We are very much looking forward to seeing you in Frankfurt to talk about all our new titles!

Your C.H.Beck Foreign Rights Department

Susanne Simor
Foreign Rights Director
susanne.simor@beck.de
089 38189-228

Anna-Sophia Mäder
Foreign Rights Manager
Nonfiction
auslandslizenzen@beck.de
089 38189-346

Jenny Royston
Foreign Rights Manager
Fiction
jennifer.royston@beck.de
089 38189-335

Design by Anna-Sophia Mäder
Translation by Romy Fursland
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Marcus Willaschek

Kant: The Revolution of Thought
300 years of Kant

Marcus Willaschek explains the greatest German philosopher

2024 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of the most important philosopher of the modern era. What did Immanuel Kant do to deserve this title? In his new overview, leading international Kant expert Marcus Willaschek provides us with a fascinating and original answer to this question. Kant’s importance springs from the unique way in which he has revolutionised our understanding of knowledge and science, ethics and politics, art and nature, religion and history – in other words, given us a completely new understanding of our human point of view in the world.

Marcus Willaschek’s book traces Kant’s revolution of thought throughout his entire oeuvre. It gives wide-ranging insights into his philosophy, which is explained in a clear and concrete way and taken out of the realm of the abstract. In 30 short standalone chapters, Willaschek presents the various themes and aspects of Kant’s thought in a clear, trenchant and comprehensible way. His explanations are interwoven with biographical and historical sketches, painting a picture of Immanuel Kant as a man and a philosopher in the context of his time. At the same time, the current relevance – and sometimes also the problematic nature – of his revolutionary thought becomes clear.

Marcus Willaschek is a leading international expert on Kant and Professor of Modern Philosophy at the University of Frankfurt am Main. As chair of the Kant Committee at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, he is one of the people responsible for the Academy edition of Kant’s collected works. His most important publications include ‘Praktische Vernunft. Handlungstheorie und Moralbegründung bei Kant’ (1992), ‘Der mentale Zugang zur Welt: Realismus, Skeptizismus, Intentionalität’ (2003), ‘Kant-Lexikon’ (3 volumes, 2015) and ‘Kant on the Sources of Metaphysics’ (2018).
Klaus Vieweg

Beginnings
An Alternative History of Philosophy

Where philosophy begins

‘The beginning is half of the whole, meaning that even a small mistake at the beginning can result in big mistakes later on.’ - Aristotle

How can we ‘start from the beginning’ in philosophy? What does a viable, non-arbitrary beginning in philosophical thinking look like? Following his successful Hegel biography, philosopher Klaus Vieweg presents his new book, a fast and furious story of the origins of philosophising, from Parmenides and Plato to Descartes and Spinoza to Fichte and Hegel. He also lays the foundations for an alternative, philosophical history of philosophy, which is not aimed only at specialists but is written for a broad readership with an interest in philosophy.

The ‘awkwardness of the beginning’ poses a Herculean task for philosophy: how can a truly philosophical realisation be arrived at? How has this problem of the systematic starting point been solved in the history of philosophy? Referring to Hegel, Vieweg draws a logical map of all kinds of philosophical opening moves, in which the intellectual fascination of philosophising becomes tangible.

Klaus Vieweg 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.
Otfried Höffe

The Noble Art of Renunciation

‘A little garden, some figs, a small piece of cheese and three or four friends – that was Epicurus’s idea of luxury.’ - Friedrich Nietzsche

There has been much discussion and debate recently about renunciation – so it is somewhat surprising that it still has such a bad reputation. In the history of ethics and in the tradition of religions, on the other hand, renunciation plays a significant role. This striking gap in our understanding has inspired Otfried Höffe to look back at the history of ideas in order to remind us of the importance and historical diversity of types of self-restraint and approaches to it.

From renunciation as a way of moderating passions, or as religious asceticism, to the legal restriction of individual freedoms and the great duty we have to exercise self-restraint in light of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, this short history of renunciation shows that the noble art of voluntary self-restraint is integral to a successful life. Otfried Höffe is also concerned with conceptual clarification, and with formulating a little philosophy of renunciation. Can the concept be rehabilitated – and can it once again become fertile soil for contemporary thought?


• ‘It is not about renunciation. It is about recognising how little I need.’ - John von Düffel
• Otfried Höffe guides us through the five main renunciation paradigms in the history of ideas
• We learn that it is impossible to live a successful life without self-restraint
• And that self-restraint is not difficult when exercised to the right degree.
Otfried Höffe

**Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason**
The Foundation of Modern Philosophy

In this book, Otfried Höffe takes us step by step through one of the most important works in philosophy: Kant’s ‘Critique of Pure Reason’. Kant’s ideas are introduced, interpreted and critically evaluated. A guide to a core text of modern philosophy, critically reviewed and available in time for Kant’s 300th birthday. Kant’s ‘Critique of Pure Reason’ occupies such an important position in modern philosophy that it can justifiably be called a foundational text. According to Arthur Schopenhauer, it is ‘the most important book ever written in Europe’. Almost every field of theoretical philosophy, and many areas of practical philosophy too, were revolutionised by this book. It has shaped the modern face of the landscape of Western thought. Otfried Höffe undertakes a new reading of Kant’s ‘Critique of Pure Reason’, producing a historical and systematic interpretation of it and relating it to contemporary philosophical questions.

Otfried Höffe is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tübingen and Professor of Practical Philosophy at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He works mainly on ethics and political philosophy, as well as Kant and Aristotle. Many of his books are published by C.H. Beck, including ‘Immanuel Kant’ (2020), ‘Die hohe Kunst des Alterns’ (2019) and ‘Kritik der Freiheit’ (2021). Höffe is a recipient of the Bavarian Karl Vossler Prize for Academic Works of Literary Merit. His new book ‘Die hohe Kunst des Verzichts’ will be published in July.

• 22 April 2024 marks the 300th anniversary of Kant’s birth
Further works published by C.H. Beck:

_Immanuel Kant_ (1983)
English: State University of New York (1994)
Italian: il Mulino (1987)

_Justice_ (2011)
Japanese: Faculty of Law of the University of Tokyo
Serbian: Akademska Knijga (2009)

_The High Art of Aging_ (2018)
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press (2022)

_A Little History of Philosophy_ (2001)

_Economic Citizen, National Citizen, World Citizen_ (2004)
Spanish: Katz editores

_A Little History of Philosophy_ (2001)

_Aristotle_ (1996)
Further works published by C.H. Beck:

**Art of Life and Morality** (2009)
English: Northwestern University Evanston (2010)

**Classics of Philosophy** (1985)

**Thomas Hobbes** (2010)
English: State University of New York (2015)

**Critique of Freedom** (2015)
English: University of Chicago Press (2021)

**Democracy in the Age of Globalization** (1999)
Simplified Chinese: Shanghai Translation Publishers (2014)
Italian: il Mulino (2007)
Brazilian Portuguese: Editora WMF Martins (2017)

**Kants Critique of Pure Reason** (2003)
Portuguese: Edicoes Loyola (2013)

**Kants Critique of Practical Reason** (2012)

**Lexicon of Ethics** (1992)

**Is democracy fit for the future?** (2009)
Russian: Delo Publishers (2016)
Serbian: Akademska Knjiga (2016)
Friedrich Lenger

The Price of the World
The first comprehensive global history of capitalism

Over the last 500 years, capitalism has produced a world that is highly economically interdependent and at the same time highly asymmetrical. In his brilliant global history of capitalism, Friedrich Lenger charts the course of these developments, which have left nobody – from the indigenous people of America to the silk weavers of Bengal – unaffected. This is a story of flagrant wealth and extreme poverty, of violence and oppression and of the endangerment of our planet, for which we are now paying the price.

One of the global inequalities capitalism has produced consists in the unequal consumption of fossil fuels, and in environmental degradation affecting several parts of the world to very different degrees. The indifference of trade and industry capitalists towards the natural world resembles their past indifference to human suffering. The millions of slaves forced to work on American plantations until well into the 19th century are just one example of how oppressed labour and a capitalist economy go hand in hand. In this fascinating, lucid and expert book, Friedrich Lenger tells the story of the triumph of capitalism and explains its dynamic, which will never place limits on itself – any restrictions have to be imposed from outside. This book is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the modern world and the problems we face today – our survival depends on their solution.

Friedrich Lenger is Professor of Medieval and Modern History at the University of Giessen. In 2015 he was awarded the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize by the German Research Foundation. His books ‘Werner Sombart. 1863–1941. Eine Biographie’ (2012) and ‘Metropolen der Moderne. Eine europäische Stadtgeschichte seit 1850’ (2014) are also published by C.H.Beck.
Birgit Schönau

The Secrets of the Tiber: what the Tiber can tell us about the Eternal City

Lifeblood and the river to Hell

Lifeblood; the river to Hell; a place to relax and have fun – for millennia, the Tiber was Rome’s river of destiny. Revered as a god and feared as a scourge, it shaped the life of the Eternal City. Its banks became home to the Papal States, to ghettos, grand palaces and almshouses; people fought, suffered and celebrated there – and also made history. A river full of grandeur, terror and wonder, whose story is told in Birgit Schönau’s captivating book.

Rome and the Tiber share a 3000-year history, spanning the period from the Roman Empire to the golden age of the Popes to the present day. For a long time, the city and its river existed in a close symbiosis. The Tiber kept daily life moving – it was used to transport everything from grain to marble obelisks. Its water drove mill wheels, and its good fishing grounds made the Church rich. It was also a force of nature: the Romans feared its frequent floods. But they enjoyed bathing in the river, and it formed the beautiful backdrop to the pleasure gardens of the Renaissance. Rich princes and paupers flocked to its banks in search of spiritual salvation. Knights were dubbed on the banks of the Tiber, orphan girls were married, executions were carried out, plague victims were cured and prostitutes were corralled. In Birgit Schönau’s gripping double biography of Rome and the Tiber, everything converges: good times and terrible times, religion and crime, art and cesspits, history and mystery.

Birgit Schönau was correspondent based in Italy for many years, and now writes for Die Zeit. She has published several books about Italy’s past and present.
Markus Roth

The 101 Most Important Questions: Antisemitism
Antisemitism - ancient hatred and contemporary phenomenon

Why are Jews the target of so much hatred? Is antisemitism just a form of racism? Was antisemitism the ideological core of National Socialism? Is the belief in antisemitic conspiracy theories ‘infectious’, like Covid? How can we measure antisemitism? Is antisemitism on the rise, or are we just talking about it more? And why does nobody want to be an antisemite any more, not even antisemites themselves?

