence to a rigid sexual morality, his no to the ordination of women and his misjudgement of the abuse scandal, John Paul II left a heavy legacy to his church.

Matthias Drobinski has been responsible for churches and religious communities in the „Süddeutsche Zeitung“ since 1997. As a journalist he accompanied the terms of office of John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Now he reports on Pope Francis.

As a correspondent for the daily newspaper „Süddeutsche Zeitung“ from 1988 to 2012, Thomas Urban witnessed the major upheavals in Eastern Europe. His most recent publication with C.H. Beck was „Katyn 1940. History of a crime“ (2015).
Wolfgang Schwentker

History of Japan


No country in Asia seems more fascinating and enigmatic than Japan. The island nation has not only produced a unique culture and aesthetics, it also looks back on a long history. However, a new comprehensive history of Japan written in German has long been lacking. Wolfgang Schwentker now presents it and uses the latest research to tell the story of Japan from prehistoric and early times to the present day. His large book can be regarded as the new standard work on the subject.

Japan’s geographical location on the outermost edge of East Asia and its insular character have characterized its relationship to the outside world and its social development throughout the ages. This tension between “inside” and “outside” forms the leitmotif of Schwentker’s depiction: phases of opening are followed again and again by periods of closure, while at the same time the inner order is strongly influenced by it. Foreign cultural loans and the indigenous will to cultural self-assertion wrestle with each other and produce their very own dynamic, which is by no means just a phenomenon of Japanese modernity, but clearly a characteristic of the country’s entire history.

Wolfgang Schwentker was Professor of Comparative History of Culture and Ideas at the University of Osaka from 2002 to 2019. C.H. Beck also published his book „The Samurai“ (2019).

Further works published with C.H. Beck:

The Samurai (2019)
Spanish: Alianza Editorial S.A.
Simplified Chinese: Beijing Publishing Group
Armin Grau

*Just a Matter of Nerves*
How the Nervous System Determines our Life

“Body and soul touch each other in our nerves.”
*Armin Grau*

Prof. Dr. med Armin Grau, chief neurologist at the Ludwigshafen Hospital, describes in exciting stories and clear words how our nervous system functions, what happens when nerves fail, nerves and muscles do not interact or our movements become stiffer. It shows which warning signs we have to observe, but also how we can better protect ourselves against many diseases.

We all know: The heart starts to race when the dog jumps at us. The knees tremble before a test. These body reactions are controlled by the vegetative nervous system. Our entire body is pervaded by nerves. Without them we could neither think nor move. Some people have nerves like wire ropes, others quickly pass through their nerves. Many diseases are also nerve-related: from tension headaches and migraines to strokes, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, dementia and Parkinson's disease. Many neurological diseases are accompanied by psychological symptoms. How closely body and soul are interwoven becomes clear in neurology. By understanding neurological diseases, we also gain insights into how our nervous system functions, especially in a healthy state. „Just a matter of nerves“ is an entertaining and easy to understand book about what we know about our nerves today.

Prof. Dr. med **Armin Grau** is Chief Physician of the Neurological Clinic at the Klinikum Ludwigshafen. His main research focus is stroke and in particular the connection with infections and inflammations as well as with social conditions.
Richard Wagner

Lohengrin
Illustrated by Rosa Loy and Neo Rauch
With an introduction by Christian Thielemann

Richard Wagner's Romantic Opera - Illustrated by Neo Rauch and Rosa Loy.
Wagner's famous romantic opera „Lohengrin“ tells the fateful story of Elsa von Brabant and her „Swan Knight“ Lohengrin. The artist couple Neo Rauch and Rosa Loy have created wonderfully poetic illustrations in the basic colour blue.

Two courageous, strong women: for Neo Rauch and Rosa Loy, Elsa and her adversary Ortrud are in the foreground. Each fights in their own way against the hypocrisy of the male-dominated Brabant society - both free themselves from this world, following their inner voice and their own will. Their men, Lohengrin and Telramund, must surrender to them. For the timeless topicality of this drama, the artist couple find a strong visual language in which several levels of time are intertwined: the Brabanters in lace collars and sneakers in front of a neo-Romantic industrial architecture, for example, or a transformer station whose electrical conductors allow the music to flow through all time. Neo Rauch and Rosa Loy's so far unpublished Lohengrin drafts impressively illustrate Wagner's libretto, which together with these images reads like a modern fairy tale.

Neo Rauch is one of the internationally most important contemporary German artists. Together with his wife, the painter Rosa Loy, he designed the stage design and costumes for the new Lohengrin production in Bayreuth 2018.

Christian Thielemann is Chief Conductor of the Staatskapelle Dresden and Music Director of the Bayreuth Festival.
Language today is doubly threatened: by a pre-linguistic communication of feelings in sounds and gestures, and by a technical-scientific labeling with words that have to be precise, indifferently from which particular language they originate. Language is endangered as a human way to open up the world. The new book by the renowned linguist Jürgen Trabant is the vehement defence of a precious good.

As Humboldt already knew, the diverse languages of Europe and the whole world are different ways of looking at the world. If one wants to defend the world-lightening function of language, one must also preserve the richness of the many languages. This is also true for all the other European languages that are on the retreat, because only the global language promises power.

