

**F O R E I G N  
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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

we proudly present our latest Foreign Rights Guide and we are very much looking forward to meeting you again in Frankfurt to talk about all our new titles!

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2024  
352 pages  
Hardcover  
€ 26.00

**English translation rights (US) preempted to W.W. Norton**

**English translation rights (UK) preempted to Pushkin Press**

**Italian translation rights sold to Giangiacomo Feltrinelli**

**Spanish translation rights sold to Penguin Random House Spain**

**Further works published by C.H.Beck:**

*Eight Days in May:*

English: W.W.Norton (US) and Penguin (UK)

Italian: Feltrinelli

Spanish: Penguin Random House Spain

French: Passés Composés

Dutch: De Arbeiderspers

Hungarian: Corvina Kiadó

Chinese: Social Sciences Academic Press

Swedish: Bokförlaget Lind

Polish: Wydawnictwo Otwarte

Japanese: SUBARUSYA LINKAGE Corp.

Czech: Albatros Media

Greek: G. Dardanos - C. Dardanos (OE)

Ukrainian: Laboratory LLC

Volker Ullrich

## **A Democracy's Hours Of Destiny**

The Preventable Failure Of The Weimar Republic

Democracies are fragile. Freedoms that had seemed firmly established can easily be squandered. Few historical events illustrate this as vividly as the fall of the Weimar Republic. Volker Ullrich tells one of the most dramatic stories in world history, in this lively, exciting book which gives us a deep insight into the personalities of its protagonists. A book that features unsettling parallels with the present day.

The Weimar Republic came into being at an inauspicious time. The German Empire had resoundingly lost the First World War. The Treaty of Versailles imposed harsh conditions on the defeated country. The Republic was rocked by relentless series of crises, interrupted only by a phase of apparent stability in the mid-1920s. But despite all the hardships it faced, Germany's first experiment with democracy was not always destined to meet an inglorious end. In this compelling book, renowned historian and journalist Volker Ullrich shows that there were multiple opportunities to chart a different course, from the founding of the Republic right up to January 1933. It all hinged on a number of specific actions taken by individual figures – just as it does today. Ullrich's book is also an urgent warning to us not to forget how fragile democracies are, or how quickly freedoms can be lost when democratic institutions fail and the powers of civil society are not strong enough to combat the authoritarian temptation. Whether democracy stands or falls is up to us.

**Volker Ullrich** is a historian and, from 1990 to 2009, he was head of the 'Politics Book' section at the weekly newspaper Die Zeit. He has written a numerous influential historical works. Volker Ullrich was awarded the Alfred Kerr Prize for Literary Criticism in 1992 and an honorary doctorate from the University of Jena in 2008.

Aleida and Jan Assmann

## Public Spirit

### The Sixth, Social Sense

We definitely need more of it – but what does 'public spirit' really mean?

Aleida and Jan Assmann define it as a sixth, social sense, which relies on people being empathetic, respectful and neighbourly towards each other, showing solidarity with each other. Their brilliantly written book calls for more public spiritedness – for the sake of other people, our democracy and ourselves.

Our current debates are dominated by binary alternatives: do we need universal values, or do we need to recognise the unique characteristics of different nations and cultures? Is the alleviation of poverty a civic duty, or does it actually entrench unjust structures which only the state can change? Aleida and Jan Assmann show that such questions are flawed. Because we need both: universal values and respect for collective identities. Civic engagement actually has the power to change structures. The authors explore key concepts like solidarity, fraternity, humanity, altruism, empathy and respect, and examine different relationship structures and ideas about what it means to be human, thereby redefining what public spiritedness can look like. They identify the cornerstones of a democratic political culture, and use inspiring examples – from swimming pools and Stolpersteine (commemorative plaques) to clean-up campaigns and food banks – to illustrate the impact public spiritedness can have.

**Aleida Assmann** is an Emeritus Professor of English Studies and General Literary Studies at the University of Constance. She has won many awards, including the A.H.Heineken Prize for History (2014), the Balzan Prize (jointly with Jan Assmann, 2017) and the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade (2018).

**Jan Assmann** was an Emeritus Professor of Egyptology at the University of Heidelberg, and Professor of General Cultural Studies at the University of Constance. He has won many awards, including the Sigmund Freud Prize (2016), the Balzan Prize (jointly with Aleida Assmann, 2017) and the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade (2018).



2024  
250 pages  
Hardcover  
€ 25.00

#### Further works published by Jan Assmann with C.H.Beck:

##### *Cultural Memory:*

English: Cambridge University Press  
French: Flammarion  
Italian: Giulio Einaudi Editore  
Spanish: Editorial Gredos  
Greek: Crete University Press  
Chinese: Peking University Press  
Turkish: Ayrinti Yayinlari  
Polish: Warsaw University Press  
Czech: Prostor Nakladatelstvi  
Hungarian: Atlantisz  
Serbian: Prosveta  
Bulgarian: Open Society Publishing House  
Romanian: Universitatea "Al.I.Cuza"- Editura Univers.  
Bosnian: Vrijeme Publishers

##### *Religion and Cultural Memory*

English: Stanford University Press  
Spanish: Fundacion David Calles  
Korean: Ulyuck Publishing House

##### *Death and the Hereafter in Ancient Egypt*

English: Cornell University Press  
Italian: Giulio Einaudi Editore  
French: Editions du Rocher  
Arabic: The National Center for Translation

##### *Ma'at*

Polish: Warsaw University Press

##### *Achsenzeit*

Simplified Chinese: Yilin Press

#### Further works published by Aleida Assmann with C.H.Beck:

##### *The new unease about the culture of remembrance*

Hungarian: Múlt és Jövő Alapítvány  
Russian: ooo Redakcija zhurnala  
Latvian: Zinatne  
Japanese: Iwanami Shoten

##### *The European Dream. Four Lessons from History*

Russian: ooo Redakcija  
Italian: Keller Editore  
Greek: Crete University Press



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208 pages with  
1 map  
Hardcover  
€ 23.00

- 'A modern Herodotus.' - Rheinische Post
- 'A brilliant reporter – curious, open-minded and tireless.' - Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
- 'Navid Kermani has become a master of the art of listening and observing: his talent is unparalleled.' - Kölner Stadtanzeiger
- 'Kermani's gift for listening deeply and observing consciously is a rare one, and worth its weight in gold in this era of fanaticism, fake news and xenophobia.' - REPORTER

• **Further works published by C.H.Beck:**

*Incredulous Awe:*

English: Polity Press  
Dutch: Uitgeverij Cossee  
Spanish: Editorial Trotta  
Norwegian: Mentor Medier  
French: Salvator Editions  
Italian: Marsilio Editori

*State of Exception*

English: Polity Press  
Italian: Keller Editore

*Between the Quran and Kafka*

English: Polity Press

*Who Is 'We'?*

Serbian: Samizdat B92  
Arabic: Kalimat Arabia God Is Beautiful  
English: Polity Press  
Arabic: Al-Kamel Verlag

*The Terror of God*

English: Polity Press  
Turkish: Pinar Yayinlari

Navid Kermani

## In The Other Direction Now

### A Journey Across East Africa

Navid Kermani has travelled from southern Madagascar to the Nuba Mountains in Sudan. Delicately, using sensitively observed details rather than broad-brush theories, he brings East Africa to life. He also reflects from a new perspective on the issues of our time: on climate change, war, identity, and the fundamental questions of existence.

Africa is still regarded as the 'forgotten continent' – but in fact, since at least the nineteenth century, it has mainly been the contested continent. European colonial powers have left deep scars here. The Arabic north exports its religion and culture to the south, often violently. China and the West compete for natural resources and influence. The parts of Africa that really are 'forgotten' are often those where there is nothing more to be extracted – like Madagascar, for example. It was Madagascar that suffered the first famine officially recognised by the United Nations as being caused by climate change. This was the starting point of the journey which Navid Kermani undertook for *Die Zeit*. It took him across the Comoros and to Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan. Where other writers have gone looking for primal, unspoilt places, Kermani discovered populations and cultures on the move, often fleeing war or drought. These populations have always made creative use of new cultural influences, however, and turned them into something of their own. Nowhere is this as evident as in music. Music is the secret golden thread running through this brilliantly written book, which follows an irresistible literary rhythm.

**Navid Kermani** has a postgraduate degree in Oriental Studies and works as a freelance writer. He lives in Cologne. He has been awarded the Kleist Prize, the Breitbach Prize, the Hölderlin Prize and the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade. In 2024 he won the Thomas Mann Prize. His other non-fiction books and acclaimed reports are also published by C.H.Beck.