Antisemitism is both an ancient hatred of a small minority and a highly contemporary phenomenon. In this book, thought-provoking questions are raised about both aspects – the history of antisemitism and the present day – as well as about the causes and the consequences of antisemitism. The book takes the present day and the situation in modern-day Germany as its starting point, but it also looks to the past and to the future.

Markus Roth is a researcher at the Fritz Bauer Institute of the History and Impact of the Holocaust in Frankfurt am Main. His books ‘Das Warschauer Ghetto’ (2013, co-written with Andrea Löw), ‘Ihr wisst, wollt es aber nicht wissen’ (2015), and ‘Die 101 wichtigsten Fragen: Holocaust’ (2021) are also published by C.H. Beck.
The Yiddish language with its German, Hebrew and Slavic elements is a fascinating reflection of the long history and culture of Jews in Europe. The book traces the history of Yiddish from the oldest medieval texts to the Yiddish cultures of Eastern Europe, and from the great Yiddish novels of the 19th and 20th centuries to the Holocaust and modern-day Yiddish in the USA and Israel.

For almost a thousand years, Yiddish was the mother tongue of the Ashkenazi Jews and, as such, was extremely widespread. Migrations of Jews to Eastern Europe and to the USA, encounters with other languages and cultures, and intra-Jewish developments led to the emergence of various Yiddish cultures. But despite this diversity, and although the language was once denigrated as a corrupted variant of German, Yiddish developed into a modern global language which has given us great writers like Sholem Aleichem and Isaac Bashevis Singer. Yiddish is still a living language which means a lot to its speakers and those who love it – not least as a reminder of the Eastern European Jews killed during the Second World War.

‘Wonderfully clear and appealing.’ - Pieke Biermann, Deutschlandradio Kultur

Marion Aptroot is Professor of Yiddish Culture, Language and Literature at the University of Dusseldorf.

Roland Gruschka is Professor of Jewish Literature at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien (College of Jewish Studies) in Heidelberg.
Harald Haarmann

The History of the Flood
Harald Haarmann goes in search of the early civilisations

Around 6800 B.C. the dramatic breakthrough of the Mediterranean Sea into the lower-lying Black Sea destroyed the land bridge between Europe and Asia and caused the level of the previously freshwater lake to rise by 150 metres. Harald Haarmann explains how geologists and archaeologists have reconstructed this ‘Deluge’ and its far-reaching consequences for the early civilisations along the Danube and in Mesopotamia.

Twenty years ago, geologists were able to reveal a sensational discovery. For a very long time, the Black Sea was a freshwater lake on whose shores early civilisations had emerged. But around 6800 B.C., the Mediterranean Sea broke through what is now the Bosphorus. For years, a thundering waterfall poured into the Black Sea and flooded large areas. Based on the latest research, Harald Haarmann outlines the causes and course of the Flood. He then explores the consequences of the Flood for cultural development in the Black Sea region. In the process, he finds traces of one of the oldest advanced civilisations in the world and, based on archaeological discoveries but also on linguistic and written history, he shows how its reach extended as far as Mesopotamia.

Harald Haarmann is one of the most renowned linguistic and cultural scholars in the world. He has been awarded the Prix Logos by the Association européenne des linguistes in Paris and the Premio Jean Monnet among other prizes. His books have been translated into many languages. His works ‘Geschichte der Schrift’ (2021), ‘Das Rätsel der Donauzivilisation’ (2020), ‘Auf den Spuren der Indoeuropäer’ (2023) and ‘Die Erfindung des Rades’ (2023) are also published by C.H. Beck.
Further works published by C.H. Beck:

**History of the Deluge** (2003)
Italian: Giulio Einaudi Editore
Simplified & Complex Chinese: Morning Star Publishing
Serbian: Izdavacka ku'ca

**World History of Numbers** (2008)
Turkish: Repar Tasarim (2022)

**History of the Script** (2002/2021)
Italian: Giulio Einaudi Editore
Turkish: Repar Tasarim (2022)

**Forgotten Cultures of World History** (2019)
Italian: Bollati Boringhieri (2020)
Korean: Dolbegae Publishers (2021)

**The Enigma of the Danube Civilization** (2011)
English: Verlagshaus Römerweg (2019)
Croatian: Akademska Knijga (2020)

**In the Footsteps of the Indo-Europeans** (2016)
English: Verlagshaus Römerweg (2020)
Italian: Bollati Boringhieri (2022)

**World History of Languages** (2006)
Italian: Bollati Boringhieri (2021)
Wilhelm of Prussia liked to appear in uniform with a swastika armband and in tête-à-têtes with Nazi bigwigs. There is no doubt that he supported Hitler and the Nazi Party. But he claimed not to have played a significant role in the Nazis’ ‘power grab’. In this book, historian Jürgen Luh meticulously examines Wilhelm’s intentions and actions.

A fierce controversy has emerged regarding the Hohenzollerns and the question of whether they gave a ‘significant boost’ to the rise of Nazism. At the centre of this controversy is the ex-Crown Prince Wilhelm of Prussia, whose public appearances in the period from 1932 to 1934 are also of key legal importance when it comes to answering this question. Jürgen Luh, an expert on this subject, explores the Crown Prince’s behaviour in meticulous case studies based on the source material, and uses telling examples to show how Wilhelm publicly advocated not only for the old elites to collaborate with the Nazis but also for Hitler’s ‘Führerstaat’.

Jürgen Luh is the chief research associate in the Department of Scholarship and Research at the Berlin-Brandenburg Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation, and director of the Sanssouci Research Centre for Knowledge and Society. In 2012 he curated the ‘Friederisiko’ exhibition and has written biographies of Friedrich the Great and the Great Elector.
In the Name of the Germans
From Theodor Heuss to Richard von Weizsäcker – the presidents of Germany and the country’s Nazi past

The German president, in his official capacity, speaks ‘in the name of the Germans’, even and especially when it comes to the country’s Nazi past. For Theodor Heuss and his successors in the Bonn Republic, this also meant speaking about their own contemporaries. In this brilliantly written and at times astonishing book Norbert Frei shows how German presidents suppressed their own personal histories and at the same time set the tone for talking about National Socialism and the Holocaust in a society that had yet to learn how to be critical of its own past.

Richard von Weizsäcker was the last German president to have lived through the Second World War as an adult. This explains the international fame garnered by his speech to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of the war, on 8th May 1985. For this reason, the book ends with Weizsäcker’s speech, and begins with Theodor Heuss, who – as the first head of state of the Federal Republic of Germany – had to find ways and means of speaking about the crimes of the ‘Third Reich’ ‘in the name of the Germans’. In this brilliant, meticulously researched book, Norbert Frei, author of the now-canonical study ‘Vergangenheitspolitik’ and one of the most renowned contemporary historians of our time, traces the long and winding road to the development of a statesmanlike art and respected praxis.

Heinrich August Winkler

**The Germans and Revolution**

*A History - From 1848 to 1989*

When the French stormed the Bastille in Paris – the ultimate symbol of the absolutist regime – in July 1789, many German writers and thinkers cheered them on. But this enthusiasm on the German side of the Rhine did not last long. When Louis XVI ended up on the scaffold and the revolution turned to terror, many Germans distanced themselves in alarm. Since then, the Germans’ relationship with revolutions has remained a thorny issue. Heinrich August Winkler, the doyen of historians, outlines the stages of German revolutionary history from 1848 to 1989, including the darkest revolution of them all: the Nazi regime.

Reformation rather than revolution: for a long time, this was the motto of all the citizens and intellectuals in Germany who were opposed to the status quo yet did not want to see a violent coup. Following the revolution of 1848-9, which failed to achieve the double goal of unification and freedom, Bismarck responded with a revolution from above, the so-called ‘Small Germany Solution’. The revolution of 1918-19 gave rise to a new democratic system in the form of the Weimar Republic, which was brought to an end by the Nazi dictatorship. Whether this was in fact a revolution is one of the questions explored in this brilliantly written book, which also looks at the issue of the historical significance of the ‘peaceful revolution’ of 1989 and how it provided a solution to the ‘German question’ in form of reunification.

Heinrich August Winkler was born in Königsberg in 1938, and is one of Germany’s most renowned historians. From 1961 to 2007 he taught modern history at the Humboldt University in Berlin. In 2014 he was awarded the European Prize for Political Culture by the Hans Ringier Foundation, and in 2016 he won the Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding. In 2018 he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany by the German president. His major works ‘Der lange Weg nach Westen’ and ‘Geschichte des Westens’ are two of the best-selling German historical works of our time. His most recent book, ‘Nationalstaat wider Willen. Interventionen zur deutschen und europäischen Politik’, was published in 2022.
Further works published by C.H. Beck:

**How we became who we are** (2020)
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press
Is the West Collapsing? (2017)
Simplified Chinese: CITIC Press Corporation
Serbian: Albatros plus d.o.o.

**The Long Way West, 2 vols.** (2010)
English: Oxford University Press
French: Librairie Arthème Fayard
Hungarian: Osiris Kiado
Italian: Donzelli Editore
Polish: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego
Simplified Chinese: Moveable Type Legacy

**A History of the West: From the Beginnings in Antiquity to the 20th century** (2016)
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press

English: Yale University Press
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press

**A History of the West: From Cold War to the Fall of the Berlin Wall** (2014)
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press

**A History of the West: The Era of the Present** (2016)
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press

**Weimar 1918-1933** (3rd ed. 1997)
Italian: Donzelli Editore
Russian: DHI Moscow
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press

**Values and Powers** (2019, 2nd ed. 2023)
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press
Pia Volk

Germany´s Strangest Places
A Guide Book for Natives

‘An exciting journey of discovery across Germany – and a book full of surprises.’
- Anja Brockert, SWR2

The geographer and journalist Pia Volk has explored the Wadden area and the Allgäu, the banks of the river Main and the Sorbenland, and has stumbled across all sorts of strange and unusual places: an oak tree with its own address; a submerged Atlantis in the North Sea; a chandelier in Cologne’s sewer system; the last surviving secret border crossing point for agents in the Soviet zone. In this exciting and entertaining book, Pia Volk introduces us to geographical and historical curiosities and teaches us to see our own country with fresh eyes.