Jürgen Trabant’s book is a praise of language, without which mankind cannot exist, and at the same time a warning of the approaching decline of language.


Further titles published by C.H. Beck:
Mithridates in Paradise (2003)
French: ENS Éditions
In a study from 2016 on the decisive networks behind the DAX-30 corporations, the Baden-Baden Business Talks, called BBUG, are described as one of the most important links for managers in the German economy.

Surprisingly, there is so far no file-based history in which the historical roots of the BBUG’s ideas are uncovered and its development traced. Martin Hinzmann and Joachim Scholtyseck now close this research gap and present the first history of the Baden-Baden business talks to be drawn from these sources.

Long before the term was in vogue, the BBUG, founded in 1954/55, was an element of civil society exchange. And even long after the post-war shortage of managers had been overcome and Anglo-Saxon-style business schools had been established throughout Europe, “Baden-Baden” continued to exist as a format for further training for top management. What adjustments had to be made for this form of entrepreneurial elite education to take account of social change and an increasingly global industrial society? And what role did such an institution play between the dissolving „Deutschland AG“ and the increasingly critical discourse on the social responsibility of companies and managers? In addition to clarifying these questions, the present work is supplemented by a contribution of Johannes Bähr, which outlines the most recent modernisation of the BBUG to the present day.

**Martin Hinzmann** was a research assistant at the University of Bonn. He is a historian and researches the history of international relations and corporate history.

**Joachim Scholtyseck** is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Bonn. C.H. Beck has published, among others, „The Rise of the Quandts“ („Der Aufstieg der Quandts“, 2011).
The Eventful Life of an Impressive German-British Border Crosser.
William Siemens is one of the founding personalities of Siemens. Born in Germany, he became a much honored Englishman.

He headed the English branch of Siemens and also worked as an independent engineer and entrepreneur. His work included the global telegraph system, metallurgical innovations, energy savings and environmental protection. His name is associated with the Siemens Martin process, the most important steel production process in the world for a century. In his new biography, Wolfgang König sheds light on the eventful life of an impressive border crosser.

Wolfgang König is Professor emeritus of History of Technology at the Technical University of Berlin. He has received a number of awards for his work in the history of technology.

Wolfgang König
The CSU has always been different from the other parties.

Provincial and cosmopolitan, small-minded and big-headed, bursting with strength and vulnerable - that’s how it became the Bavarian State Party. But the CSU’s glory is wavering, and it is uncertain whether it will be able to maintain its positions of power in the Free State of Bavaria and in Berlin. Roman Deininger has been scrutinizing the CSU for the „Süddeutsche Zeitung“ for many years. His subtle portrait of this „special“ party is well informed, critical, fair and - like the CSU itself - highly entertaining. What other parties can only dream of is a hell of a fall for the CSU: it achieved only 37.2 percent in the 2018 state elections in Bavaria, after having ruled almost uninterruptedly with an absolute majority for decades. How can this enormous success be explained and why this crisis now? How does this party actually work? Roman Deininger follows the path of the CSU, but his book is far more than lesson in history – it is a political report that takes the reader to the tradition of Political Ash Wednesdays and behind the scenes of power.

Roman Deininger is a political journalist for the „Süddeutsche Zeitung“ and has accompanied the CSU in this function for many years. He was nominated for the Theodor Wolff Prize for his portrait of Markus Söder in the „Süddeutsche Zeitung“. 
The long-awaited, monumental 6th volume of the Handbook of Latin Literature of Antiquity, now published in two parts, is dedicated to the era of Emperor Theodosius (374-430) - a time of great flowering of Latin literature of late antiquity.

In the various cultural centres and the different regions of the Roman Empire - Italy, Illyria, Gaul, Spain and Africa - not only a multitude of new literary forms developed, but also the traditional genres were revived in the confrontation with Christian literature. The triumvirate of Christian literature - Ambrose, Jerome and Augustine - as well as the profane authors Symmachus and Ammianus Marcellinus and the poetic works of Paulinus of Nola, Claudian and Prudentius are comprehensively presented. The theological debates reflected in the texts are of great interest in the history of ideas, while the specialist literature provides deep insight into the scholar and scientific life of the time.

Jean-Denis Berger was until he retired a university lecturer in Latin literature at the Université Paris-IV-Sorbonne and administrator de la Revue des Études Augustiniennes et Patristiques.

Jacques Fontaine was an important French Latinist, specialist in Middle Latin and a member of the Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres.

Peter Lebrecht Schmidt taught as Professor of Latin Studies at the University of Constance. Together with Reinhart Herzog he is the editor of the Handbook of Latin Literature and in this case also co-editor of volume VIII 6.

Jean-Denis Berger
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“It reads like a political thriller”
Bernd Schekauski, MDR Figaro

“For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind” — Michael Lüders describes how this verse from the Bible applies to Western interventions in the Middle East since the colonial era.

He also explains what these actions have to do with the current political situation. His book reads like a political thriller — but unfortunately he is describing reality.