Jonas Grethlein

## Hope

### A Story Of Optimism From Homer To Climate Change

*'Hope' is the thing with feathers – That perches in the soul – And sings the tune without the words...* Until today, what Emily Dickinson described so eloquently still shapes our relationships with our own lives and with the world. But can hope really still be seen as a source of strength these days? Is it not, rather, an escape from reality? Is it a virtue or folly? In these crisis-ridden times, would we not be better off letting go of hope and rather take action?

A look back at 2500 years of the history of hope shows how timeless – and timely – it really is.

Jonas Grethlein maps out the horizons of hope and gives a voice to philosophers, martyrs, writers, artists, victims, and sufferers from all epochs, so that we can learn to understand human beings and their attempts to cope with a future that is beyond their control. In this way he sheds light on the nature of hope, describing how it arises, what its objects can be, and what can inspire it. He has written a very human book, for anyone who wakes up each morning and goes through life with the quiet expectation that, somehow, it will still be worth living.

**Jonas Grethlein** is an internationally renowned classicist and a professor at the University of Heidelberg. He won the Leibniz Prize in 2024. His books 'Die Odyssee' (2017) and 'Mein Jahr mit Achill' (2022) are also published by C.H.Beck.



2024  
336 pages  
Hardcover  
€ 28.00

#### Further works published by C.H.Beck:

*The Odyssee*

English: Princeton UP





2024  
280 pages with  
2 maps  
Hardcover  
€ 26.00

#### Comments on *Heineken in Africa*

- 'An exceptional and balanced study.' - *Le Monde*
- 'A thought-provoking book that gets to the heart of how business is done in difficult markets.' - *The Financial Times*
- 'Olivier van Beemen is the thorn in the flesh of the Heineken brewery in Africa, written with great speed.' - *De Volkskrant*

**The Dutch original will be published by Prometheus**

**The French edition will be published by Rue de l'échiquier**

**The Italian edition will be published by ADD Editore**

Olivier van Beemen

## In The Name Of The Animals

### How An NGO Dominates Large Parts of Africa

The NGO 'African Parks' manages 22 large nature parks in Africa and is considered a success story. But what and who is really behind it? In his captivating book, Olivier van Beemen uncovers the state-like structures, the power of the African Parks military and the ruthless actions against the local population. Critics speak of 'green colonialism'. Or is it the old colonialism in a new guise?

'African Parks' manages an administrative area as large as Great Britain. It holds territorial rights transferred by the 12 countries concerned. The organization maintains armed forces with extensive powers to protect the areas - from terrorists, poachers and the local population. Local people are no longer allowed to enter the land they have traditionally used, and torture and rape occur. Safari tourism, donations from billionaires and Western governments, including the German government, bring in rich revenues. At the top is a white elite doing everything in its power to ensure that only beautiful images of big game and unspoiled nature reach the outside world. Olivier van Beemen spent three years researching the organization, interviewed countless insiders, dropouts and residents of the parks and was not deterred by arrests, accusations of espionage and deportation. His stirring book shows what the militarization of nature conservation is doing, how the indigenous population is being harassed and how a white executive without democratic control rules in the name of an 'untouched' - deserted - nature.

**Olivier van Beemen** is a Dutch investigative journalist who focuses primarily on Africa. In 2019, he was awarded the 'Tegel', the most important Dutch journalism prize. His articles are published in international newspapers such as *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *NRC Handelsblad* and *The Continent*. His book about the Heineken brewery in Africa has been translated into five languages and has been nominated for various awards.

Carlo Masala

## If Russia Wins

A Scenario

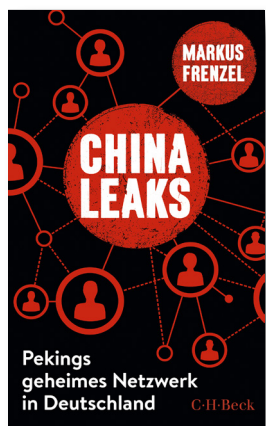
After the Russian soldiers in the south have overwhelmed the Ukrainian army, which is suffering from massive shortages of ammunition and troops, they advance towards Kyiv once more. And this time they are successful. President Zelensky and his government are toppled, and in their place an authoritarian puppet government is installed by Moscow. In the years to follow, while Russian society and the Russian economy remain on a war footing, the large and now battle-hardened Russian army is able to rebuild its strength. And it has learned from its mistakes in the early stages of the Ukraine war. China, Iran and North Korea also continue to arm their allies in Moscow. The Americans have by now largely withdrawn military assistance from Europe in order to concentrate all their efforts on the impending war with China in the Pacific. Germany and France have still not managed to broker an effective security alliance. And early one morning, on a mild March day in 2028, Russian tanks enter the Baltic states, accompanied by bomber aircraft and supported by massive missile strikes. At NATO's headquarters in Brussels, a decision must be made before events take their course...

This is just a hypothetical future scenario posited by renowned political scientist Carlo Masala in his new book – but it shows, in a particularly dramatic way, what is currently at stake.

**Carlo Masala** is a Professor of International Politics at the University of the Armed Forces and is highly sought after as a commentator by German and foreign media outlets. He is a regular guest on the major political talk shows.



2024  
112 pages  
Softcover with  
flaps  
€ 14.00



2024  
256 pages  
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flaps  
€ 18.00

- Major international research collaboration which will attract lots of media attention
- Detailed coverage in Bertelsmann media is expected: *RTL (Nachtjournal, Docu)* etc.
- Extract from the book to be printed in the newspaper *Stern* prior to publication

Markus Frenzel

## China Leaks

### Beijing's Secret Network In Germany

The dream is as bold as it is dangerous. Beijing wants to turn the world into one big dictatorship along the lines of the Chinese model. In Germany, a secret network is working to achieve the same goal, and has already made significant progress. This is partly because our politicians are turning a blind eye – and in some cases even becoming complicit.

For a good ten years now, China has been implementing a sophisticated plan of attack targeted at our Western model of society, at our politics, at our way of life. The idea can be traced back to Xi Jinping who, in his authoritarian desire for power, has turned his attention from his own country to foreign states. In Germany, the strategy is already well advanced; Chinese henchmen and accomplices are infiltrating ministries, influencing legislation in the Bundestag and pulling the strings in the economy.

In this whistleblowing book, experienced investigative journalist Markus Frenzel exposes the Chinese backers behind these developments, reveals Beijing's secret networks and names the figures in German politics who are guilty of turning a blind eye.

**Markus Frenzel** Frenzel is an investigative reporter for *RTL*. After studying politics in Berlin, Aix-en-Provence and Paris, he spent many years working for *Deutsche Welle* and the *ARD* magazine *FAKT*. He has won a number of prestigious journalism prizes for his research, including the *Marler Television Prize for Human Rights*, the *German-Polish Journalism Prize* and the *European Parliament's Prize for Journalism*.

Ruprecht Polenz

## Do Something!

### A Short Introduction To Defending Democracy

For years now, Ruprecht Polenz, a 77-year-old former member of the Bundestag, has been energetically opposing far-right rent-a-gobs and enemies of democracy. He is an influencer fighting for freedom and diversity, and his social media posts garner thousands of comments every day. In this short book, he makes an appeal to the reader: we can no longer take democracy for granted. We must take action to defend it!

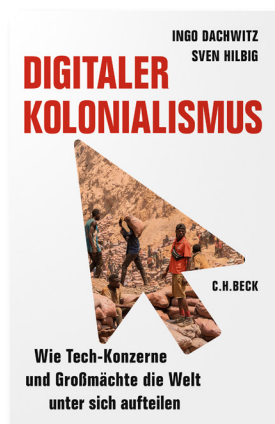
People's faith in our democracy has been undermined. It is being challenged by enemies both within and without. Hundreds of thousands of people have protested against far-right 'remigration plans'. It is vital that these protests are not just a flash in the pan. There is a great deal at stake, for it is democracy that ensures our right to live a free and autonomous life. If we want to protect this right, we need to start taking action: joining in debates, voting, participating. Do something! This is the solution advocated by democratic influencer Ruprecht Polenz, who is well respected across party lines. In this concise book he highlights the value of our democratic form of government and gives concrete examples of how we can become more politically engaged. Democracy's ability to survive begins with us, at home. Polenz's book is an inspiration in dark times.

**Ruprecht Polenz** was born in 1946. He was awarded the *Golden Blogger Prize* in 2020. He used to be a lawyer, and from 1994 to 2013 he served as a member of the German parliament. From 2005 to 2013 he was Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He is one of the most prominent defenders of our democracy against right-wing extremists. Polenz is a regular contributor on national media outlets, appears as a guest on public service broadcasting talk shows, and is invited to lectures and podium discussions all over Germany.