Pia Volk studied geography and ethnology and also gained a degree in journalism. She explores the world from her base in Leipzig, and usually arrives at her subject matter by coincidence – by meeting unusual people or hearing about odd places and stories. Her texts have been published in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, the Süddeutsche Zeitung and Die Zeit, among others. She also appears on the radio station Deutschlandfunk Nova.
Markus Schauer

**Triumvirat**
The Fight for the Roman Empire

Caesar, Crassus, Pompey - a story of power and greed

‘That nothing should happen in the state which any one of the three did not approve.’
- Suetonius

In the year 60 B.C., a three-headed monster looms over Rome and brings the city under its control. And so begins the story of a secret alliance between three men who have decided that nothing may happen in the state unless they have approved it first. It is the story of the first triumvirate and its creators – Crassus, the richest man in Rome, Pompey the military potentate and Caesar the political genius. And it is the story of the downfall of the Roman Republic.

In this exciting book, Markus Schauer makes the link between the social unrest in society and the deep-rooted tensions within the aristocracy during the second half of the 2nd century, and the bloody civil wars of the 1st century B.C. During this time, powerful individuals had unprecedented opportunities to do whatever they wanted, and they exploited them ruthlessly using all the powers at their disposal. This book gives a dramatic account of their motivations, how they came together, how they eliminated their enemies and how they plundered Rome. But inevitably there would come a point where the new masters could no longer stand each other: in the end, there could only be one.

Markus Schauer is Professor of Classical Philology at the University of Bamberg. He specialises in Latin Studies. His book ‘Der Gallische Krieg. Geschichte und Täuschung in Caesars Meisterwerk’ (2017) is also published by C.H.Beck.
Christian Marek

**Rome and the Orient**

**Empires, Gods, Kings**

Empire without borders - the first major history of the Roman Orient

‘I imposed no limits on the Romans, neither spatial nor temporal; I gave them an empire without end.’ In Virgil’s ‘Aeneid’ it is Jupiter, father of the gods, no less, who promises his ‘chosen people’ a bright future in a boundless empire. This informative and accessible book tells us all about the geographical areas in the Orient which the Romans traversed while conquering their global empire, about the peoples, empires and rulers they confronted, about the (ancient, in some cases) religions and cultures they encountered and about the art and technology that most impressed them.

Few people know as much about the history of the advanced civilisations east of the Mediterranean as Zurich-based ancient historian Christian Marek. In his latest book he presents a masterful, richly illustrated synthesis of his decades of research on Asia Minor, Syria and Arabia. He explores the prehistory of these regions from the early advanced civilisations of the Orient to the spread of Hellenism, describes Rome’s conflicts with potentates like Mithrades VI and peoples such as the Parthians and the Jews, and explains the institutions and techniques of Roman rule as well as the way foreign cultures were permeated by the ‘Roman way of life’. Finally, he tells the story of the rise and spread of Christianity in the eastern half of the Roman Empire until the emergence of Islam. The first historical account of its kind!

Christian Marek is Emeritus Professor of Ancient History at the University of Zurich. His books ‘Geschichte Kleinasiens in der Antike’ (2017) and ‘Die Inschriften von Kaunos’ (VESTIGIA 55, 2006) are also published by C.H.Beck.
Karl-Joachim Hölkeskamp

Theatre of Power
The Performance of Politics in the Roman Republic

Processions, pomp and rituals - a new picture of the Roman Republic

The history of the Roman Republic lasted 500 years, and was punctuated by big names like Brutus, Cato, Sulla, Caesar and Octavian. But what was the glue that held this world together at its heart? It was the sophisticated ceremonies and strictly regulated rituals of power which were performed in Rome as if on a stage. In these grandiose spectacles Roman citizens recognised themselves and their world, and each of them knew their place.

Karl-Joachim Hölkeskamp is an internationally renowned ancient historian. In this book he paints a picture of the continual performance at the heart of the Roman Empire. We see and understand the countless buildings and monuments – which all evoke the greatness, the heroes and the order of the Roman world – as a living, meaningful and effective backdrop against which gods, priests, politicians and ordinary people met, communicated and acted. We understand the significance of the well-choreographed triumphs and funerals, the public gatherings and ritual acts, as a justification of and testament to the everlasting power and dominance of Rome. This book is a key work for anyone hoping to gain a better understanding of the Roman Republic.

Religion and ritual were omnipresent in the ancient world, but not all of its many shrines and religious sites also had temples. It is fascinating to learn how temples developed in the Greek, Etruscan, Italian, Roman and Gallo-Roman worlds. But what were their key elements, their functions and their architectural features? How were they decorated and how were they integrated into people’s lives, into religious festivals, ritual sacrifices and processions? These and many other questions are answered clearly and concisely for the first time in this important work.

This book gives a breathtaking overview of around 1700 years of the history of ancient temples – including the history of people’s responses to them – using the examples of buildings such as Jefferson’s University of Virginia and the Glyptothek in Munich, which dates back to the reign of Ludwig I. Featuring 100 images, maps, sketches and colour illustrations, it explores the nature and functions of temples in various regions of the Greco-Roman world and their spheres of influence. Based on the latest research, Ulrich Sinn, an internationally renowned archaeologist, gives an informative, clear and accessible explanation of one of the most striking features of the ancient world, buildings which are as impressive today as they were over 2000 years ago.

Ulrich Sinn was Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Würzburg until his retirement. He oversaw the excavations in Olympia for a number of years. His books ‘Athen’ (2004), ‘Das antike Olympia. Götter, Spiel und Kunst’ (2004), and ‘Die 101 wichtigsten Fragen. Antike Kunst’ (2007) are also published by C.H. Beck.
Johannes Preiser-Kapeller

Byzantium
The heirs of the Roman Empire

This book gives an overview of over 1000 years of history, from the fourth to the fifteenth century. What sets this account apart, however, is that it presents the period as another millennium of Roman history beyond the history of antiquity. In this, it mirrors the self-perception of the citizens of Byzantium, who viewed their empire as one spanning all the continents of the world, and as vital to the world order; in this way they made the Roman aspiration to world domination their own and maintained it until 1453.

The administrative language in this new Roman Empire on the Bosphorus was no longer Latin, but Greek – in the centuries following the fall of the Roman Empire, Latin had become a dead language even in the traditional dominions of the ‘old Romans’. Another new aspect of Byzantium was its close interrelationships – often in the form of bloody conflicts – with the Islamic world. But the threat from the ‘Latin West’, arising from the devastating Crusades, was almost as severe. And finally, Byzantium accelerated the globalisation of historical processes, through its contacts in East Africa, the Indian Ocean, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Johannes Preiser-Kapeller gives an exciting and informative account of the period.

Johannes Preiser-Kapeller is a university lecturer specialising in Byzantium and global history. He teaches and researches at the University of Vienna and at the Byzantium Research Department / Institute of Medieval Research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences.
Dark Rome

‘Fantastically entertaining, utterly fascinating.’ - Denis Scheck

In this book, we discover the ancient world as we have never seen it before. Was Marcus Aurelius a drug addict? The philosopher emperor is said to have consumed opium. Did Archimedes, the engineering genius from Syracuse, really construct a super-weapon? And was the underground basilica that archaeologists have discovered beneath Rome really a meeting place for a secret lodge?

These and many other mysteries are explored in ‘Dark Rome’, an informative, eye-opening and exciting account of the life and customs of the Roman world. We meet poisoners and magicians, ancient security specialists and undercover agents who put their own and their contemporaries’ lives on the line as part of top-secret missions. Many of them were involved in affairs of state, brutal power struggles, major scandals, political intrigues and perfidious assassination attempts – and even Palatine Hill, residence of the Roman emperors from puritanical Augustus onwards, was often the scene of horrible crimes. ‘Dark Rome’ gives us a glimpse of the dark underbelly of the Roman world and shows us a side to the Romans that is both alien and strangely familiar.

Jacob Burckhardt

Works
Critical Complete Edition
Volume 14: The Art of Antiquity

‘For passionate readers, every encounter with Burckhardt is a joy.’
- Jürgen Busche, Süddeutsche Zeitung

In his famous ‘Griechische Culturgeschichte’, Jacob Burckhardt devoted little space to ancient art, and in his ‘Cicerone’ it is just one element among many. This book, therefore, fills an important gap. In it, Burckhardt’s notes for his lectures on the ‘art of antiquity’ – written over the course of several decades – are published for the first time. It gives us access to a previously undocumented area of Burckhardt’s work and thought.

This edition is edited by the Jacob Burckhardt Stiftung in Basel and published jointly by C.H. Beck, Munich, and Schwabe, Basel. Distribution is via C.H. Beck.

Lucas Hafner was a research associate at the University of Mainz and works as a specialist in manuscript transcriptions and family research.

Detlev Kreikenbom is Emeritus Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Mainz.

Marianne Kreikenbom was a cultural scholar and research associate at the Winckelmann Gesellschaft, Stendal.
Manfred Görtemaker

Rudolf Hess
Hitler’s Deputy

The man who was Hitler’s deputy – the first major biography of Rudolf Hess

‘What a sight for the world,’ wrote a shocked Joseph Goebbels in his diary. ‘The Führer’s right-hand man in the midst of a mental breakdown. Terrible and unthinkable.’ At this time, Rudolf Hess had just embarked on his mysterious flight to England, in an attempt to single-handedly bring about peace. Who was this enigmatic man who seemed like Hitler’s shadow, who was sentenced to life imprisonment at Nuremberg and who would become a neo-Nazi icon after his death in Spandau? Manfred Görtemaker has written the first comprehensive biography, drawing on new sources to give us an incredibly detailed insight into the top echelons of the Nazi regime.

Potsdam-based contemporary historian Manfred Görtemaker has been working on this meticulously researched biography for almost 20 years. For the first time, he was able to analyse around 4100 letters and 50,000 pages of correspondence from the Hess estate in the Federal Archives in Bern, received special dispensation to view the papers of Lord Selkirk of Douglas, to whose home in Scotland Hess fled, and drew on an impressive number of previously unexamined archival documents. The result is an unusually vivid biography of the man who, right from the start, was by Hitler’s side through thick and thin, who managed his growing power like an alter ego and whose influence over the ‘boss’ no rival was left in any doubt about.