Each story takes on different aspects depending on where you begin to tell it, and we tend to forget what happened a long time ago. Iran’s relationship to the West is only understandable if the story contains the 1953 coup organized by the CIA and MI6 that ousted Mohammed Mossadegh, the democratically elected Iranian Prime Minister. And it is impossible to grasp the present success of ISIS or the “Islamic State” if the narrative leaves out the Iraq War of 2003 and Western policy toward Bashir al-Assad in Syria. Readers who want a better understanding of the historical context in the region should turn to this work, a kind of “black book” of Western policy in the Middle East.

Michael Lüders, author and orientalist, was Middle East correspondent for „Die Zeit“ for many years. He is president of the German-Arabic Society and an expert on Islam for radio and television. His most recent publication with C.H. Beck was „Armageddon in the Orient“ (2019).
Navid Kermani
Along the Trenches
A Journey through Eastern Europe All the Way to Isfahan.

„An Overwhelming Travel Book“ Bayerischer Rundfunk (Bavarian Broadcasting)

A territory that still seems strange, rugged by wars and catastrophes, begins east of Germany and stretches across Russia to the Orient. Navid Kermani has travelled along the trenches that are currently opening up in Europe: from his hometown of Cologne to the east to the Baltic states and from there south via the Caucasus to Isfahan, the home of his parents. This is Kermani’s travel diary of forgotten regions where history is still being made today.

„Very interesting, informative, exciting and moving.“ Christian Seibt, Neue Presse.

„A contemporary Herodotus.“ Philipp Holstein, Rheinisch Post
„One of the few curious.“ Franz Sommerfeld, Berliner Zeitung.
„A broadening of horizons.“ Denis Scheck, Druckfrisch
„A blazing plea for Europe that consolidates his (Kermani’s) place within the small circle of influential intellectuals in Germany.“ Rainer Hermann, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Navid Kermani lives as a freelance writer in Cologne. He has received numerous awards for his novels, essays and reports, including the Kleist Prize, the Joseph Breitbach Prize and the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade. C.H. Beck published his following books: “Tomorrow is now” (Morgen ist da, 2019), “Between Quran and Kafka” (Zwischen Koran und Kafka, 2016), “Breaking into Reality” (Einbruch der Wirklichkeit, 2016) as well as “Incredulous Awe. On Christianity” (Ungläubiges Staunen. Über das Christentum, 2017).

Further works published by C.H. Beck:
Incredulous Awe (10th edition 2016)
- English: Polity Press
- Dutch: Uitgeverij Cossee
- Spanish: Ediciones Pezniula
- Croatian: Naklada Lejvak
- Norwegian: Mentor Medier
- French: Éditions Druckfrisch
- Italian: Marsilio Editori
- Bosnian: Synopsis d.o.o.

State of Exception (8th edition 2016)
- English: Polity Press
- Italian: Keller Editore
- Croatian: Naklada Lejvak

Between the Quran and Kafka (5th edition 2015)
- English: Polity Press
- Turkish: Bali Müsavirlik

Who Is ‘We’? (8th edition 2016)
- Serbian: Samizdat B92
- Arabic: Kalimat Arabia

God Is Beautiful (5th edition 2015)
- English: Polity Press
- Turkish: Alfa Yayin Group
- Arabic: Al-Kamel Verlag

The Terror of God. (2nd edition 2015)
- English: Polity Press
- Turkish: Pinar Yayinlari

- Dutch: Uitgeverij Cossee
- Italian: Keller Editore
- English: Polity Press
Michael Brenner

Israel
Dream and Reality of the Jewish State
From Theodor Herzl till today

Michael Brenner’s History of Israel - “highly concentrated and in brilliant style“ Ronen Steinke, Süddeutsche Zeitung.

Michael Brenner masterfully interweaves Israel's political and social development with the history of it’s self-drafts, dreams and traumas. Only those who know this dimension of depth can really understand the great small country that keeps the world in suspense again and again.

Israel concerns us all. Its birth is deeply connected with the wounds of Germany and Europe. The religion of most people has its origins in the territory of today's Israel. Michael Brenner describes the history of the country from the impossible longing of the early Zionists for a „normal state“ through the founding of the state in 1948 and the subsequent wars and waves of immigration to the different visions of Israel, which today increasingly divide the country.

„Currently the best available account of the history of political Zionism and its goal, the founding of the State of Israel“.

Micha Brumlik, Zeitscheine.

„Brenner’s book stands out from the many other Israel books.“ Henryk M. Broder, Die Welt.

Michael Brenner holds the Chair of Jewish History and Culture at the University of Munich and is Director of the Center for Israel Studies at the American University in Washington, DC. He also holds many other positions, including International President of the Leo Baeck Institute and full member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences. His publications with C. H. Beck include „Kleine jüdische Geschichte“ (A Short History of the Jews, 2014) and „Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland seit 1945“ (A History of Jews in Germany since 1945, 2012).
Martin Zimmermann
The Most Intriguing Places of the Ancient World
Haunted Houses, Hanging Gardens and the Ends of the Earth

Forget everything you think you know about the ancient world and look forward to a journey to gardens of love and ancient libraries of the Orient, to golden horse stables in Pharaonic Egypt and ghost houses in Athens, to pirate sites in the mountains and to the center of the world.