2024  
80 pages  
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flaps  
€ 10.00

- Call for action to save our democracy by a well-known and respected democratic influencer
- An inspiration for defending democracy in dark times



2024  
304 pages with  
5 maps  
Hardcover  
€ 26.00

- AI and data, raw materials and repression: a comprehensive analysis of digital colonialism
- Europe's role alongside the digital empires USA and China
- A highly readable mix of in-depth analysis and moving reportage
- With an urgent appeal by Renata Ávila Pinto, Managing Director of the *Open Knowledge Foundation*

Ingo Dachwitz and Sven Hilbig

## Digital Colonialism

### How Tech Firms And Superpowers Are Carving Up The World Between Them

Innovative, powerful, ruthless: the story of the unstoppable rise of the tech companies and their dominance over our globally connected world is one that has been told many times over. But there is always one chapter missing – the chapter about the bloody price paid by the global South. In their new book, tech expert Ingo Dachwitz and developer Sven Hilbig shed light on this blind spot. The story they tell is meticulously researched and compellingly told.

The rise of the tech companies and their domination of the networked world has come at a high and bloody price. In countries such as Kenya and India, it is people who do the hard graft that lies behind social media and artificial intelligence. They extract the raw materials needed to manufacture our devices, and suffer the consequences of living under dictators with advanced technology at their fingertips. The superpowers China, Europe and the USA not only play this game, but even change the rules to suit their own interests. Digital politics has long since become geopolitics. In the struggle between the digital colonial powers, all that matters is victory – the global South is allowed to go to the wall.

**Ingo Dachwitz** was born in 1987. He is a communications expert and works as a political tech journalist for the prizewinning investigative medium *netzpolitik.org*. In recent years, in his capacity as an expert on the ethics of digitalisation, he has served as a consultant to organisations including the German Chancellor's office and the Protestant Church in Germany. He has also appeared on numerous media outlets: he has been interviewed for the TV Daily News programme, the German World Service, and the newspapers *Tagesspiegel* and *taz*.

**Sven Hilbig** was born in 1966. He is a legal scholar and an expert on digitalisation and trade policy, and works for the not-for-profit organisation *Brot für die Welt*. Together with partners from the global South, he has spent years campaigning for fair digitalisation on the national and the international stage. Since 2019 he has played a key role in the WTO negotiations on digital commerce. Sven Hilbig writes about global digital justice, for publications focusing on German and international politics and for *taz*, among others.

Stefan Bierling

## The UnUnited States of America

### The USA's Political System And The Future Of Democracy

'E pluribus unum' – 'out of many, one' – is the motto found on the Great Seal of the United States. But this motto no longer holds true. The United States are more disunited and hostile than at any point since the Civil War. The main cause of this is the political polarisation that has taken hold of all the institutions, processes and individual players in American democracy. This book explains how the USA's political system works and why it is becoming more and more dysfunctional – with drastic consequences not only for the USA itself, but for the entire future of democracy.

Older texts about the USA's political system are now only of historical value, so dramatically have the superpower's circumstances changed over the past three decades.

In this seminal book, Stephan Bierling, one of Germany's leading experts on the USA, outlines the structure and functioning of the country's political system, explains the roles played by its institutions, and looks at specific features such as impeachment, gerrymandering and filibustering. Throughout the book he also explores why the mechanisms of government have changed so radically, and how democracy is enacted in the USA today. His book is a must-read for anyone hoping to better understand what is wrong with the USA and why. And the root causes go back far further than the rise of Donald Trump.

**Stephan Bierling** is Professor of International Politics and Transatlantic Relations at the University of Regensburg. He regularly analyses political developments in the USA in the *FAZ*, *NZZ*, *SZ* and *Cicero*.



2024  
380 pages  
Hardcover  
€ 28.00

- How does American democracy work?
- The new standard work on the US system of government
- Where are the systemic deficits and how are they exploited?
- What is gerrymandering and how does it distort election results?



2024  
224 pages  
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€ 25.00

#### Further works published by C.H.Beck:

21.0  
simplified Chinese: The Commercial Press  
Hungarian: Mathias Corvinus Collegium Alapítvány

21.1  
Korean: eco-livres Publishing Co.

*History of the German Reunification*  
Japanese: Iwanami Shoten

Andreas Rödder

## The Lost Peace

### From The Fall Of The Wall To The New East-West Conflict

In 1990, a new era seemed to be dawning: the age of the liberal world order, the era of peace and democracy. Today, this world order lies in ruins. How could we have squandered the opportunities presented by the end of the Cold War? Why is there now war in Europe once again, thirty years after the fall of the Wall? Andreas Rödder tells the story of the lost peace of 1990 and asks what went wrong.

In the West, after 1990, people took it as granted that the own values would win out. There might be setbacks, and it might take a while for the last few autocracies to disappear, but there could be no doubt about the direction of history. This, however, was a fallacy, and the result was hubris. When the strength of the West began to wane, the authoritarian pushbacks resumed. Andreas Rödder tells the story of global politics since 1990 and reveals the roots of today's world (dis)order. He shows that the world is not headed for a multipolar order, as many believe, but for a new East-West conflict which we must prepare for if we are to hold our ground.

**Andreas Rödder** is Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Mainz.

Angelika Nußberger/Rotraut Susanne Berner

## Free And Equal

### Human Rights

Everyone should know about human rights because they belong to all of us. By way of true stories, Angelika Nußberger explains what human dignity, freedom, equality and security mean. With her brilliant pictures, Rotraut Susanne Berner approaches serious themes with a light touch, helping the reader to better understand them. A wonderful book for anyone wanting to reflect on and campaign for human rights.

In a game called ‘dwarf-throwing’, people paid money to throw people with restricted growth conditions onto a mat. The authorities decided this was a clear violation of human dignity. But the people with dwarfism protested, because this was their livelihood. Were they right to do so? Today, the game is banned in most countries – but in Australia and Canada there are actually ‘dwarf-throwing’ championships. Using examples of real court cases, Angelika Nußberger explores the meaning of human dignity, religious freedom, freedom of thought, the right to life and equal treatment, and the protection of privacy and of the environment. – Thus she illustrates why we have to continually renegotiate human rights. Because seemingly minor cases always also revolve around the major issues of our time: equal rights, climate action, war and peace, tolerance, solidarity and life in an insecure world. The way in which major issues hide within individual stories is emphasised by Rotraut Susanne Berner's memorable, hard-hitting pictures, which invite the reader to satisfy their curiosity by immersing themselves in this beautifully designed book.

**Angelika Nußberger** is a Professor of Constitutional Law, International Law and Comparative Law at the University of Cologne. She has served as a judge (2011–2019) and as Vice President of the European Court of Human Rights (2017–2019). Her book *Die Menschenrechte* (C.H.Beck Wissen 2021) is also published by C.H.Beck.

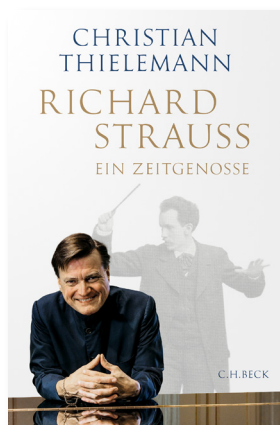
**Rotraut Susanne Berner** is an illustrator, book designer and author. Her children's books are internationally renowned and she has won many prizes, including the Hans Christian Andersen Prize (2016) and the German Youth Literature Prize for her entire oeuvre (2006).



2024  
180 pages  
Half clothbound  
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- Explained by reknown law professor Angelika Nußberger
- Illustrated by Rotraut Susanne Berner





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Christian Thielemann

## Richard Strauss

### A Contemporary

In Collaboration With Christine Lemke-Matwey

‘Conducting Richard Strauss feels like landing a plane in a mega-city: there are lights everywhere, everything is glittering, and you think: this can’t be true, is this still L.A.?’ Richard Strauss is one of the most performed composers of our time, but he is also something of an enigma: modern or conservative? Profound or superficial? In this book, Christian Thielemann, who has been working on Strauss since the beginning of his musical career, gives us some insights about the uniqueness of his music.