Manfred Görtemaker is Emeritus Professor of Modern History at the University of Potsdam. His books ‘Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland’ (1999) and ‘Kleine Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland’ (2002) are also published by C.H.Beck.
Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk

Walter Ulbricht
The German Communist

More than a biography – Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk on Ulbricht, communism and the 20th century

Walter Ulbricht was one of the most influential German politicians of the 20th century. Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk has written the first comprehensive academic biography of Ulbricht, based on many years of researching sources in dozens of archives in Germany and abroad. The result is a monumental work that is more than just a biography. It is also the story of communism and the disjointed 20th century.

There are many studies about Konrad Adenauer, the founding father of the Federal Republic, as well as a famous two-volume biography. But until now there has been nothing comparable on Adenauer’s counterpart in East Germany. Walter Ulbricht is just as influential a figure, however, when it comes to the history of Germany in the 20th century. Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk describes the rise of this tailor’s son, born in Leipzig at the turn of the century, to become the leader of the German Communist Party, the founder of the GDR and, in 1961, the man behind the building of the Berlin Wall. Kowalczuk not only reveals new aspects of Ulbricht in his official role, but also paints a novel portrait of Ulbricht the man. He explains Ulbricht in the context of his time, rather than writing about him in hindsight. The first volume looks at the period leading up to 1945, when the ‘Ulbricht Group’ was sent to Berlin, and includes Ulbricht’s rise through the ranks of the labour movement, the struggle of the KPD (Communist Party of Germany) within and against the Weimar Republic, and Ulbricht’s resistance to Nazism and exile in Prague, Paris and Moscow.

Understanding this background makes it far easier to understand what motivated Ulbricht after 1945, and how the GDR became what it was.


Further works published by C.H.Beck:

Stasi concretely (2013)
Czech: Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes
Olaf B. Rader

**Emperor Charles the Fourth**

The Emperor Who Made the World Quake

A Biography

Olaf B. Rader’s major biography of Charles IV. - a new portrait of one of the most powerful rulers of the Middle Ages

Every year, visitors flock to Prague – Charles IV's Golden City – to see the Charles Bridge, St. Vitus Cathedral and the University. From his base in Prague, Charles of the House of Luxembourg ruled over an empire that stretched from southern France and northern Italy to northern Germany. Based on newly available sources, Olaf B. Rader traces the life of this cultured emperor who, believing himself elected by God, consolidated his power cleverly and ruthlessly and was immortalised in his epitaph as 'the emperor who made the world quake'.

The dramatic 14th century – an era of economic and cultural flowering as well as profound crises such as the Plague, severe floods and the beginning of the Little Ice Age – was the century of Charles IV (1316 – 1378). The Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and King of Bohemia single-mindedly consolidated the power of his dynasty with wars and diplomatic skill, and in the Golden Bull he issued the Empire’s most important constitution, which remained in force until it was dissolved in 1806. He founded the Central Europe’s first university in Prague with the help of the Parler family, the best builders and sculptors of the age. Many historians have been confused by the fact that this pious emperor, who collected relics and was mindful of laws and rules, profited from – even instigated – the persecution of Jews and the plundering of their property. In this brilliantly written book, Olaf B. Rader paints a new picture of the most powerful emperor of the late Middle Ages, who has left a more lasting mark on Germany and Europe than we realise.

Olaf B. Rader is a research assistant at Monumenta Germaniae Historica at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and has edited many documents from the time of Emperor Charles IV. His book ‘Friedrich II. Der Sizilianer auf dem Kaiserthron’ (C.H.Beck Paperback, 2019) is also published by C.H.Beck.
Ralph Bollmann

**Angela Merkel**
The Chancellor and Her Era

Biography

‘No other author has ever managed to shine such a clear light on the background to Merkel’s government.’ - Lübecker Nachrichten

In 2005 Angela Merkel became the first woman, and the first former citizen of the GDR, to be appointed Chancellor of Germany. ‘Kohl’s girl’, the minister and Secretary General of the CDU, had become the most popular politician in Germany and one of the most powerful women in the world. In this seminal biography, Ralph Bollmann traces the path of Merkel’s life and, through critically sympathetic eyes, tells the story of her chancellorship during a period fraught with challenges from the refugee crisis to the Covid-19 pandemic. This brilliantly written book shows us an extraordinary woman at the centre of power, whose politics have shaped an entire era.

‘Global crises chapter by chapter: Lehman, Greece, Fukushima, Libya, Ukraine, Syria, Brexit, Trump, lockdown. All of these political dramas occurred during Merkel’s sixteen years in power. These events and their huge impact are skilfully summarised here in a way which makes clear that any one of them could have ended Merkel’s chancellorship.’ - Wulf Schmiesse, ZDF heute

‘Bollmann explores the impact of the minister, opposition leader and Chancellor. His account is written with a light touch but with meticulous attention to detail and is based on extensive background knowledge.’ - Claus Heinrich, SWR2

Ralph Bollmann is a historian, journalist and economic policy correspondent for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung. He had already written a book on Angela Merkel and the Germans in 2013, and for this biography he conducted many interviews with contemporaries and colleagues of Angela Merkel.
Artificial intelligence (AI) is the new magic formula of digital capitalism. Its machines can do many of the same things humans can do: hear and see, speak, learn, solve problems. There are some things they can do not only more quickly but also better than human beings. How do these intelligent machines work? Are they a threat to us? Do they perhaps even make us surplus to requirements?

Intelligent computer systems issue medical diagnoses and give legal advice. They manage equity trading and will soon be able to drive our cars. They paint, write poetry, translate and compose. Ever more intelligent robots are working on assembly lines, greeting us in hotels, guiding us through museums, cooking our burgers and making our salads. But alongside the utopia of a brave new world of intelligent technology, there are also frightening prospects: of intelligent machines monitoring our every move, taking our jobs and eluding our control. Journalist and AI expert Manuela Lenzen shows which of our hopes and fears are realistic and which belong in the realm of science fiction. She explores what it might look like to co-exist in a positive way with artificial intelligence – and how intelligent machines can teach us a lot about ourselves.

Manuela Lenzen has a doctorate in philosophy and works as a freelance science journalist, writing about digitalisation, artificial intelligence and cognition research for FAZ, MZZ, ‘Psychologie Heute’, ‘Bild der Wissenschaft’ and ‘Gehirn und Geist’ among others.
Stefan Mey

The Battle for the Internet
How Wikipedia, Mastodon and Others Are Challenging the Tech Giants

More freedom and more democracy were the great promises of the internet. But power is now concentrated in the hands of just a few tech giants. The internet itself, however, offers a potential solution to this problem, a way of preserving its original promise of freedom: the non-commercial alternative online world, which includes the online encyclopaedia Wikipedia, the Twitter alternative Mastodon, the non-commercial browser Firefox and the messaging service Signal.

There are hundreds of such projects. They make up the civil society of the digital world, and are the online equivalents of Greenpeace, Global Justice Now and Amnesty International. In order to make the internet better, fairer and freer, you do not have to study computer science, found a start-up or be a hacker. Stefan Mey introduces the protagonists, goals, strategies and business models of the alternative online world in meticulously researched and entertainingly written portraits. He does not gloss over existing conflicts. Is this the start of a little revolution?

Stefan Mey is an investigative IT journalist with a background in the social sciences. He has always been interested in the issue of power and countervailing power on the internet. Mey is an expert not only on the big tech companies but also on the well-known and less well-known projects of the alternative online world. His book 'Darknet. Waffen, Drogen, Whistleblower. Wie die digitale Unterwelt funktioniert' (2021) is also published by C.H.Beck.
Matthias Naß

Collision
China, the USA and the Struggle for Global Political Supremacy in the Indo-Pacific

A turning point in the Indo-Pacific

With the attention of the world firmly fixed on Ukraine, a much bigger conflict is brewing thousands of kilometres away: in the Indo-Pacific, China and the USA are on an extremely dangerous collision course. Who will achieve global political supremacy in the 21st century – the capitalist democratic West or the state-capitalist autocratic regime in China? The island of Taiwan, which Xi Jinping’s China lays claim to, is the domino that could cause the entire security architecture of Asia to come crashing down. Matthias Naß, who has been reporting on Asia and the Pacific for the paper Die Zeit for 40 years, outlines the causes and course of the conflict, and paints a forceful and nuanced portrait of the players involved and their interests.

The sabre-rattling in the Indo-Pacific is growing ever louder. US cruisers are crossing the Taiwan Strait at regular intervals, Chinese military units are building artificial islands in the ocean. Their purpose is unmistakeable, and both sides are trying to intimidate the other with manoeuvres at sea. Neighbouring nations like Australia, Japan and Indonesia are becoming increasingly nervous and are closing ranks in their fear of a power-hungry China, whilst Beijing is weaving a dense web of regional dependencies and ruthlessly enforcing the dominance in Hong Kong that it also wants to achieve in Taiwan. One thing is for certain: whoever emerges victorious from this struggle in the new centre of gravity of the world economy will become the new global hegemon.

Matthias Naß was a correspondent and deputy editor-in-chief of Die Zeit for many years. He specialises in Asia and the Indo-Pacific. His books ‘Countdown in Korea’ (2017) and ‘Drachentanz. Chinas Aufstieg zur Weltmacht und was er fur uns bedeutet’ (2022) are also published by C.H.Beck.
Josef Braml / Matthew Burrows

The Sleepwalkers
How China and the USA Are Sliding Into a New World War

The impending world war and how we can prevent it

Was Russia's invasion of Ukraine just the beginning? Is there an even bigger war on the horizon? A war between the two superpowers of our age?
A war between China and the USA? A war triggered by the flashpoint of Taiwan? How can we prevent the political leaders of our world ‘sleepwalking’ into a third world war, and stop these bleak forecasts becoming self-fulfilling prophecies?

In this book, Josef Braml and Mathew Burrows remind us that the future is always uncertain and explore three possible scenarios for how global events might unfold in the coming years: a bad scenario (a new Cold War with a massive loss of prosperity, particularly in the poorest countries), an ugly one (World War III) and a tolerable one (reformed globalisation 2.0 with a return to global cooperation, overcoming all the existing disputes). When we think in political scenarios, we are better able to identify the levers that need to be pulled in order to achieve a tolerable outcome and avoid disaster. Because one thing is clear: given the challenges we face – the continuing severe poverty in the world and the prospect of climate change – we cannot afford to slip into a morass of confrontation and military conflict.