Beyond the Forum Romanum and the Acropolis, there are places no Latin teacher has ever told you about. These include the once mighty Eridu, in the consciousness of the Sumerians the primeval city of the world, as well as the tomb of the Egyptian ruler Cleopatra in Alexandria - symbol of one of mankind's greatest love stories - and the city of elephants in the Middle East, where tens of thousands of animals were bred because the surrounding kingdoms wanted to equip their armies with them. And then mysterious places of a distant past await us, where disturbing rituals were performed, such as in the sanctuary of the Gula in Isin with its dog cult or in that city in Gaul, where the Celts fitted skulls of slain enemies into their front doors, which can still be seen today. Martin Zimmermann, one of the best connoisseurs of antiquity, leads to these and many other strange places of an unknown antiquity in his clever and entertaining book.

Martin Zimmermann is Professor of Ancient History at Munich University. C.H. Beck has also published his books: „Kaiser und Ereignis. Studien zum Geschichtswerk Hadrians“ (Emperor and Event: A Study of Herodian’s History, 1999); Pergamon (2011); „Divus Augustus. The First Roman Emperor and his World“ (together with Wilfried Stroh and Ralf von den Hoff, 2014)
Karl Schlögel's new assessment of the Soviet world

With his Archaeology of Communism, the great historian of Eastern Europe, Karl Schlögel, invites us to reassess the Soviet world.

We always knew a lot about how „the system“ worked, far less about the routines of life in extraordinary times. But every empire has its sound, its smell, its rhythm, which lives on even after the empire has ceased to exist. Thus, a hundred years after the revolution of 1917 and a quarter of a century after the end of the Soviet Union, the panorama of a unique empire emerges, without which we cannot understand „the time afterwards“ in which we live today.

Until his retirement Karl Schlögel taught Eastern European History at the Europa University Viadrina in Frankfurt an der Oder. His books were awarded the Prize of the Historical College („Historikerpreis“) and the Prize of the Leipzig Book Fair.
Michael von Brück

*How Do We Want to Die?*
Ten Meditations on Spiritual Palliative Practice

About the Power of Spirituality at the End of Life
In this book, people who are interested in preparing themselves for dying or accompanying others in dying receive inspirations for a practice of life and death. Religious scientist and Zen and Yoga teacher Michael von Brück combines his own experiences in hospice practice and meditation with the modern scientific findings of palliative medicine and social psychology.

The book revives the ancient culture of the art of dying (ars moriendi) as the art of living (ars vivendi). We will all die, and preparing for it does not have to produce any sad unwillingness to live. On the contrary, a conscious handling of one’s own finiteness can increase the quality of life, deepen the joy of the present and shape our minds in such a way that we will die - hopefully - in peace.

**Michael von Brück** is Professor emeritus of Religious Studies at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Honorary Professor of Religious Studies/Religion Aesthetics at the Catholic Private University in Linz and Rector of the Palliative Spiritual Academy Domicilium. Further works published by C.H. Beck: „Die 101 wichtigsten Fragen: Buddhismus“ (The 101 most important questions: Buddhism).

Further works published by C.H. Beck:

*Michael Brück / Whalen Lai: Buddhism and Christianity*
French: *Salvator*
English: *Orbis Books*
Walter Toman was the first to deal empirically and theoretically with the psychology of sibling positions and their effects on family relationships. “Family Constellations”, first published in the USA in 1961, is the classic on this topic.

Whether we are single children, older or younger brothers or sisters, whether our parents come from small or larger families, how well the experiences of the spouses in their families of origin fit together and how the succession of children fits - these and other characteristics of family constellations are important for our development and our later life. In this diversity, readers also find information about their own family constellations and how well or badly certain sibling positions harmonise on average. For example, the prognosis for a family in which the father is the youngest brother of sisters and the mother the eldest sister of brothers is very favourable. If, on the other hand, the father is the eldest brother of brothers and the mother the eldest sister of sisters, then it is likely that ranking and gender conflicts will severely disrupt, if not threaten, the relationship.

Walter Toman (1920 - 2003) was born in Vienna and studied psychology there. From 1951 he taught clinical psychology in the USA, first at Harvard, then from 1954 to 1962 as professor at Brandeis University in Boston. From 1964 until retirement, Toman was Professor of Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.
Massel tow! 100 entertaining word stories

Yiddish words are a small but very colorful part of the German language. Hans Peter Althaus explains in an entertaining way why they are still surrounded by a special aura that makes them untranslatable.

Did you know that „taff“ is not an English word, but a Yiddish word and that it means „good“? Hans Peter Althaus speaks „Tacheles“ in this book. In about one hundred entertaining word stories he explains how the words „Macke“ and „Maloche“, „Massel“ and „Schlamassel“, „Reibach“ and „Pleite“, among many other Yiddish words, have found their way into the German language. The use of the words and their secondary meaning have shifted over time, but they still stand for witty polemics, superior wit and subtle irony.
Mozart’s dissonant life - brilliantly narrated by Eva Gesine Baur
Eva Gesine Baur tells Mozart’s dissonant life without glossing over the fact that the creator of incredible music also had a black side: conscious of his divine talent, he lied, tricked and intrigued. He gave away bliss and distributed evil. The biography explores this abyss.