Richard Strauss subjects his listeners to disasters, as in ‘Electra’, and to trials and tribulations, as in ‘The Knight of the Rose’. But in the end, harmony wins out. There is an embracing of life, and a subversive beauty that goes beyond naivety. Christian Thielemann explains to us the incredible wealth of sounds Strauss uses, and why Strauss is more progressive, more contemporary, more international than we might think. He introduces us to the diverse world of the operas, from ‘Salome’ to ‘Capriccio’, and to the famous tone poems, from ‘Don Juan’ to ‘Alpine Symphony’, as well as the major songs. The author helps us understand what is most important in a performance of Strauss, and introduces us to the singers and conductors he admires. His book opens our ears and invites us to rediscover this composer and his enchanting music.

**Christian Thielemann** is one of the greatest Strauss conductors of our times. From 1997 to 2004 he was General Music Director at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, and from 2004 to 2011 he was director of the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra. Since 2012 he has been principal conductor of the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden. He has collaborated regularly with the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras for many years. In autumn 2024 he became General Music Director of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, replacing Daniel Barenboim.

Michael Sommer

## The Murder Of Caesar

### The Last Days Of A Dictator

When Gaius Julius Caesar is stabbed by conspirators during the senate session on 15 March 44 B.C., Rome is left reeling. Caesar is mortally wounded, having been knifed at least 23 times. How could this happen? Who are the perpetrators? And most importantly: what drove them to commit murder? As historical detective, Michael Sommer breathes new life into this world-famous criminal case, and paints a vivid picture of the people involved and of their motives, desires and ambitions.

The attack on Caesar may have been unexpected, but it did not come completely out of the blue. For a long time, a group of old opponents and disappointed supporters had secretly gathered, and they were bent on killing Caesar. After Caesar was appointed dictator for life on 15 February 44 B.C., these individuals began to weave a web of conspiracy which would come to a head with his bloody murder on the Ides of March. Based on extensive ancient source material, Michael Sommer describes the events from the various perspectives of some of the figures involved. With the accuracy of a detective, he reveals the very different motives that inspired Caesar's murderers. This compelling portrayal of the murder of a tyrant also holds up a mirror to an era of great upheaval.

**Michael Sommer** is a Professor of Ancient History at the University of Oldenburg.



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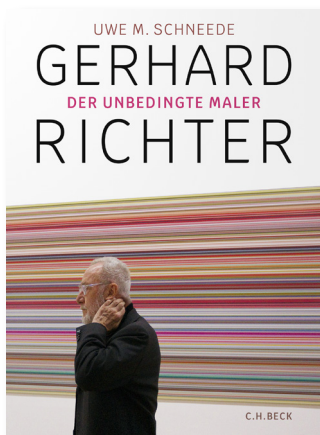
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Uwe M. Schneede

## Gerhard Richter

### The Unconditional Painter

Gerhard Richter was born in Dresden in 1932. He is internationally renowned, and widely regarded as one of the most important artists of our time. An extremely versatile artist, over the years he has alternated masterfully between different styles, techniques and motifs, from figuration to abstraction, in a way few other painters have ever done. In this vividly written monograph, Uwe M. Schneede presents the first concise overview of the rich oeuvre of this unconditional, unequivocal painter.

Gerhard Richter turned his back on the GDR art scene when he moved to West Germany in 1961. Soon afterwards he created the early photographic images, such as 'Aunt Marianne', for which he became famous. These images contain allusions to Richter's turbulent family history. From the 1970s onwards he produced large abstract paintings, as well as works featuring direct references to the politics of the day (such as 'RAF Cycle') and public works such as the large glass window in Cologne Cathedral. In his works, Richter not only engages with the traditional genres of landscape, still life and portrait, but also plays with all kinds of modern styles, from figurative to monochrome and conceptual to abstract. Uwe M. Schneede, who has long been an expert on the artist and his work, explains the diversity and the contradictory nature of his oeuvre by pointing out that the artist draws on older art and on modern art depending on what the medium requires. Richter opens up new avenues for painting in terms of both form and content; he is a deliberate traditionalist and a radical innovator all at the same time.

**Uwe M. Schneede** was a director of the Hamburger Kunsthalle from 1991 to 2006. Prior to that he was Professor of Modern Art History at the University of Munich.

Hubert Wolf

## The Secret Archives Of The Vatican

### And What They Reveal About The Church

85 kilometres of files spanning a period of over a thousand years: the Vatican Archives are the largest and oldest in the world. Many parts of them are not accessible to the public. Nobody is allowed to browse unaccompanied. In this fascinating book, Hubert Wolf shows how – with a little sleuthing – there are all kinds of discoveries to be made in these archives, from the Pope's attitude to the Holocaust, to the methods used by the Inquisition, to various abuse scandals. This book takes a look behind the curtain of tradition and infallibility in which the Vatican is shrouded.

Hubert Wolf has become well known internationally for his sensational discoveries and research in the Vatican archives. He has uncovered disturbing scandals – including cases of abuse and murder at the Roman convent of Sant' Ambrogio – and shed light on the background to important decisions involving book bans, inquisition methods, celibacy, the dogma of infallibility, and last but not least the Vatican's attitude to National Socialism and the Holocaust. Why did the Pope stay silent? Did he stay silent? How much did he know? The most recent release of documents created during the papacy of Pius XII provides answers to these questions. Hubert Wolf has found thousands of deeply moving letters from Jews petitioning the Pope. The route these letters took through the official channels of the Vatican shows us which information reached Rome at first hand, and what the response was to it. The book begins with these most recent discoveries. In this knowledgeable and eye-opening account, Hubert Wolf leads us through the labyrinth of the Vatican archives, which have still not yet revealed all their secrets.

**Hubert Wolf** is a Professor of Church History at the University of Münster. He has won many prizes for his research and publications, including the German Research Foundation's Leibniz Prize, the Communica Prize and the Sigmund Freud Prize for Academic Prose.



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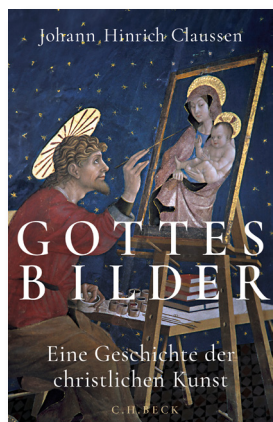
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Korean: GoodSeed Publishing

Johann Hinrich Claussen

## God's Images

### A History Of Christian Art

Since ancient times, Christianity has produced fascinating images depicting the history of salvation, with the aim of edifying the observer. Johann Hinrich Claussen uses striking and sometimes surprising examples to give an account of the history of Christian images. He explains why they became objects of worship or destruction and how, during the modern era, whole new visual languages have been invented which draw on major traditions.

Jesus as the good shepherd, carrying a sheep on his shoulders: the history of Christian images begins in the third century with this touchingly simple motif. Not long afterwards, we start to see images of Christ on the cross and as world supreme. Mary, the apostles, prophets, martyrs and saints also enter the picture. The images themselves are worshipped – and fought over as a result. During the Renaissance, the tension between religion and art gives rise to masterpieces serving to glorify their commissioners, as well as the artists themselves. In this impressive book, Johann Hinrich Claussen shows how the major iconographic traditions were followed right up until the Baroque period, only to undergo a radical transformation in the modern era. Suddenly, a picture of a solitary monk by the sea could also be a religious image. In the 20th century, new symbolic languages and abstract forms emerged. These days, however, the old religious visual languages are not widely understood. This masterfully written book provides a unique key to understanding these languages once more.

**Johann Hinrich Claussen** is a cultural representative of the Protestant Church in Germany.

Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk

## Shock Of Freedom

Another History Of East Germany From 1989 To The Present

The AfD is a national phenomenon, but it does particularly well in East Germany. Why is this the case? Why is liberal democracy being challenged in the very same part of the country where the first successful revolution on German soil took place? Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk tells the story of East Germany since 1990, framing it as a struggle for freedom – a struggle whose outcome may well shape the future of the entire country.

East Germany is currently the subject of intense discussion, and Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk is one of the most prominent voices in the debate. The struggle for freedom is his life's work. Having grown up under the SED dictatorship, he has written seminal works on the history of the GDR and of communism, but also on the revolution of 1989 and the consequences of West Germany's 'takeover' of the GDR. Kowalczuk wants to stop the East Germans being portrayed as victims. West Germany may have 'invented' its own East Germany. But East Germany also invented – and still is inventing – its own West Germany. East German prejudices about the West have roots stretching all the way back to SED propaganda. These prejudices were reinforced by the frustrations of the reunification process. And now they are preventing many East Germans from embracing the liberal democracy of the Federal Republic. In 1989 a struggle for freedom began in East Germany, still going on to this day. This book tells its story.

**Ilko-Sascha Kowalczuk** is a historian and journalist and also works as a research associate at the Hamburg Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Culture. He is one of Germany's most renowned experts on the history of the GDR and of communism.