Josef Braml is a well-known expert on the USA and European director of the Trilateral Commission, an influential global platform for dialogue between America, Europe and Asia. He has 20 years’ experience in applied research and consultancy for world-leading think tanks, including the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations, DGAP), the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, SWP), the Aspen Institute and the Brookings Institution, the World Bank and as a legislative consultant in the US House of Representatives. His book 'Die transatlantische Illusion' (2022) is also published by C.H.Beck.

Mathew Burrows has worked for the US State Department and the CIA for almost thirty years. Most recently he held a senior position on the National Intelligence Council (NIC) and before his retirement he was responsible for the future report which every president receives at the beginning of his or her term in office, ‘Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds’. He is one of the foremost strategic thinkers in the American intelligence
Armin Nassehi

**Fundamental Social Concepts**

A Glossary of the Public Discourse

In his new book, Armin Nassehi presents a glossary of the public discourse in Germany. The interrelated fundamental social concepts he explores all have one thing in common: they originated in the context of academia, but have long since entered the current public discourse. They appear there in an often irremediably distorted form, and their use in public debates impacts in turn upon the social sciences.

This book is not about defining the ‘real’ meaning of terms, nor is it a pedantic exhortation to ‘speak properly’. Instead, Nassehi’s book looks methodically at the function of these terms in public debates. Key social concepts such as freedom, equality/inequality, identity, crisis and foreignness not only have a lexical meaning they also have a practical meaning gained via their use in debates.

Armin Nassehi is Professor of General Sociology and Social Theory at the University of Munich. Since 2012 he has edited the cultural magazine Kursbuch. His books ‘Unbehagen. Theorie der überforderten Gesellschaft’ (2021) and ‘Muster. Theorie der digitalen Gesellschaft’ (2019) are also published by C.H. Beck.

- Democracy
- Freedom
- Foreignness
- Society
- Equality/Inequality
- Action
- Identity
- Communication
- Conflict
- Crisis
- Criticism
- Culture
- Living environments
- Power
- Nature
- The public sphere
- Populism
- Knowledge
Nicole Deitelhoff

Beyond War
Coexistence and Peace in a Globalised World

Paths to a peaceful world order

Nicole Deitelhoff’s brilliant analysis

Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine is a heavy blow for all believers in international law and for a rules-based international order. At the same time, two superpowers – the USA and China – are heading towards a new armed conflict in the Indo-Pacific. How can we extricate ourselves from this highly dangerous situation for good? It is high time we started thinking about new forms of peaceful coexistence in a globalised world.

What might a world ‘beyond war’ realistically look like? How can nations with opposing values and interests – how can democracies and autocracies – integrate into an international order without ruthlessly adhering to the law of ‘might is right’? In this book, renowned peace and conflict researcher Nicole Deitelhoff looks at the period from the birth of the international order out of the ashes of two world wars, to the end of the bipolar world and the multiple crises of the present day. Her controversial argument is as follows: in the globalised world of the 21st century, an international conflagration can only be prevented if, in future, potential adversaries cautiously dismantle and reconfigure their economic, cultural and political interdependencies. At its outermost edges, it is ultimately only territorial integrity, international sovereignty and the exclusion of crimes against humanity which define Deitelhoff’s model order.

Nicole Deitelhoff is Professor of International Relations and Theories of Global Governance at the Goethe University and head of the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt in Frankfurt am Main.
Tanja Stelzer (ed.)

And Suddenly the World is Different
Shining Hours of Humanity

Extraordinary moments that inspire hope

‘I named them this way because they shine bright and unchanging like stars in the night of transience.’ - Stefan Zweig on his title ‘Shining Hours of Humanity’

Climate change, the pandemic, war – the melody of our age is a bleak one. But there are, and always have been, defining moments which keep our faith in human nature alive, in spite of everything – in spite of humanity’s self-destructive tendencies, its mistakes and its inadequacies. These are the extraordinary moments in which human beings show how great they can be, and which inspire hope for a future we have yet to forge.

‘Shining Hours of Humanity’ was the title Stefan Zweig gave to his 1927 collection of historic miniatures. Almost a hundred years later, the weekly newspaper Die Zeit published a new collection of shining hours, which gave rise to this book. These defining moments are different from Zweig’s and reflect our changed view of the world. They range from hippies throwing LSD parties, to the great speech made by Social Democrat Otto Wels against Hitler’s Enabling Act. Some are great adventures, like Thor Heyerdahl’s on his raft in the Pacific, and some involve scientific progress, like when Rosalind Franklin decoded the structure of DNA only to see three men take credit for her work. Some are great achievements, like the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and some are missed opportunities, as in the case of Patrice Lumumba, who was a beacon of hope to many Africans before his execution in 1961. They are also deeply moving – like the story of the American pilots who rescued Vietnamese villagers from their own US army comrades during the My Lai massacre: a spark of humanity even in the midst of the most horrific barbarity. And these defining moments are all worth reading about – because great history always consists, first and foremost, of great stories.

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

Emergency
Governing in a time of war
A Report from the German Center of Power

The beginning of a new era - live

Stephan Lamby’s major report on a government in a state of emergency

Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the German government has been under extreme pressure. Bad decisions could lead to an uncontrollable escalation of the war, and also to trouble and unrest at home. During these dramatic months, award-winning journalist Stephan Lamby has observed Olaf Scholz, Annalena Baerbock, Robert Habeck and Christian Lindner at close quarters. His gripping report gives exclusive insights into the heart of government during the most serious international crisis since the Second World War.

Throughout this time, the Chancellor and his cabinet have had to jettison many of their convictions about weapons, coal-generated power and debt. Vladimir Putin has forced them to adopt unfamiliar and unintended policies. What is the government doing to end the war? From the time the government took power in December 2021, Stephan Lamby has been travelling with its key decision-makers, accompanying them to Washington, to the capitals of Europe, to Asia’s megacities, to the Sahel and the Arabian Gulf, and also to different regions of Germany. And, of course, to Berlin. He has seen Olaf Scholz and his government make pivotal decisions and serious mistakes. Lamby’s investigative report paints a unique portrait of historic events – from inside the German centre of power.

Stephan Lamby is a documentary maker and author. He has been making documentaries about German and international politics for ARD for many years, including ‘Nervöse Republik’, ‘Labyrinth der Macht’ and ‘Im Wahn’. He has won many awards including the German Television Prize, the Hanns Joachim Friedrichs Prize, the STERN Prize and Journalist of the Year. His book ‘Entscheidungstage. Hinter den Kulissen des Machtwechsels’ (2021) is also published by C.H.Beck.
Gustav Seibt

In Extraordinary Times
Against the blindness of the moment

Gustav Seibt writes about the political realities of the present day

Refugees, Islam and Islamism, the centrifugal forces of the EU and our precarious relationship with Russia, as well as issues surrounding our political culture and how we treat each other: all of these are subjects explored by Gustav Seibt, who has been broadening readers’ horizons for many years in his excellent contributions to the Süddeutsche Zeitung. In these essays, he puts the particularities of the present day into their wider context and adds a historical dimension. When we read his lucid texts we escape the temporal claustrophobia of contemporaneity, at least for the time that we are reading, and experience the liberating feeling of having better understood the ‘situation’. This book brings together Seibt’s best and most powerful texts in a survey of the present day.

Gustav Seibt is one of the ‘wordsmiths’ of German journalism. A historian and journalist who has won many awards for his work, Seibt is known for his unswerving humanist liberal attitudes, his wide-ranging historical knowledge and, above all, his unfailingly well-thought-out arguments. Even in the ‘blindness of the moment’ in which we are all trapped, he always manages to go beyond the politics of the day and get to the heart of a situation, giving us a better understanding of what is currently happening or what is at stake through historical observations or comparisons. This book offers readers the chance to learn about the key issues of our era in exquisite prose.

Gustav Seibt is an essayist, historian and literary critic. He has worked for the Süddeutsche Zeitung since 2001. His many awards include the Sigmund Freud Prize for Academic Prose and the Hildegard Bingen Prize for Journalism. His books ‘Goethe und Napoleon. Eine historische Begegnung’ (2008) and ‘Mit einer Art von Wut. Goethe in der Revolution’ (2014) are also published by C.H. Beck.
Jörn Leonhard

On Wars and How to End Them
Ten Theories

From War to Peace - ten lessons from history

How do we bring about peace? These days there is hardly any other question so urgent and at the same time so hotly debated. With weapons or without? Through negotiation or through victory? And how can we know whether it really is peace, or just a tactical pause for breath? Jörn Leonhard looks back at the wars of the past, which all ended somehow sooner or later, and asks what we can learn from them about our current situation.

History does not repeat itself – so we cannot simply take solutions from the past and apply them to the present day. But history does provide us with a vital reservoir of political illustrative material. It shows which constellations led to which outcomes, and it reveals patterns and recurring problems. Anyone who wonders how the war in Ukraine will end should make use of this reservoir. Because there is hardly anything in world history as common as wars. Historically, what has driven people to continue fighting wars? How have windows for diplomacy opened up? What has led to lasting peace, and what to fragile peace? And why have the final stages of war often been the most bloody? The path to peace has frequently been a long and winding road, repeatedly delayed and interrupted. The longer a war lasts, the more victims there are over the months and years and the more complex and contradictory this path is. And even once a treaty is signed, the real work of peace has yet to begin.

Jörn Leonhard is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Freiburg. His books ‘Die Büchse der Pandora’ (2020), ‘Der überforderte Frieden’ (2019) and (with Ulrike von Hirschhausen) ‘Empires’ (2023) are also published by C.H.Beck.
It´s Not All About Us
The Global South and the West´s Mistakes

Why People in the West do not understand how the global South sees the world

The West is no longer the centre of the world. Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine has changed our view of the global South. We are surprised that nations like India and South Africa are not joining the West in imposing sanctions on Russia. In the context of the newly emerging bloc confrontation between the West and China, the global South has also acquired a new strategic importance. But anyone looking to the global South for support needs to understand its motives and interests. For a long time, multipolarity – i.e. a world order in which not only the USA and Europe but also China, India, South Africa and Brazil and in some cases also Russia have an important role to play – has been a positive future scenario in the global South. In the global South, therefore, international politics is viewed in a very different way than it is in the West, where we perceive the end of the old order and of our own dominance as ‘chaotic’ and thus potentially dangerous. It is worth making an effort to better understand the global South’s view of international politics, because where we have always tended to see risks, there are actually opportunities.