Mozart himself has put the problem into the world that his admirers and biographers struggle with: he wrote letters that expose his human weaknesses. Other contemporary testimonies also show a Mozart who was anything but divine. The facts forbid to blame his father, Salieri or his wife Constanze. The philosopher Norbert Elias declared the separation of the work and the man Mozart as „artificial, misleading and unnecessary“.

His suffering from his outer ugliness helps to understand his desire for beauty. A remark by the great Mozart conductor Richard Strauss led the author to compare Mozart with the god Eros, as he is described in Plato’s „Symposion“. Eros is not the beloved of all, but the great lover. Not beautiful himself, he looks for beauty. A sorcerer, but also a great intriguer. A demon, driven by an insatiable longing. Neither God nor man. Rather a messenger between the divine and the all-too-human. Mozart and Eros: the great contradiction. Both earthly and celestial.

„Outstandingly researched, scientifically grounded and as exciting as a novel.“ Elfi Braschel, Südkurier

Eva Gesine Baur holds a doctorate in art history and has also studied literature, musicology, psychology and singing. She has published numerous books on cultural history and several novels under the name Lea Singer. In 2010 she was awarded the Hannelore-Greve Literature Prize for outstanding achievements in the field of German-language literature. In 2016 she was awarded the art prize „Schwabinger Kunstpreis“.
Abroad, the German culture of remembrance is regarded as a success story and a role model. In Germany, on the other hand, it has always been the subject of discomfort and criticism. Since it is self-critical, such counter-voices are an absolute must - they prevent fixations and keep the culture of remembrance alive. In the meantime, however, the spectrum of criticism has expanded considerably once again. From the right-wing political edge, the foundations of our culture of remembrance are now being radically questioned.

In her book, which is now available in an updated new edition, Aleida Assmann addresses the critical voices of recent times. She shows what is controversial, where there is a need for change and which principles must be defended in times of a new nationalism. At the same time, it shows that our culture of remembrance is a national project that reacts to historical changes and ever new challenges.

„Assmann calls her contribution an intervention. You have to thank her for this intervention because it comes at the right time and with the right messages. “
Alexandra Senfft, taz

Aleida Assmann is Professor Emeritus of English and General Literature at the University of Konstanz. She has received numerous awards, including the A. H. Heineken Prize for History (2014), the Balsan Prize (with Jan Assmann, 2017) and the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade (together with Jan Assmann, 2018).

Further works published by C.H.Beck:
The European Dream. Four Lessons from History (2018)
Russian: ooo Redakcija zhurnalna
Italian: Keller Editore
Greek: Crete University Press
From Ötzi to Oswald von Wolkenstein to the freedom fighters around Andreas Hofer, from Paleolithic traces of human life to Roman transit routes, medieval castles and towns to the 20th century shattered by wars, which only came to a conciliatory end in 1992 with the autonomy of the South Tyroleans: Brigitte Mazohl and Rolf Steininger tell the eventful story of this ancient cultural landscape between Germanic north and Romanic south.

For 15,000 years people have been living in the mountain landscape characterised by rugged cliffs and lovely valleys, which we call South Tyrol. From 59 BC to the Migration Period, this transit region belonged to the Roman Empire, and from the 6th century onwards it was inhabited by Bajuwar. In 1363 the county of Tyrol fell to the Habsburgs - for more than half a millennium. Since 1919 South Tyrol has been separated from the northern and eastern parts of the country. But in the European region Tyrol-South and Tyrol-Trentino, what belongs together grows together again since 1998.

Brigitte Mazohl was Professor of Austrian History at the University of Innsbruck from 1993 to 2015. From 2013 to 2017 she was president of the philosophical-historical class of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Rolf Steininger has taught as a professor of contemporary history at numerous universities, including Düsseldorf, Bolzano, Tel Aviv and New Orleans. From 1984 to 2010 he was director of the Institute of Contemporary History at the University of Innsbruck, which he founded.
Florian Coulmas

Japanese Culture
Tradition and Modernism

Starting from the question of what is genuinely Japanese about Japanese culture and what is culturally conditioned, Florian Coulmas shows what distinguishes contemporary Japanese culture from others and clarifies what is meant by culture: everyday behaviour and social relations (manners, kinship, etc.); values and convictions (especially religious); institutions such as the annual cycle, school or the company; and finally forms of material culture (including clothing and fashion, housing and architecture, food and aesthetics).

The main focus is on the peculiarities of Japanese culture, which have proved to be relatively stable and have appeared in various epochs. The analysis of the spiritual background of cultural traditions thus makes it possible to understand behaviours, values and forms of aesthetic design that have given today’s hyper-modern Japan its own unique place in an increasingly globalised world.

“Florian Coulmas has succeeded in creating a standard work” Steffen Gnam, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Florian Coulmas is professor emeritus of language and culture of modern Japan at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Further works published by C.H. Beck:

101 key questions: Japan (Die 101 wichtigsten Fragen: Japan. Coulmas/Stalpers 2011)
Dutch: Yoyogi Park
Michael Hauskeller

What is Art?
Positions of aesthetics from Plato to Danto

Which things may and may not be considered art? One is often puzzled when standing in a museum and asks oneself: Is that really art? Apparently some people think it is, otherwise it wouldn’t be there. But why?