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- Christian Schwappe has been observing German security policy for years and has been to Afghanistan, Mali and Niger with the German Armed Forces.
- Schwappe's research has received several awards, including the Bundestag Media Prize 2023 and the Arthur F. Burns Prize.

Christian Schwappe

## The Turning Point That Wasn't

Anatomy Of A Failure

A Report

Sunday 27 February, 2022: Olaf Scholz takes to the podium in the German Bundestag to announce a 'turning point'. It is on this day that Christian Schwappe's book begins. Since then, the journalist has kept tabs on the people tasked with putting the Chancellor's words into practice: ministers, members of parliament, members of the armed forces. Two and a half years later, it is clear that while the world may have entered a new era, the German army has not. This book shows how this situation came about.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, German security policy has had huge challenges to contend with. Germany has been cutting defence spending for decades, generating a peace dividend. Now, however, the German military needs to be reformed in record time and security policy must once again be based on strategic thinking. But what has actually happened, apart from announcements and plans? Christian Schwappe gives us a surprising, at times shocking insight into the mechanisms and stumbling blocks of German security policy. He shows how the German government wavered over providing military assistance to Ukraine, how the order for a dinghy became a shambles, and how the gun lobby descended on the Bundestag like a swarm of locusts in order to divert as much funding as possible into their own companies. A fascinating look behind the scenes of the turning point that never came to pass.

**Christian Schwappe** is an investigative reporter for *Die Welt* and *Die Welt am Sonntag*, and an expert on defence and security policy.

Tatjana Tönsmeier

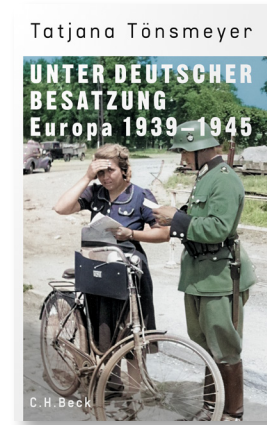
## Under German Occupation

Europe 1939-1945

During the Second World War, at the height of Germany's power, 230 million people lived under German rule. They all had to come to terms with the occupiers, and their experiences have repercussions to this day. Tatjana Tönsmeier has written the first history of German-occupied Europe to focus on the perspectives of the occupied rather than the occupiers. Her book reveals a dark legacy which is still subliminally present in Germany's relationship with its European neighbours.

German-occupied Europe stretched from northern Norway to the Greek Mediterranean islands and from the French Atlantic coast to regions deep within the Soviet Union. It had a profound impact on the daily lives of millions of people, in terms of work, living conditions and supplies of food and other necessities. The German occupiers imposed new rules, divided societies and created an atmosphere in which violence was always an option – especially against the Jews, who were subjected to genocidal persecution. The number of civilian victims exceeded the number of dead soldiers in all occupied territories. But the occupied were not simply a homogeneous mass of passive victims. They had options, ways in which they could refuse to cooperate with their occupiers – or offer them their services. Tatjana Tönsmeier gives a compelling account of how the German occupation changed the lives of millions of Europeans, and what it was like to live in an occupied territory. In light of the Russian occupation of large parts of Ukraine, this is sadly a very topical subject.

**Tatjana Tönsmeier** is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Wuppertal.



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Peter Theiner

## Carl Goerdeler

### A German Citizen Against Hitler

Carl Goerdeler (1884–1945) rose to prominence as a resistance fighter during the Nazi era. This biography tells the life story of a courageous German citizen who, following a successful career in local politics, emerged as a committed opponent of the regime and was executed in February 1945.

There were no signs to signal that he would become a resistance fighter. Born in 1884 into the family of a Prussian civil servant, he followed the traditional path from a law degree to a career in local politics. But as mayor of Leipzig, he was openly critical of the Nazi regime. He staunchly refused to join the NSDAP and resigned as mayor in 1936 following an anti-Semitic incident. From then until the German invasion of Poland in 1939, he travelled around major Western cities warning people about Hitler's regime and trying to convince governments to adopt a policy of robust deterrence. Goerdeler believed from the start that Germany would lose the war and denounced the regime's crimes in conspiratorial pamphlets. A network of resistance grew around him, and was joined by Social Democrats, trade unionists and Christian Democrats. Even before the assassination attempt of 20 July 1944, a warrant went out for his arrest. While he was on the run, somebody informed on him and, following a show trial, he was executed. Peter Theiner not only tells the moving life story of this resistance fighter – he also recognises him as an incorruptible advocate of the constitutional state and a champion of European unity.

**Peter Theiner** is a historian, and until 2016 was a departmental director at the Robert Bosch Foundation.

Gerd Schwerhoff

## The Peasants' War

### The History Of A Wild Act

The German Peasants' War of 1525 was Europe's largest uprising before the French Revolution. It has been interpreted as a revolt in favour of German unity, as an early bourgeois revolution and as a revolution of the common man. Based on a wide range of sources, Gerd Schwerhoff describes what really happened 500 years ago.

Autumn 1524: fuelled by the reformers' message, an uprising begins in the southwestern part of Germany. By spring 1525 it has spread to almost the whole of the southern region.

The peasants, and those citizens who are sympathetic to them, organise themselves into large 'clusters'. They destroy monasteries, burn down castles, and force lords, dukes and even princes to join their 'brotherly union'. Almost everywhere, they call for the removal of the Church as a secular power. Their rulers are divided at first, but then the military machinery of the powerful Swabian League swings into action... The peasants lose decisive battles and many are ruthlessly massacred, but some rulers also realise that repression alone is not enough. Contemporary witnesses described the events as 'a wild campaign'. In this masterful new account, Gerd Schwerhoff paints a colourful panorama of the many different places where the war played out. He sheds new light on events that have been swamped by the weight of so many interpretations.

**Gerd Schwerhoff** is a Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Dresden.



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Armin Nassehi

## **A Critique Of The Grand Gesture** Rethinking Social Transformation

Today, it is becoming alarmingly clear just how many of the foundations of our way of life over the past 30 years are now open to question. From every side we hear calls for change, for rapid and radical transformation. We are told that another world is possible – we just have to want it. But society is not a unified collective: it is resistant and stubborn. Transformation cannot happen in opposition to society, only within it and with it.

People usually talk about change with grand gestures and even grander emotions. Whether it is combating climate change, reforming the state and the economy or ending wars, the urgency of the issues in question often lead to assumptions about their feasibility and acceptability to the public, frequently accompanied by finger-wagging. The fact that all change has to happen in a world which already exists, gets often forgotten. In this incisive book, Armin Nassehi asks what lies beyond the grand gesture. The answer: a society which needs to think about change differently – in baby steps.

**Armin Nassehi** is Professor of General Sociology and Social Theory at the University of Munich, and since 2012 he has edited the cultural magazine *Kursbuch*.

Martina Heßler

## Sisyphus in the Engine Room

### A History Of The Fallibility Of Humans And Technology

There is a strange imbalance in humanity's relationship with technology. People are almost like deficient beings – they make mistakes and do stupid things, whilst the machines and technologies they develop are seen as a way of overcoming these weaknesses. Martina Heßler tells the compelling story of this powerful belief, which insists on linking human fallibility with technological perfection.

From machines in early industrial factories and the resentment felt by engineers for workers, to seatbelts, lie detectors and helpful robots, to human factors research and cyborg repair:

the story of this strange way of thinking is also a story of the technological chauvinism that is increasingly causing us (human beings) to resemble a modern-day Sisyphus – trapped in an engine room of our own making, constantly preoccupied with eliminating mistakes and flaws. In our own era, artificial intelligence is promising to make the world a better place and transcend human limitations. But ever since the early nineteenth century there have been attempts to enclose, replace and surpass flawed human beings with superior machines. Around 200 years ago, as Martina Heßler shows, a new and shockingly derogatory way of talking about people emerged, comparing them unfavourably with technology. Since then, the image of a perfect machine that can solve every imaginable problem has been central to social progress. It is time to leave this outdated illusion behind.

**Martina Heßler** is a historian and since 2019 has been Professor of the History of Technology at the University of Darmstadt. She works on the cultural history of technology, on the history of objects and of design, on growth and shrinkage perspectives in industrial and car manufacturing cities, and on the relationship between humans and machines in the past and present.



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Janosch Delcker

## The Thought Code

How Artificial Intelligence Decodes Our Thinking While We Still Retain Control

All over the world, firms and researchers are combining artificial intelligence with the latest insights from brain research. Their goal: to crack the code of our inner life. These new technologies present huge opportunities but also pose unprecedented risks. In this compelling report, Janosch Delcker reveals what is going on behind closed doors – and provides us with a guide teaching us how to use these smart machines in a positive way.