Johannes Plagemann is a political scientist at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg. In 2015 and 2016 he worked as a research associate in the Foreign Office. He often appears in the media as an expert on the global South.

Henrik Maihack is a political scientist. Since 2021 he has been head of the Africa department at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) in Berlin. From 2011 onwards he represented the FES in the global South for ten years, first in India and then as head of the FES offices in Bangladesh, South Sudan, Rwanda and Kenya. In guest articles and interviews, he regularly analyses Germany’s policy on Africa and political transformation processes in countries in the global South.
Günter Seufert / Christopher Kubaseck

**The End of Atatürk**

The Crises and Conflicts of the New Turkey

100 years of the Republic of Turkey: a contemporary portrait of the New Turkey

On its hundredth anniversary in October 2023, Turkey will celebrate Atatürk, the ‘father of the Turks’, and will also – officially at least – applaud President Erdogan, who has created a New Turkey. Günter Seufert and Christopher Kubaseck give a powerful account of how Erdogan has radically altered the country, transforming it into an authoritarian state which increasingly portrays itself domestically as Islamic, which is expanding its sphere of influence abroad, and which does not shy away from conflict.

On 29 October 1923, Atatürk proclaimed the Turkish Republic. The new state was committed to modernisation and secularisation, and culturally and politically it orientated itself towards the West. The military made sure the country stuck to this course, even mounting coups where necessary. At the turn of the millennium, Turkey was on course to join the EU – but now, under Erdogan, this is out of the question. This book illustrates very clearly how Atatürk’s Turkey is being destroyed: the separation of state and religion is now maintained only for appearance’s sake and could soon fall by the wayside altogether. Any serious opposition is suppressed. The country is turning its back on the West, looking confidently towards the East and the South, deploying troops in Syria and North Africa, and laying claims to raw materials in the Mediterranean. But within Turkish society, new currents are also emerging: a young, liberal, democratic, ecologically aware civil society which is ready to resist.

Günter Seufert is a sociologist and head of the Centre for Applied Turkish Studies at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs.

Christopher Kubaseck is a Turkologist, journalist and writer.
The debate currently being whipped up in the media about the rights of trans people is being conducted in a polemical and polarised way. But if we want to understand, we need to listen. And we need to ask the right questions and work out what we are afraid of. We need to take people’s concerns seriously. And we need to inform and argue in a clear, factual way. This book does all of those things. Its author, Dagmar Pauli, is a psychiatrist who introduced regular trans consultation sessions at her clinic 15 years ago.

How can we enable people of different genders and gender identities to live empowered lives? How can we carefully support young people on the path to finding and living their own identity? What is gender, and how is it defined? And what is non-binariness – does it only exist in a binary world? Can people choose their own gender, and if so from what age? This book explores these questions and, in collaboration with diverse young people, looks for answers. It is a book designed to give the younger generation a voice and help the older generation listen to it – an example of the vital dialogue that makes change possible.

**Werner Bätzing**

**Homo Destructor – A Human-Environment Story**

From the Origins of Humanity to the Destruction of the World

From the emergence of humankind to the destruction of the world: the story of our relationship with nature

Renowned geographer and Alps researcher Werner Bätzing presents his magnum opus, ‘Homo Destructor – A Human-Environment Story’. This ambitious story of a relationship with nature dating all the way back to the emergence of Homo sapiens also looks at the impending destruction of the human world as we know it. Bätzing believes, we must take a step back and look more closely at the experiences of premodern society in its interactions with the natural world and the environment.

Even in premodern times, human beings intervened in the natural world around them and changed it in order to survive. But they always tried to make these changes positive rather than destructive, because they knew the natural world was the foundation on which their lives, and the lives of future generations, depended. It was only with the dawn of modern science, with the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution and the market economy, that short-termist thinking and behaviour took over, and nature and the environment began to be exploited without any thought for their long-term survival. It is now clear that such ways of thinking and such behaviour will, in the long term, destroy our whole environment and ultimately lead to our own destruction.

Werner Bätzing is an Emeritus Professor of Cultural Geography. As a scholar specialising in the Alps, he has spent over 40 years studying human beings’ relationship with the environment in the Alpine region. He has won many awards for his work. His books ‘Die Alpen. Geschichte und Zukunft einer europäischen Kulturlandschaft’ (2015) and ‘Das Landleben. Geschichte und Zukunft einer gefährdeten Lebensform’ (2020) are also available from C.H. Beck.
Rubbish
Dirty History

Roman Köster

The first global history of rubbish

Human beings have had a long and intimate relationship with rubbish. Even the Neandertals deemed certain things to be useless, rejected them and threw them away. Ancient Rome was plagued by a litter problem, as were the metropolises of the 19th century. But this all pales into insignificance compared with the mountains of rubbish we generate today. Roman Köster has written an enlightening history of our species, centred around our production of and approach to waste. This book is the first thoroughly researched dirty history of humanity.

In premodern times, waste was foremost a practical problem. It lay around, smelled bad and got in the way of people and vehicles. The rapid worldwide urban growth of the late 18th century went hand in hand with an increased awareness of the hygiene problems caused by waste, and the way these problems facilitated the spread of typhus and cholera. Now, however, rubbish is no longer just a question of urban cleanliness but a global environmental problem. In his global history of rubbish from early history to the present day, Roman Köster explores the causes of these developments and shows how the way we throw things away, dispose of them and recycle them has changed over the course of history.

Roman Köster is a research assistant on the Historical Committee at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and did his post-doctoral qualification on German waste management after World War II. His book 'Hugo Boss, 1924–1945' (2005) is also published by C.H. Beck.

• ‘Rubbish is our only growing resource.’ Hollis Dole, Undersecretary of State at the US Department of the Interior, 1969
• Human beings have always thrown things away
• Living with rubbish – from the time when nomadic populations became sedentary, to the present day
• How our approach to rubbish has shaped the face of our villages and towns – and the lives of their inhabitants
• A history of throwing away, disposing and recycling
• From the litter problems of ancient cities to the rubbish mountains of the present day
Winfried Nerdinger

**Architecture in Germany in the 20th Century**

History, Society, Function

The definitive work on architecture in Germany in the 20th century

This book provides, for the first time, a comprehensive overview of architecture in Germany in the context of the political, social and economic history of the 20th century. Winfried Nerdinger, a renowned and multiple award-winning architectural historian, places various architectural and urban development approaches, concepts and processes in their respective social and historical contexts.

The book focuses on the period from 1890 to 1990. A hundred formative years, from the German Empire to reunification, from Peter Behrens to Günter Behnisch – a hundred years that shaped the urban face of modern-day Germany. The periods of upheaval in 1918-19, 1933 and 1945 alter the external conditions. From 1945 onwards architecture is split up into different occupation zones. After the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic are founded, developments in East and West are defined by competition and convergence. With reunification, the different strands of architecture converge once again. The year 1990 thus marks a significant turning point. An overview of the period after 1990 rounds off this impressive and multifaceted social, economic, institutional and technological history of architecture, which is bound to become a standard reference work for all historians and lovers of architecture.

Winfried Nerdinger was a Professor of Architectural History and Director of the Architecture Museum at the University of Munich, as well as founding director of the National Socialism Documentation Centre in Munich. Since 2019 he has been President of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts. His books 'Das Bauhaus. Werkstatt der Moderne' (2019) and 'Walter Gropius. Architekt der Moderne' (2019) are also published by C.H. Beck.

- 'Architecture is the will of an epoch translated into spaces.' - Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
- The hundred formative years of architecture in Germany between 1890 and 1990
- Sheds light on the foundations and conditions of architecture
- Tells the story of the modern age
- Architecture as part of German history
- Political events provide the structure
Franz Kafka is one of the most influential writers of the 20th century. His work is often seen as the epitome of all that is dark, ambiguous and fascinatingly uncanny. Peter-André Alt’s brilliant biography puts Kafka’s life and his literary work into the context of the major cultural trends from 1880 to 1920. It introduces the flaneur, the loner, the ascetic and the lover, the ecstatic and the sceptic, the horror specialist and the master of irony.

Peter-André Alt combines Kafka’s life story with enlightening interpretations of Kafka’s works, illustrating their psychological context. He also shows Kafka in a dialogue with German literature from Prague, with European modernism, with psychoanalysis and Zionism, with philosophy and the Jewish intellectual tradition, and with the cinema and theatre of the day. This highly acclaimed biography illuminates the experiences, visions and fantasies of a writer in whose inner world the major conflicts of the 20th century are reflected. It sheds new light on Kafka’s artistic individuality and his special position in the space between Jewish mythology and European modernism – offering a new perspective on the eternal son who found himself at the beginning and end of all traditions.

Peter-André Alt is Professor of Modern German Literary Studies at the Free University of Berlin, where he was president from 2010 to 2018. His books ‘Schiller. Leben, Werk, Zeit. Eine Biographie’ (2009), ‘Kafka und der Film’ (2009), ‘Ästhetik des Bösen’ (2011), ‘Sigmund Freud. Der Arzt der Moderne’ (2016) and ‘“Jemand musste Josef K. verleumdet haben…” Erste Sätze der Weltliteratur und was sie uns verraten’ (2022) are also published by C.H. Beck.
Further works published by C.H. Beck:

**Franz Kafka** (2018/2023)
Simplified Chinese: Gingko (Beijing) Book Co. Ltd.

**Schiller** (2 vols.) (2009)
Korean: Korea Research Foundation

**Aesthetics of Evil** (2011)
Korean: Shi ua Jinshil (n.n.e.)
Simplified Chinese: Central Compilation & Translation Press (2014)

**Sigmund Freud** (2016)
English: Oxford University Press
Italian: Ulrico Hoepli Editore (2022)
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press (n.n.e.)

**Kafka and the Film** (2009)

**Someone must have slandered Josef K.**
(2020)
Italian: Keller editore
Albert von Schirnding

Old Man, What Now?