In this book, Michael Hauskeller presents the most important stages of aesthetics from ancient times to the present day. The sixteen brilliant short essays together result in a short history of aesthetics from Plato to Danto - concise, pointed and generally understandable.

Michael Hauskeller is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Liverpool. His work focuses on practical philosophy.
Ernst-Peter Fischer
The Essential Knowledge
From the Big Bang until now

“You can't not want to know!” - Who agrees with this thought of Robert Musil will get his money's worth in the “essential knowledge“.

Ernst Peter Fischer, one of the most renowned German historians of science has created a small vademecum of the basic knowledge that one should always have at hand and that is worth thinking about again and again. Without stringing together facts like a telephone book, he tells us briefly and vividly about the most important milestones in the development of nature and mankind from the beginnings of energy to the digitalization of our world.

Ernst Peter Fischer is a physicist and professor at the Universities of Constance and Heidelberg where he teaches history of science. In his impressive oeuvre, the book „Das andere Wissen“ (The Other Knowledge, 2001) attracted greatest attention and became a true bestseller in science.
The foundation of the empire in 1870/71 soon marks its 150th anniversary. Once celebrated as great achievement it was regarded in the Federal Republic of Germany as the cause of the catastrophes of the 20th century.

But in the meantime research has accentuated or even revised some interpretations. The predominantly critical attitude has partly given way to an „understanding“ of the time-bound nature of decisions and developments at that time. Michael Epkenhans clarifies the significance of the founding of the Reich and shows that it was - regardless of its effectiveness in the 19th and 20th centuries - just one event among many others in German history.

Michael Epkenhans is a managing civil servant and deputy commander as well as leading scientist at the Center for Military History and Social Sciences of the German Armed Forces in Potsdam.
On 20 February 1920 the NSDAP was founded - at that time a radical nationalist splinter party among others.

What forces made two dozen men who met in Munich's back rooms form the criminal mass party that became the strongest Reichstag faction in July 1932? What shaped their mentality and power structures, and what role did Hitler play as party leader? What function did the NSDAP have as a mobilization and control apparatus before and during the Second World War? Hans-Ulrich Thamer answers these and many other questions concisely and competently.

Hans-Ulrich Thamer is professor emeritus of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Münster.
In this book Andreas Rödder gives a concise and precise introduction to the history of German reunification.

He describes the course of events from the eve of the peaceful revolution to unity through accession, asks about the challenges, achievements and failures of reunification and names the most important actors. The balanced presentation captivates by the sovereign knowledge of sources and the clarity of judgements.

Andreas Rödder, born 1967, is Professor of Modern History at the Historical Institute of the University of Mainz. His most recent publication with C.H. Beck is: “Konservativ 21.0 - eine Agenda für Deutschland“ (Conservative 21.0 - an agenda for Germany).
The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has been in the focus of world public attention for decades.

The authors vividly trace its history and explain the different views of the conflict parties. They describe the most important points of contention - such as control over Jerusalem, access to water and the course of the border - and explain why the current constellations of domestic and foreign policy do not allow the trouble spot to calm down.

Muriel Asseburg, Dr. rer. pol., is a Middle East expert at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) in Berlin.

Jan Busse, Dr. phil., is a research assistant at the Chair of International Politics and Conflict Research at the University of the Federal Armed Forces Munich.
In addition to the four biblical gospels, numerous texts on Jesus were written in early Christianity, which did not find their way into the Bible.

Above all the „childhood gospels“ had a lasting influence on Christian piety - liturgy, festive traditions, pictorial representations. Other texts such as the Gospel of Thomas were only rediscovered in the 20th century. Jens Schröter describes the most important apocryphal writings on Jesus, sheds light on their relationship to the canonical gospels and explains their significance for the history of Christianity.

Jens Schröter is Professor of New Testament and New Testament Apocrypha at Humboldt University Berlin. He has taught in Houston and Jerusalem and is co-editor of internationally relevant book series and journals.
For thousands of years they were considered insurmountable: the location of the Alps between the early civilized Mediterranean and the very fertile, equally early populated Central Europe made them a barrier for a long time, which had to be overcome in order to connect the two regions.

Hansjörg Küster follows the history of the Alps from its formation by the collision of the African and European plates, its transformation by the Ice Age glaciers and the amazingly early use of its high altitudes to its exploration and present-day tourism.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is at the centre of the digitalisation we are currently experiencing.

It is only through intelligent analysis that it is possible to do something with the data, and this analysis is provided by algorithms that work with various methods from the AI toolbox. There are great hopes and fears associated with this. The book follows a realistic perspective. Manuela Lenzen describes the basics, possibilities and limits of artificial intelligence, its most important applications and consequences that have already occurred or are imminent.

Manuela Lenzen holds a doctorate in philosophy and writes as a freelance science journalist about digitization, artificial intelligence and cognitive research.

Further works published by C.H. Beck: “Artificial intelligence. What it can do & what awaits us” (Künstliche Intelligenz. Was sie kann & was uns erwartet, 2019).
In the 19th century, the long history of the Chinese Empire led to a period of wars, revolutions, forced modernization, and finally to an unprecedented economic boom.

Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer explains which continuities have shaped the eventful Chinese history of the last 200 years and how the Chinese themselves understand their role in history and the world.

The proven standard work has been completely revised and updated for the new edition.

Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer has been teaching at East Asian chairs in Munich and Göttingen since 1981 and was director of the Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel until 2015. Since then he has been a senior professor at Eberhard Karls University and director of the China Centre Tübingen.
Western literature owes Homer and his epics Iliad and Odyssey a lot. Especially the Odyssey and its hero Odysseus shaped not only Greek culture, but also literature, art and music to the present day.

With Bernhard Zimmermann, an internationally renowned connoisseur of Greek literary history presents an entertaining introduction to this work. In it, he explores the questions of its origin in the 7th century B.C., the tradition of epics, the literary peculiarities, the persons involved, the scenes and conflicts, and the history of its reception.

Bernhard Zimmermann is Professor of Classical Philology at the University of Freiburg. His publications available from C.H. Beck include: introductions to Latin and Greek studies (in conjunction with M. Weissenberger and P. Riemer), Handbook of Greek Literature of Antiquity, Volume 1 (published 2011); Volume 2 (published together with Antonios Rengakos, 2014).
Hegel's 250th birthday is in 2020 - his famous and infamous publication „Elements of the Philosophy of Right“ was published 200 years ago.

On this double occasion, the Munich philosopher Günter Zöller clearly and concisely introduces the work of the most important philosopher of the 19th century. He outlines his political and philosophical context and focuses on Hegel's four main publications as well as his late lectures on world history, aesthetics, philosophy of religion and history of philosophy.

Günter Zöller is Professor of Philosophy at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. C.H. Beck also published his book „Philosophy of the 19th Century. From Kant to Nietzsche“ (Philosophie des 19. Jahrhunderts. Von Kant bis Nietzsche)
This book gives an informative overview of Thuringian regional history including prehistory and early history.

It brings the reader closer to the clearly defined landscape in the middle of Germany, from the kingdom of the Thuringians to the Landgraviate of Thuringia and the proverbial world of small states to today’s Free State. The significance of Thuringia as a „heartland of German culture“ around World Heritage sites Wartburg and Weimar is also revealed.

Steffen Raßloff has a doctorate in history and has been publishing on the history of Thuringia and the Thuringians for many years.
Jennifer Royston
Foreign Rights | Verlag C.H. Beck | Literatur – Sachbuch – Wissenschaft
Wilhelmstraße 9 | 80801 München
Tel. +49 89 38189-335
jennifer.royston@beck.de

For Hungarian and Italian Translation Rights please contact:
Susanne Simor
Foreign Rights Manager | Verlag C.H. Beck | Literatur – Sachbuch – Wissenschaft
Wilhelmstraße 9 | 80801 München
Tel. +49 89 38189-228
susanne.simor@beck.de

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Marianne Schönbach
Fon: +31 / 20 / 62000 - 20
m.schonbach@schonbach.nl
On an ice-cold Oslo winter morning a grotesquely draped corpse lies in the front garden of Berit Berglund, head of the secret service unit E 39: Hauke Ingstad, most recently deputy CEO of „Nordic Invest“, the world's largest sovereign wealth fund.

When the head of the Norwegian computer centre „Green Valley“, Erling Opdal, is also found dead suspicions grow that someone is targeting the assets and data resources of the entire country. Why is the American investment fund „BlackHawk“ carrying out these deeds, what does the Californian data octopus „Elendilmir“ have to do with the murders? And how can it be that an American killer is protected by two Norwegian policemen?

With her team the German journalist Sophie Schelling, who had rescued herself from the NSA's grip on Oslo, and Harald Nansen, a secret policeman of Pakistani origin, Berit Berglund starts an investigation that leads to the highest police and government circles. Anyone who wants to know who rules the world only has to follow the trail of money. Michael Lüders has written a gripping, shockingly realistic political thriller.

For many years Michael Lüders was Middle East correspondent of the Hamburg weekly newspaper „Die Zeit“ and knows from his own experience all the countries in the region. As an Islamic expert he is a frequent guest on radio and television.

Further works of the autor: “Never say anything“, a film option was sold recently.
How do we experience the world and ourselves in it? In which language, with which signs and models and on what basis do we explain them to ourselves? And which forms of explanation and which models have prevailed, at least in the West, and why?

For Jonas Lüscher, who is one of the most respected authors of contemporary literature with „Barbarians’ Spring“ and „Kraft“, these are very personal questions. They concern his own writing. And they were important for his decision to leave the university world behind, but is still not able to rely merely on a complete immersion in the narrative of his literary work. In this book Lüscher develops his idea of narration as a descriptive knowledge of the individual case which nevertheless cannot escape the principles of order. And because he is concerned with questions of power he expressly deals with the subject of committed literature. A fascinating book about what only literature can do.