Technologies are changing our world profoundly. They can help us to better understand ourselves, alleviate our suffering when we are ill, and make our lives easier. But they also make our intellectual world more vulnerable than ever and can be abused for nefarious ends. Nevertheless, the rise of AI has largely taken place in the dark. Janosch Delcker's book shines a light into the darkness: he explains the things we all need to know in a clear and accessible way, so that no technical prior knowledge is required from us. He suggests principles for intelligent regulation to protect our basic rights and gives practical everyday tips on how to use the new technologies sustainably without losing control over our thinking.

**Janosch Delcker** was born in 1985. He is a journalist based in Berlin. As *Deutsche Welle's* chief technology correspondent, he reports on artificial intelligence and digital policy. He used to work for the American magazine *Politico*, which made him the world's first 'AI correspondent' in 2018. His reports have won multiple prizes, including one awarded by the US Foreign Press Association.

Achim Haug

## The Little Book Of The Soul

A Guide To Our Psyche And Its Illnesses

What is the 'soul'? Just an antiquated word for the brain, or something more – something like the essence of a human being? And what happens when the soul gets out of whack? How do mental illnesses develop, and how are they treated? These and many other questions are answered in this book. In an entertaining way, it looks at our most mysterious, invisible organ and gives us profound insights into psychiatry and psychotherapy.

Most people have reservations about psychiatry and are somewhat suspicious of it. But modern psychiatry can provide satisfying and even optimistic answers to our questions about the soul. If you do not want to entrust your soul to the priests nor to the neuroscientists, this is the book for you.

**Achim Haug** is Professor of Psychiatry in the Philosophy Faculty at the University of Zurich, and medical director of the *Clenia* private hospital group. He is the author of many specialists academic articles, and has co-authored psychiatry textbooks and led numerous psychiatric and psychotherapeutic training seminars. He is also a member of various professional associations, and sits on the Canton of Zurich's Ethics Committee. He is an expert on the soul and a skilled communicator of expert knowledge in an accessible form. He lives with his family near Zurich.



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Samira Akbarian

## Breaking The Law A Theory Of Civil Disobedience

Disproportionate? Unconstitutional? Moralistic? Criminal? The current manifestations of civil disobedience are hugely controversial. But how should we actually define civil disobedience? Are ‘climate gluers’, ‘Citizens of the Reich’ and farmer protesters right to justify their actions by calling them civil disobedience? We urgently need a convincing and universally comprehensible theory of civil disobedience – and prizewinning legal scholar Samira Akbarian has provided us with this one.

Akbarian argues that the potential of civil disobedience for our democracy lies precisely in its dangers: in the way it highlights shortcomings in democratic processes, calls into question the conditions of participation in our democracies, and holds a mirror up to us. Breaking the law, therefore can actually contribute to democratic ideals. For this reason, we need to question the view that civil disobedience damages democracy and the constitutional state. This is not about justifying all forms of civil disobedience, but about learning to distinguish democratic statements from authoritarian ones. Akbarian’s theory is that successful forms of civil disobedience should be understood as ‘interpretations of the constitution’. In her book she illustrates this surprising thesis and explains how civil disobedience enables people to exert influence directly and democratically, thus compensating for political imbalances.

**Samira Akbarian** is a research associate in the department of Public Law and Legal Philosophy at the University of Frankfurt am Main. She has been awarded the *Körber Stiftung*’s German Dissertation Prize, the *Merkur* Prize for Outstanding Dissertations and the *Werner Pünder* Prize for her research on civil disobedience.

Karsten Schubert

## In Praise Of Identity Politics

The idea that identity politics is endangering democracy is one we hear all the time in political debates these days. 'Identity politics' is the term used to describe a style of politics which aims to combat discrimination but allegedly ends up going down the blind alley of tribalism. As a counter to this chorus of critical voices, Karsten Schubert has written the first fundamental defence of identity politics in book form. With calm composure and without polemic, he addresses the most important arguments and sets out a new way of looking at the political battle around identities. His central insight is clear: identity politics is essential to the ongoing improvement of our democracy.

Why do we need an ode to identity politics? Because it exposes genuine discrimination and enables people to articulate demands related to this discrimination. Does identity politics reduce people to rigid identity categories? Is it destroying universalist values? Schubert says not.

The real purpose of identity politics is to concretise and deliver on the universalist promise of democracy – equality and freedom for all. Of course, this does not mean that everything which presents itself as identity politics is good for democracy. On the contrary. Schubert's aim is not to deny that blind alleys and exaggeration do exist. What he wants to do is take the debate out of the realm of the culture wars, where real insights are few and far between, and to suggest ways of distinguishing between successful and misguided identity politics.

**Karsten Schubert** is a philosopher currently working as a researcher in the Political Theory Department at the University in Berlin.



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128 pages  
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flaps  
€ 16.00





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400 pages  
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Anselm Schubert

## Christ (Male/Female/Non-Binary)

### A Gender History

God became human in Jesus Christ. But was he necessarily a man? In this fascinating account, Anselm Schubert shows that from ancient times to the present day, there have always been alternative images of Christ – including female and androgynous ones. This is Christianity as we have never seen it before, unfamiliar and surprisingly diverse

In ancient times, human perfection was synonymous with perfect masculinity. Christ, therefore, had to be a man – as well as being chaste to the point of asexuality. In the Middle Ages, gender hierarchies were less rigid: theologians debated whether Christ could also have been incarnated as a woman. Mysticism celebrated Christ as a male bridegroom or a female incarnation of God. Kabbalists, alchemists and prophets of the early modern period hoped for the perfection of both genders through an androgynous Christ. It was not until the 19th century that the question of how to imagine Jesus as a ‘real’, virile man came to the fore. In reaction to the emphatically masculine image of God the Father and his son, feminist theology in the 20th century protested with a female Christ.

Queer theologians have posited a gay, bisexual, transsexual, intersexual or polyamorous Jesus. The way Christ’s masculinity is taken for granted is the last major blind spot in Christianity’s history. In this long overdue and masterfully written book, Anselm Schubert sheds light on the patriarchal nature of Christianity’s stories.

**Anselm Schubert** is Professor of Modern Church History at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

Klaus Bödl

## Odin

### The Dark God And His Story

As a god of war and a god of death, a figure worshipped by the berserkers, and the supreme deity of the Germanic tribes, Odin still features heavily in nationalist, far right and neo-pagan discourses. But where did this view of Odin come from? Which factors helped create the image of Odin we are still familiar with today? And what did Odin worship in the pagan north really look like? For the first time, Klaus Bödl's book gives us a meticulously researched account of the religious history associated with Odin, of the available sources, and of the long history of how the 'dark god' has been perceived from the Middle Ages to the present day.

We do not find detailed descriptions of Odin in accounts from the Viking era: he first really starts to take shape in the Icelandic saga literature of the medieval period. It is in the songs of the Edda, where some of the best-known Odin myths are given literary form – the Mead of Poetry, the Twilight of the Gods, his two ravens, or the story of how he lost his eye. From the late eighteenth century onwards, Odin was increasingly stylised as the national god of the Germans, as distinct from Latin cultures. The trail leads from Jacob Grimm to Wagner's 'Der Ring des Nibelungen' to C.G.Jung. By way of these broad historical perspectives, Klaus Bödl reveals the instrumentalization of Odin to be a construction of identity politics, which is cultivated to this day in the heavy metal scene and among Viking and medieval history enthusiasts, esoterics and neo-pagans, as well as in right-wing and far-right circles.

**Klaus Bödl** is a Professor of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Kiel, a member of the Mainz Academy of Sciences and Literature, and winner of the 2013 *Hebbel Prize*, among other awards.



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Dominik Graf

## To Be Or To Play

On Movie Acting

Dominik Graf is one of Germany's most creative and uncompromising filmmakers. Over the past four decades he has worked with major stars like Götz George, Matthias Brandt and Martina Gedeck, but also with a whole host of younger actors who later went on to become famous. He often got some of their very best work out of them.

Graf's films, such as 'Die Katze', 'Im Angesicht des Verbrechens' and 'Fabian', were stylistically ground-breaking and have become beacons in German film history: whether gritty crime thrillers, romantic dramas or adaptations of historical material, Graf's works are filmed in a dynamic and flamboyant style, and also feature wonderful, memorable images. As the eldest child of two actors, Graf was familiar with the acting world from an early age. For him, work life and home life, acting and reality were always inextricably interwoven: a 'mash-up', as he himself writes. In this brutally honest and highly empathetic book, he gives an account of his experiences as a director and film buff and reveals his artistic influences. He also describes what it was like growing up in and with film – an education which is still ongoing – and pays homage to all the actors he has worked with.