Thoughts on Later Life

What is left, at the End – Reflections on Ageing

The longer we all live, the more old age is becoming its own phase of life. If we engage with this phase of life, if we do not repress the inevitable losses it brings, then we can gain a great deal from it. Suddenly, we find ourselves thinking about people and things that were not important to us before. Suddenly, things that had seemed indispensable become unimportant. Albert von Schirnding’s poetic and reflective book takes a clear-eyed look at old age and, in doing so, achieves great serenity.

How can we come to terms with the passing of time? What happens in us when life outwardly becomes more and more monotonous? Which long-cherished habits do we retain, and which are suddenly upended? How do we relate to the current zeitgeist when we have already lived through so many others? Albert von Schirnding reflects on much-loved books that have accompanied him through the years, about the music of his life, about people and encounters, about moments of failure and salvation. He attentively traverses the landscape of old age and finds both light and shadow there in equal measure.

Barbara Senckel

**Fairytales Happiness**

Strong Fairy Tales for Strong Children

The protagonists of fairy tales often meet with misfortune, sometimes deserved, sometimes undeserved. But fairy tales are also about happiness, and about happiness in unhappy circumstances. The happiness of a child who is mocked but eventually triumphs. The happiness of being small and clever. The happiness of siblings sticking together. Happiness of not always thinking of your own interests. The happiness of finding finally where you belong to after having been an outcast. The happiness of overcoming insults. And last but not least, the happiness of going your own way.

‘If you want intelligent children, read them fairy tales. If you want even more intelligent children, read them more fairy tales.’ - Albert Einstein

Barbara Senckel is a developmental psychologist, psychotherapist and lecturer in special education. She has loved fairy tales since she was a child and also uses them in her work. Her book ‘Du bist ein weiter Baum. Entwicklungschancen für geistig behinderte Menschen durch Beziehung’ (2017) is also published by C.H. Beck.

Rotraut Susanne Berner is an illustrator, book designer and author. Her children’s books have won her international acclaim and many prizes, including the Hans Christian Andersen Prize (2016) and the German Prize for Youth Literature for her entire oeuvre (2006).
Michelangelo - Genius of the Renaissance

Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475 – 1564) is widely regarded as one of the most important sculptors, painters and architects of the Italian Renaissance. His independence of thought and action shaped both his character and his trailblazing art. The statue of David, the frescoes in the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter’s Basilica are all testament to this. Claudia Echinger-Maurach traces the development of this innovative artist and gives an expert introduction to Michelangelo’s extensive oeuvre, which also includes excellent drawings and lyric poems.

Claudia Echinger-Maurach was Professor of Art History at the University of Münster.
The Conflict in the Middle East

‘Indispensable to an understanding of Israel and the situation there.’
- Der Tagesspiegel

6 October 2023: 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and other Arab countries in the region has been raging for decades in the form of wars, occupation and violence, while the world watches on in dismay. The authors trace the history of the conflict, describing the most important flashpoints – from Jerusalem to access to water to border demarcation – and explain why peace eludes the troubled region despite the best efforts of international mediators, and why the conflict has escalated in recent years.

Muriel Asseburg is a Middle East expert at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) in Berlin. Her book ‘Palästina und die Palästinenser. Eine Geschichte von der Nakba bis zur Gegenwart’ (2022) is also published by C.H.Beck.

Jan Busse is a research associate at the Institute for International Policy and Conflict Research at the University of the Federal Armed Forces Munich.
Islamism
History, Thinkers, Organisation

‘Currents within Islamism, briefly and concisely explained.’ - Die Zeit

At least since the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, and even more so since 11 September 2001, the world has had profound concerns about Islamism. These concerns centre on terrorist attacks, on the prospect of large areas in Syria, Iraq, North Africa and Afghanistan coming under the control of Islamists, and on surprising election victories for Islamist parties. Tilmann Seidensticker explains the differences between the Muslim Brotherhood, the Salafists, the Wahhabis, the Taliban and other groups, the thinkers whose ideas they draw on and the methods they use to achieve their goal of an Islamic politics and society. This definitive work is now available in a revised and updated new edition.

Tilmann Seidensticker was a Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Jena until 2021, and since then has been a senior professor at the University of Hamburg.
Marie-Janine Calic

The History of the Balkans
From Their Beginnings to the Present Day

‘The Balkans produce more history than they can consume.’ - Winston Churchill

The area between the Slovenian Alps, the Black Sea and the Aegean has been shaped by a variety of kingdoms, religions and language groups. This has given rise to a unique ethnic, religious and cultural melting pot. Certain conflicts over states, borders and national identities are unresolved to this day. Renowned Southern Europe expert Marie-Janine Calic gives us an introduction to the fascinating and eventful history of the region and helps us sort the myths and legends from the facts. For we cannot understand the countries of the Balkans without knowing about their history.

Marie-Janine Calic is Professor of Eastern and Southern European History at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. Her books ‘Geschichte Jugoslawiens’ (2020), ‘Südosteuropa’ (2019) and ‘Tito’ (2022) are also published by C.H.Beck.
Sebastian Conrad

German Colonial History

'A concise and readable introduction.' - Andreas Eckert, Die Zeit

The German colonial empire was not large and lasted only 30 years. But the colonial experience had many repercussions for Germany itself and was therefore more important than has long been believed. In this systematic overview, Sebastian Conrad describes how the colonial order worked, where it reached its limits and how the native societies reacted to foreign rule. He also places the history of the colonies in the wider context of globalisation.

Sebastian Conrad is Professor of Modern History at the Free University of Berlin. His books ‘Globalgeschichte’ (2013) and ‘Globalisierung und Nation im Deutschen Kaiserreich’ (2010) are also published by C.H. Beck.
October 1962: in response to the stationing of Soviet intermediate-range missiles on Cuba, the USA imposed a blockade on the island and put its own nuclear missiles and long-range bomber planes on high alert. Drawing on American, Soviet and Cuban files, Bernd Greiner tells the story of the Cuban Missile Crisis: why it escalated, how a political solution was found and how the repercussions of the confrontation are still being felt today. In his war against Ukraine, Vladimir Putin has already resorted to nuclear blackmail – under different circumstances but with the same logic that left the world’s fate hanging in the balance in the autumn of 1962.

Bernd Greiner is the founding director and a staff member at the Berlin Centre for Cold War Studies. He has taught non-European history at the University of Hamburg and until 2014 he was the head of the ‘Theory and History of Violence’ department at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. His books ‘Henry Kissinger’ (2020) and ‘Made in Washington’ (2022) are also published by C.H.Beck.
Jürgen Heyde

The History of Poland

In this now-canonical book, Jürgen Heyde gives an overview of the history of Poland spanning more than a thousand years. As well as exploring the country’s political, social and cultural development, he focuses on the European dimensions of Polish history, and the development of German-Polish relations. The book has been fully revised and updated for this new edition.

Jürgen Heyde is a project director and research associate at the Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO) in Leipzig, and an associate professor at the University of Halle-Wittenberg.
Alexander, born in 356 B.C., was a pupil of Aristotle, a military genius who founded a global empire stretching from Greece to Egypt and India, and a young hero who died at the age of just 33. This biography gives a knowledgeable overview of the elements of Macedonian history and society that were shaped by Alexander, of his impact as a ruler and military strategist – as a ‘liberator’ and a ‘conqueror’ – and of the structural and historical context of his power politics.

Hartwin Brandt

The End of Antiquity
The History of the Late Roman Empire

Hartwin Brandt gives a concise and accessible account of the history of events in the late Roman Empire, and of its politics both in Rome and abroad. He gives a striking description of the charged relationship between secular and ecclesiastical power, and of the codification of Roman law.

Günther Moosbauer

The Battle of the Teutoburg Forest

In the year 9 A.D., three Roman legions commanded by Publius Quinctilius Varus were lured into an ambush set by Germanic tribes and completely obliterated – a heavy blow for the Roman Empire and its expansionist ambitions in Germania. This book gives an expert overview of the so-called Varian Disaster and the background to it, as well as the textual and archaeological evidence of this historically important event.

Günther Moosbauer is a professor of the archaeology of the Roman provinces, and director of the Gäuboden Museum in Straubing. His book 'Die vergessene Römerschlacht' (2022) is also published by C.H. Beck.
Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger

The Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation
From the End of the Middle Ages to 1806

This book gives a knowledgeable and informative account of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation – its history, institutions and structures – from the end of the Middle Ages to 1806.

Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger is a recipient of the Historisches Kolleg Prize (2013). She won the Leipzig Book Fair Prize and the Sigmund Freud Prize for Academic Prose for her biography ‘Maria Theresia’ (2018). Since 2018 she has been head of the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin. The book ‘Tyrannen. Eine Geschichte von Caligula bis Putin’ (2023), which she co-edited with André Krischer, is also published by C.H.Beck.

Further works published by C.H.Beck:

The Emperor’s Old Clothes (2008)
English: Berghahn Books

Maria Theresia (2017)
English: Princeton University Press (2022)
Japanese: Jimbun Shoin
Simplified Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press
Hans-Ulrich Thamer

**The French Revolution**

Causes, Events and Consequences of the French Revolution

An epoch-making event, the French Revolution had a profound effect on the political and social development of other countries far beyond France’s borders. It became a driver of constitutional change and of the emergence of liberal political cultures. In this book, Hans-Ulrich Thamer explores the causes, events and consequences of the French Revolution, introduces the key players and their motives, and explains important structural features such as the special role played by the city of Paris, the revolutionaries’ fight for a constitution, and the bloody Reign of Terror.

Hans-Ulrich Thamer, until his retirement, was Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Münster. His books ‘Adolf Hitler. Biographie eines Diktators’ (2018) and ‘Die NSDAP’ (C.H.Beck Wissen, 2020) are also published by C.H.Beck.
Wolfgang Benz

The Holocaust

‘We cannot draw a line under it.’ - Bärbel Bas

In this book, Wolfgang Benz, one of Germany’s most renowned Holocaust scholars, traces the history of the genocide against the Jews, from marginalisation and disfranchisement to industrialised mass murder in the extermination camps. He looks at both the victims and the perpetrators of the Holocaust, at the history of the persecutors and that of the persecuted. One chapter is devoted to the often-neglected ‘other genocide’ against the Sinti and the Roma.