Jonas Lüscher, born 1976 in Switzerland, lives in Munich. His novella „Barbarians’ Spring“ became a bestseller which was on the longlist for the German Book Prize and was nominated for the Swiss Book Prize. It has been translated into 16 languages. Lüscher’s novel „Kraft“ won the Swiss Book Prize and was sold to eight countries. Jonas Lüscher received the Hans Fallada Prize and the Prix Franz Hessel, amongst others.
„I always remember where I see your glasses because you’ll be looking for them soon.“
Every now and then normal madness arises in every relationship. But why did prominent couples like Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir argue? And which of Caesar's habits did Cleopatra find troublesome?

In unerringly comical dialogues and original illustrations Jochen Schmidt and Line Hoven bring famous couples from the Bible, art history and pop culture into the present and show that even Adam and Eve were anything but paradisiacal – just like Gretchen and Faust, Tarzan and Jane, Miss Piggy and Kermit, Winnetou and Old Shatterhand, Batman and Robin, Katia and Thomas Mann, C-3PO and R2-D2, and so on.

Jochen Schmidt, born in Berlin in 1970, studied computer science, German and Romanic languages. He was co-founder of the theatre „Chaussee der Enthusiasten“ in Berlin.
Line Hoven, born 1977 in Bonn and who now lives in Hamburg, is a comic designer and illustrator. Her publications include „Liebe schaut weg“ for which she was awarded the ICOM Prize at the 13th International Comic Salon in Erlangen.

Further works by the author (selection):
“A Project for Otto Kwant”, sold to Serbia/ Radni Sto
“Snail’s Mill”, sold to China/Sichuan
“Sugar Sand”
Amir Hassan Cheheltan

The Circle of Literature Lovers

Novel

240 pages
€ 22.­

German title:
Amir Hassan Cheheltan
Der Zirkel der Literaturliebhaber
Roman

Every Thursday eight guests came to Cheheltan's parents' house to talk about literature. The subject was mainly classical Persian literature, Rumi, Hafis, Saadi, Ferdowsi and others.

For years these meetings continued and opened a space for language, poetry and interpretation, and concerned the great themes of life and spirit. They connected the participants, but also entangled them with each other because the state power also reigned in their circle. Since the sixties the Shah reigns with his repressive apparatus and the secret service SAVAK, until the Islamic revolution of 1979 replaced the regime with the power of the Mullahs. In his dense and detailed narrative Amir Hassan Cheheltan returns to this circle of literature lovers, their conversations about poetry, the role of his parents, the impulses for his own reading and the effect of literature. Literature is older, wiser, more comical, more subversive and sexually far more revealing than the official moral doctrine and social constraints would tolerate.

Amir Hassan Cheheltan, born in Tehran in 1956, studied electrical engineering in England, took part in the Iraq war and up to now has published novels and short stories in Tehran. He spent two years in Italy with his family because of threats from the regime. His novel „Teheran, Revolutionsstraße“ was first published in German in 2009, followed by „Teheran, Apokalypse“ and „Teheran, Stadt ohne Himmel“. In the meantime the entire Teheran trilogy has been published by C.H. Beck. Most recently C.H Beck published his novel „Der Kalligraph von Isfahan“. Cheheltan writes essays and feuilletons for important German newspapers such as „FAZ“, „SZ“ and „Die Zeit“.

Further works by the author:

“The Calligraph of Isfahan”,
sold to Lithuania/Alma

“Teheran, Trilogy”
„The Trumpets of Jericho“ (first published 1958) tells the story of a nameless well-educated man on the outskirts of Vienna (who unmistakably bears the author’s traits) and who out of an existential weakness finds himself in increasingly questionable moral circumstances.

First he witnesses a sexual assault on a little girl in a dark hallway. This is followed by degenerating alcoholic excesses and a malicious trumpet prank of a horde of men, aimed at a graceful old lady. But because Mrs Ida is not at home the nocturnal noise attack fails. Alarmed by the janitor the police riot squad appears and puts an abrupt end to the gross mischief. This is a furious darkly tinted masterpiece by the anti-psychologist Heimito von Doderer who himself liked to call this book his „actual masterpiece“.

Heimito von Doderer (1896 - 1966) is considered to be one of the most important Austrian writers of the 20th century.

Heimito von Doderer
The Trumpets of Jericho

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Further works by the author (selection):

No life is possible without good spirits, without life companions on whose encouragement one can rely. Albert von Schirnding found them first of all in literature, but also in philosophy and music. In this book he collected them, from Sappho to Samuel Beckett, and dedicated enchanting miniature portraits to them, showing what art and thought can mean for a life.

Albert von Schirnding’s „Gallery of Good Spirits“ is the sum of life-long reading. It is hard to imagine life without Sappho, for example, who asks Aphrodite to stand by her in the struggle for a girl’s affection; or Hamlet, who gave the fourteen-year-old the feeling of being a Robinson nobody knows about - somewhere between the shores of being and non-being. We also meet Novalis, whose existence was permeated with the power of love in every fibre; and Schopenhauer, who teaches his readers that truth can coincide with the bad and the ugly instead of the good and the beautiful, and whose philosophy nevertheless provides comfort. Albert von Schirnding tempts us to rediscover his darlings from the spiritual kingdom and to adopt some of them as our good spirits.

Albert von Schirnding is a poet, narrator, essayist and literary critic. He has become known as an interpreter of Greek philosophy. He is a member of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts and the Academy of Sciences and Literature in Mainz.