**Dominik Graf** was born in 1952. He is the son of the actor Robert Graf and the actor and writer Selma Urfer. From 1974 to 1979 he studied directing at the Hochschule für Film und Fernsehen in Munich (HFF), then became a director and author. He has won many prizes, including the German Film Award for Best Director in 1988 and the Silver Lola in 2022, as well as several Grimme, Bavarian and German Television Awards.

Dorothea Weltecke

## The Three Rings

### Why Religions Did Not Emerge Until The Middle Ages

In the parable of the Three Rings, the brothers argue over the inheritance they have received from their father. In the Middle Ages, Jews, Christians and Muslims were well aware that their traditions were interrelated. Dorothea Weltecke shows that their conflict-ridden and yet shared history in the vast area between the Atlantic, the Nile and the Indus gave rise to the first exclusive 'religions'.

In medieval times, the grave of the prophet Ezekiel near Baghdad was a destination for Jewish, Muslim and Christian pilgrims. Using this and many other examples, Dorothea Weltecke clearly illustrates the intensive process of exchange between these different religious communities. Together, they built a new cultural landscape. The fact that their traditions were related was well known to Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Middle Ages. In the parable of the Three Rings, however, the brothers argue over the inheritance they have been left by their father. This and many other popular stories address the questions arising from the religions' shared history. Problematic for the religious communities' relationship with each other in medieval times, however, was not their claims to truth but new legal distinctions between the believers, which made some of them tolerated and others not. The theories, and the violence with which this inequality was consistently justified and enforced, militarised the boundaries between the religious traditions. This impressive book reveals a slice of religious history that was rocked by the lava flow of polemic.

**Dorothea Weltecke** is a Professor of European Medieval History at the University in Berlin. Prior to that she was in Frankfurt am Main. In Constance she spent ten years as Professor of the History of Religions. She became known to a wider readership with her 'brilliantly written study' (FAZ) on atheism, *Der Narr spricht: Es ist kein Gott* (2010).



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Andreas Kaplony (ed.)

## History Of The Arab World

With Contributions From Thomas Bauer, Rainer Brunner, Johann Büssow, Paul M. Cobb, Malika Dekkiche, Regula Forster, Ulrike Freitag And Many More

The Arab world is more than just the sum of the countries where Arabic is the main language. Since the expansion of Islam, it has been a space of religious and cultural resonance which has seen repeated attempts at political union. Andreas Kaplony's book describes how this 'world' has taken shape since late antiquity, outlines the specific features of individual regions, and explains how Arab culture has spread far beyond the Arab world.

There are five main regions in the Arab world: the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Syria-Palestine, Iraq and the North African Maghreb. In this book, around 40 internationally renowned experts explore the history of these regions over a period spanning from late antiquity until today. Overviews of the cultural history of the four most important periods demonstrate the most formative developments in the vast area between the Atlantic and the Persian Gulf. The book also looks at the (often underestimated) global spread of Arab culture – to southern Europe and Byzantium, Persia and the Ottoman Empire, sub-Saharan Africa and America. This academically rigorous yet accessible work is also a fascinating contribution to the study of the global history of the past two thousand years from an Arab perspective.

**Andreas Kaplony** holds the chair of Arabic Studies and Islamic Studies at the University of Munich and is the spokesperson for the Munich Middle East Mediterranean Central Asia Centre.

Bernhard Löffler

## The Land Of The Bavarians

History And Stories From 1800 To The Present

Bavaria is not fully formed – it is still under construction. This was true of Bavaria after 1806, and under the Nazi regime, and it is still true today in modern Bavaria with its hegemonic party and sometimes monarch-like figures. Certain images of Bavaria still abound, based on utilitarian ideas, cherished traditions, and ideological, political or touristic concepts. In this exciting book, historian Bernhard Löffler examines the construction of various spatial concepts and images of Bavaria, giving us unusual new insights into the land of the Bavarians.

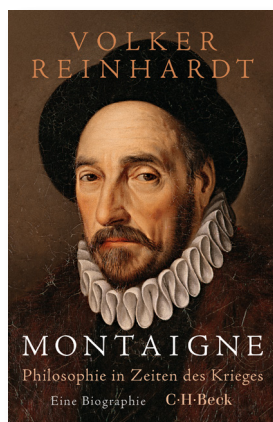
It is true that Bavaria has mountains, meadows, forests, lakes, castles, monasteries and chapels, but this prevailing image of Bavaria is a very selective one. Spaces and landscapes often turn out to be surfaces onto which painters, writers, historians, ethnologists and geographers, heritage and nature conservationists, holidaymakers and rambler project various ideas. These spaces and landscapes are also instrumentalised by ideologues, politicians and marketing experts; they are measured, organised and commissioned by bureaucrats, cartographers, statisticians and traffic planners. In this refreshing account, Bernhard Löffler explains the context of 'Bavarian state' history, talks about landscapes, regions and Bavarian obstinacy in the world – and looks at how they came about, who they have been shaped by, and the impact they have had.

**Bernhard Löffler** is Professor of Bavarian Regional History at the University of Regensburg. He is a member of the European Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Historical Commission as well as the Commission for Bavarian Regional History at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences.



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Volker Reinhardt

## Montaigne

### Philosophy In Times Of War - A Biography

*'A precise and highly readable historical contextualisation.'* - Thomas Macho, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung  
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*'Almost incidentally, Reinhardt manages to create an impressive panorama of 16th century France, a society driven by religious wars and power struggles, depicting Montaigne's life and work vividly and tangibly.'* - Alexander Grau, Cicero

Michel de Montaigne always left his options open, never revealed too much about himself, and had a habit of switching perspectives to look at things from completely different angles. Volker Reinhardt puts the life of philosophical virtuoso Montaigne into its historical context: the era of the French civil wars. The parliamentarian, nobleman, traveller to Rome and mayor of Bordeaux is thrown into sharp relief, and we gain a better understanding of the philosopher sitting in his castle tower, observing himself and the world at a sovereign distance.

At the height of the civil war, there is a knock on the door at the Château de Montaigne. A man has been attacked, and begs to be let in. After a while his companions arrive. Montaigne smells a rat: a devious ambush! But he lets them all in with generous hospitality. The lord of the castle's naivety softens the heart of the ringleader, who gives the signal to withdraw. War forces people to adopt unusual survival strategies. With this episode, Montaigne recommends 'naturalness' in one's behaviour at the same time as clever dissimulation. This is also the strategy he uses in his essays: whether he is writing about friendship, marriage, good conversations, bringing up children, or his own illnesses, eccentricities and obsessions, he always comes across as completely guileless – yet in fact he is playing with his readers. People have always had a tendency to draw conclusions about Montaigne's life from his writings, which are beguilingly authentic. Volker Reinhardt, however, takes the opposite approach, and uses Montaigne's life as a starting point to help us see his essays in a new light. They are revealed as a philosophy for survival in violent times – a philosophy that still speaks to us today.

**Volker Reinhardt** is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Fribourg. In 2020 he was awarded the Kythera Cultural Foundation Prize for his oeuvre.

Muriel Asseburg | Jan Busse

## The Conflict In The Middle East

### History, Positions, Perspectives

*'An indispensable read for anyone wanting to understand the complicated situation in the Middle East.'* - Harald Loch, Neues Deutschland

*'An outstandingly successful overview.'* - Süddeutsche Zeitung

For decades the world has watched the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians (and their Arab neighbours) with deep concern. Since October 2023, with Hamas's attack on Israel and Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza, the conflict has escalated in a previously unthinkable way. The authors outline the history of the conflict, look at the most important points of contention – including Jerusalem, access to water, and border demarcation – and explain why peace and security for both sides have now become a far more distant prospect.

**Muriel Asseburg** has a doctorate in political science. She is a Middle East expert based 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* (2023) is also published by C.H.Beck.

Jan Busse has a doctorate in philosophy and is a research associate at the Institute for Political Science at the University of the Armed Forces in Munich.



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Bernd Stöver

## The Cold War

The Cold War between the USA and the Soviet Union – between liberal democracy and communism – shaped global politics for almost half a century. In this ‘total war’, massive efforts were made on both sides to stockpile weapons, secure spheres of influence, spy on the enemy and push forward with space programmes. In this seminal reference work, Bernd Stöver explores the confrontation between the superpowers from the Second World War to the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

**Bernd Stöver** is Professor of Modern History at the University of Potsdam. He specialises in international history.

Gwendolyn Sasse

## The War Against Ukraine

Background, Events, Consequences

*'Gwendolyn Sasse takes the discussion to a whole new level.'* - Gustav Seibt, Süddeutsche Zeitung

Why, and to what end, is Russia waging war in Ukraine? And how can we explain the strength of the Ukrainian resistance, which has surprised not only Vladimir Putin but also many Western observers?