Klaus Vieweg Wolfgang Benz was head of the Institute for Antisemitism Research at the Technical University of Berlin until 2011. He has written numerous books on the history of National Socialism, the Holocaust and the resistance. His book ‘Allein gegen Hitler. Leben und Tat des Johann Georg Elser’ (2023) is also published by C.H.Beck.
Further works published by C.H. Beck:

*Pictures of the Jew* (2001)
Koreanisch: Purnyoksa (Blue History Company)

*History of the Third Reich* (2000)
Englisch: University of California (2006)
Japanisch: Gendai Shokan (2014)
Koreanisch: Pumyoksa (Blue History)

*The Holocaust* (1995)
Simplified Chinese: Guangxi Normal University
Italian: Bollati Boringhieri (2010/2023)
Japanese: Kashiwashobo Publishing
Korean: Vista Books Publishing
Polish: K&L Press s.c.
Serbian: KIZ Altera
Slovakian: Vydavatelstvo F (2010)
Slovenian: Studia Humanitatis

*In Resistance* (2019)
Italienisch: Viella

Italienisch: Mimesis Edizioni (2009)
Lettisch: Die Protokolle der Weisen von Zion
Serbisch: Prosveta (2009)
Slowenisch: Mavrica d.o.o.
Türkisch: Repar Tasarim

*The 101 most important questions. The Third Reich* (2006)
Japanisch: Gendai Shokan (2008)
Ungarisch: V&R Kiadó

Japanisch: Gendai Shokan (2013)
Michael Borgolte

A Global History of the Middle Ages

The first global history of the Middle Ages in brief

This book gives a concise overview of the global history of the medieval millennium between 500 and 1500 A.D. It shows the diversity of (in some cases) unconnected worlds existing side by side, but also takes an in-depth look at the large interconnected area of Europe, North Africa and Asia with its different world religions and cultures, its changing political borders and its long-distance trading networks.

Michael Borgolte is Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at the Humboldt University in Berlin and one of the most renowned medievalists in Germany. His book ‘Die Welten des Mittelalters. Globalgeschichte eines Jahrtausends’ (2023) is also published by C.H.Beck.
‘All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.’
- Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Human dignity is the central value of our ethics and our laws. Now, at last, it has gained recognition and become enshrined in law, and is now regarded as the most important of all human rights. But why has this understanding of human dignity taken so long to come about? And why does it occupy this special position? What is human dignity, anyway? And what constitutes a violation of it? Finally: what are the implications of putting it into practice in our moral codes and laws? This brilliant introduction by legal philosopher Dietmar von der Pfordten is a must-read for anyone wanting to gain a better understanding of human dignity as the top priority for ethics, law and the state.

Dietmar von der Pfordten is a Professor of Legal and Social Philosophy at the University of Göttingen and head of the department of Legal and Social Philosophy. His books ‘Rechtsethik’ (2011) and ‘Rechtsphilosophie. Eine Einführung’ (C.H.Beck Wissen, 2013) are also available from C.H.Beck.
FICTION
One morning, translator Renata Spaziani goes to answer a knock on the door of her flat in Vienna to find a police officer on the doorstep. The news he gives her changes everything: Konrad Grasmann, the love of her life, with whom she has lived with for the past twenty-five years, suddenly died the previous day in a car park, just sixty years old. His family were informed immediately; Renata was not. As she tries to come to terms with the shock of their close partnership coming to such an abrupt and tragic end, wishing she could die too and yet somehow clinging to life, she struggles with the fact that Konrad’s family do not respect their relationship. Renata and Konrad were not married, and he did not leave a legally binding will. Renata experiences a double loss…

Konrad was an architect and photographic artist. While sorting his possessions and dealing with his family, Renata comes across inconsistencies in his life. Was he keeping something from her? Going through her experiences with Konrad and his aesthetic preferences, and with the help of her friends, Renata gradually starts living her life again. It is a life which she now has to map out anew, along completely different lines. Who should be part of it?

Sabine Gruber is a freelance writer based in Vienna. From 1988 to 1992 she worked as a university lecturer in Venice. She has been awarded numerous prizes and grants for her work, which includes stories, poems, radio plays and stage plays as well as her novels ‘Aushäusige’, ‘Die Zumutung’ (C.H.Beck, 2003), ‘Über Nacht’ (C.H.Beck, 2007), ‘Stillbach oder Die Sehnsucht’ (C.H.Beck, 2011) and ‘Daldossi oder Das Leben des Augenblicks’ (C.H.Beck, 2016). These prizes include the Priessnitz Prize 1998, the Förderpreis zum österreichischen Staatspreis 2000, the City of Vienna’s Elias Canetti Stipendium 2004, the Anton Wildgans Prize 2007, the Robert Musil Stipendium 2009, the City of Vienna’s Veza Canetti Prize 2015, the Austrian Art Prize for Literature 2016 and the City of Vienna’s Prize for Literature 2019. ‘Über Nacht’ was nominated for the German Book Prize and ‘Daldossi oder Das Leben des Augenblicks’ for the Austrian Book Prize.
In August 1756, the army of the Prussian king Frederick II invades Saxony without declaring war first. Frederick Augustus, the ruler of Saxony and Poland, and his prime minister Heinrich von Brühl, a sworn enemy of Frederick the Great, decamp to Warsaw. Saxony's army is no match for the well-armed Prussians and is forced to surrender. But one woman – Countess von Brühl, who has remained in Dresden along with the queen – does not capitulate while the country is plundered. She forges a plan:

Under the cover of a pseudonym, along with her chambermaid Luise von Barnhelm, she makes the arduous journey to Leipzig in the bumpy mail coaches of the ‘Ordinäre Post’ (the ordinary postal service). Leipzig is the place where the occupying Prussian king receives his subjects. The Countess, of course, cannot get close to Frederick herself, but she discovers that the king has granted an audience to two famous intellectuals and poets, Gellert and Gottsched. Also the king’s heavily indebted valet Glasow is always in his presence. Can she talk one of the men into carrying out a patriotic act (where the title given flacons would play an important role)? Can a person change history – end a war – with one courageous deed? Fascinating, exciting, knowledgeable and entertaining, Hans Pleschinski’s new novel tells the story of a little-known event in German history, of secret heroines and of the possibilities and dark depths of the German soul.

Previous works have been sold to Poland, Russia and Turkey

• An exciting historical novel about a little-known event in German history
• Prussia’s invasion of Saxony in 1756, Frederick the Great and his opponent Countess von Brühl
• A coach journey across a war zone, from Dresden to Leipzig
• The author is available for events
Ruth Lember, an ethics professor in Berlin, is looking forward to the “crowning glory” of her so far very successful career: she is to become a member of the German Ethics Council. Throughout the summer of 2022 there is nothing to detract from this bright future: her husband Ben wins an architecture competition, her foster daughter Jenny is taking a degree in communication studies in Leipzig, and the coronavirus pandemic finally seems to be abating. When Ruth is bitten by an off-lead dog on her morning run, the incident initially feels like nothing more than an annoying mishap. But the wound starts to fester. And the bite, far from being just a slight nuisance, unexpectedly triggers a whole chain of events that increasingly threaten to turn Ruth’s life upside down.

A boyfriend from her past turns up, reminding her not only of their former relationship but also of a crime that Ruth – an environmental activist at the time – committed but was never prosecuted for. Nobody else, not even Ben and Jenny, knows about Ruth’s political past, which if it comes to light could jeopardise both her career and her marriage. But that is exactly where things seem to be heading… In this rich, vivid and exciting novel Ulrich Woelk tells the story of a few midsummer days in Berlin which threaten to turn a woman’s whole life upside down.

Ulrich Woelk is a freelance writer based in Berlin. He studied physics and philosophy. His first novel, ‘Freigang’, was published in 1990. More recently he has published the novels ‘Der Sommer meiner Mutter’ (C.H.Beck, 2019), longlisted for the German Book Prize and translated into Spanish, and ‘Für ein Leben’ (C.H.Beck 2021), which won the Alfred Döblin Prize.
Jochen Schmidt

At Home on the Screens

A Novel

For years Jochen Schmidt has been photographing the cathode ray tube screens of traditional television sets, discarded on the pavement like Christmas trees in January. The old abandoned screens mark the end of an era: televisions are an obsolescent model, and conventional (linear) TV watching is coming to an end. But what are we throwing out along with our TVs?

In his columns, Jochen Schmidt not only explores television history but also thinks about the role played by the medium in the development of our personalities and our perceived place in the world, and as a producer of society. What else says ‘family’ like watching TV together in the evenings? And which commodity will we organise our furniture around in the future? This book is about dealing with everyday life – the arrangement of the television situation, watching TV as a couple versus watching TV alone – and about events in contemporary history which the author views through the lens of television, via news, adverts, trash TV. Jochen Schmidt not only paints an intelligent portrait of contemporary society but also – as always – does it in an exceptionally entertaining way.

Jochen Schmidt was born in Berlin in 1970 and still lives there today. C.H. Beck has published, among others of his works, the novels ‘Schneckenmühle’ (2013), ‘Zuckersand’ (2017), ‘Ein Auftrag für Otto Kwant’ (2019) and ‘Phlox’ (2022), which was nominated for the German Book Prize.

Previous works have been sold to China and Serbia
Few nineteenth-century historians were such masterful storytellers as Ferdinand Gregorovius, whose renowned ‘History of Rome in the Middle Ages’ brought him lasting fame. He also devoted a fascinating book to Corsica, in which he writes about his walks on the island and brings its eventful past to life with various episodes and anecdotes. Michael Krüger has selected the best of these and provided an delightful afterword. A wonderful holiday read for anyone who loves Corsica.

Michael Krüger is a writer, essayist and poet who was the head of Hanser Verlag for many years. His most recent books are ‘Das Strandbad. Szenen einer Kindheit’ (2022) and ‘Michael Krüger über Gemälde von Segantini’ (2022).

Ferdinand Gregorovius (1821 – 1891) was, until well into the 20th century, one of the most widely read historians writing in the German language. As a private scholar and journalist, he produced a body of work (mainly on the subject of Italy) which is prized by experts to this day for its stylistic elegance and in-depth knowledge.
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Foreign Rights Department
Wilhelmstraße 9
80801 München

Phone: +49 (0) 89 38 18 9 - 228
Mail: auslandslizenzen@beck.de

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