Eastern Europe expert Gwendolyn Sasse analyses the background to the Russian invasion, which actually began in 2014, and asks what its consequences are – for Russia, for Ukraine, but also for us in the West.

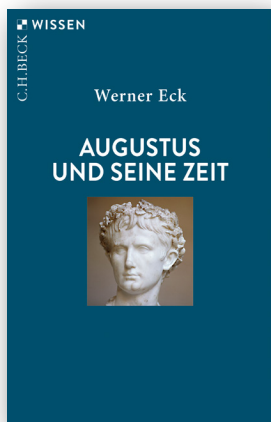
**Gwendolyn Sasse** is director of the Centre for Eastern European and International Studies (ZOiS) and Einstein Professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin.



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Werner Eck

## Augustus And His Era

On the day the first Roman emperor was buried, all public and private business came to a halt. The whole of Rome, and hundreds of thousands of people from across Italy, attended the funeral. But who was this man who was said to have been received among the gods? A tyrant? A prince of peace? A reformer of the state, the army, society and religion – the entire Roman world, in short? In this fascinating biography, Werner Eck provides answers to these and many other questions about Augustus's power politics.

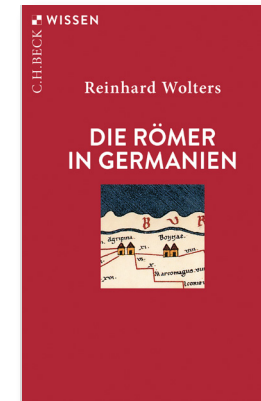
**Werner Eck**, an Emeritus Professor of Ancient History at the University of Cologne, is an internationally renowned expert on the Roman imperial period and Latin epigraphy

Reinhard Wolters

## The Romans In Germania

What did the Romans ever do for us? Well, for one thing, they left behind a huge amount of archaeological evidence of their northward expansion across what is now Germany. In this exciting and informative book, Reinhard Wolters tells the story of the Romans' 500 years in Germania, and paints a vivid picture of the period's military, economic and cultural aspects.

**Reinhard Wolters** is the author of several other publications on the history of the Romans in Germania, and is Professor of Numismatics and the History of Money at the University of Vienna.



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Jan-Markus Kötter

## **Hannibal** Rome's Greatest Enemy

Hannibal ante portas!

The Carthaginian general Hannibal was one of the most prominent figures in the ancient world, and is also one of the few non-Greek and non-Roman individuals to have secured himself a place in the classical canon. His daring crossing of the Alps with war elephants, his heroic, ultimately unsuccessful struggle against the Roman Republic, the years he spent travelling around the Mediterranean in flight from the Romans, and his tragic suicide in exile: these are just the best-known chapters in his life story. Jan-Markus Kötter gives an exciting and informative overview of this far-from-ordinary life.

**Jan-Markus Kötter** is a Junior Professor of Ancient History at the University of Düsseldorf. His research focuses on the history of the middle Roman Republic, the Scipiones and historical biography.

Jens Schröter

## The Emergence Of Christianity

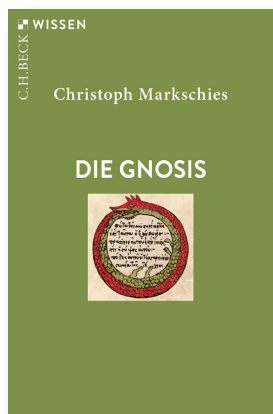
From Its Beginnings To Constantine The Great

Why did Christianity catch on so quickly in the ancient world, and how did it survive the end of antiquity? Based on the latest research, Jens Schröter gives a clear and vivid account of how, during the first three centuries A.D., a unified church was formed from a multitude of Christian communities each with their own beliefs, ways of life, rituals and texts – a church which did not incorporate every single variant of Christian faith and life, but which did find room for considerable diversity. He explains how Christianity separated itself from Judaism and how a persecuted community became a recognised and supported religion.

**Jens Schröter** is Professor of the New Testament and Ancient Christian Apocrypha at the Humboldt University in Berlin.



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**Christoph Marksches** is Professor of Ancient Christianity at the Humboldt University in Berlin, head of the Church and Judaism Institute, and president of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences. Numerous guest professorships and fellowships in the USA, Israel and Britain are testament to his international reputation. He has won several awards, including the *Hanns Lilje Prize* (awarded by the Göttingen Academy) and the *Leibniz Prize* (awarded by the German Research Foundation).

Hartmut Bobzin

## The Quran

Forms, Causes, Support

The Quran, the holy book of Islam, has shaped the course of history like few others. Hartmut Bobzin explores the origins, structure and literary form of the Quran. He looks at its theological foundations, its role as a legal code, and why the Quran is so important in the faith and lives of Muslims.

**Hartmut Bobzin** is Emeritus Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, and a leading expert on the Quran. His new translation of the Quran (2017, C.H.Beck Paperback 2022) set a new standard, and was unanimously praised by critics.



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Ralph Tuchtenhagen

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Myth, Work And Tradition

For centuries, Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians were ruled by powerful feudal lords and rich burghers. It was only the advent of Swedish absolutism, the decline of the Russian Empire, industrialisation and the national movements of the 19th century that enabled the emergence of the Baltic states we know today.

**Ralph Tuchtenhagen**, a Professor of Scandinavian Studies/Cultural Studies at the Humboldt University in Berlin, describes the political, economic, social and cultural developments which continue to shape the north-eastern EU states to this day.

Peter Blicke

## The German Peasants' War

The Revolution of the Common Man

From 1524 to 1526, churches, monasteries and castles went up in flames as the peasants in Germany, Austria and Switzerland revolted against their ecclesiastical and secular rulers. Clerics, bailiffs and lords had taxed them too heavily and tried to take away too much of their freedom. In essence, the peasants' demand for freedom was the expression of a belief in the universality of human rights. This book gives a fascinating and accessible account of the causes, events and implications of the German Peasants' War.

**Peter Blicke (1938-2017)** was Professor of Modern History at the Universities of Saarbrücken and Bern.



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Bernhard Maier

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**Bernhard Maier** is a Professor of Religious Studies and European Religious History at the University of Tübingen.

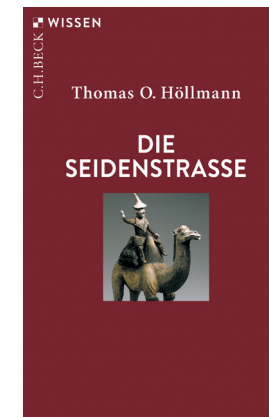
Thomas O. Höllmann

## The Silk Road

Since ancient times, the routes now collectively referred to as the Silk Road have formed an extensive transport network whose main strand stretches from East Asia to the Mediterranean.

The author follows its trail right up to the present day, and reconstructs the facets of a legacy to which many peoples and cultures have contributed.

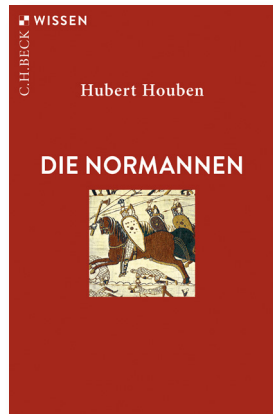
**Thomas O. Höllmann** is an Emeritus Professor of Sinology at the University of Munich. He was president of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and a member of the international consultative committee for UNESCO's Silk Road Project.



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Hubert Houben

## The Normans

The Normans – or ‘Norsemen’ – shaped the history of the Middle Ages in various ways. They ruled Normandy in the north of France, conquered England in 1066, founded a multicultural kingdom in southern Italy and in Sicily, and created the longest-lasting Crusader state in the Middle East. If the Normans’ trail goes cold in the late Middle Ages, this is not due to a failure on their part but, as Hubert Houben shows in this compelling overview, due to their impressive ability to integrate.

**Hubert Houben** is an Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at the University of Salento in Lecce, in southern Italy.

Andreas Puff-Trojan

## Surrealism

Art, Literature, Life

100 years of Surrealism

A hundred years ago, in October 1924, André Breton published the First Manifesto of Surrealism, and one of Europe's most important artistic movements was officially born. Although it is now associated mainly with visual artists like Max Ernst, Salvador Dalí and René Magritte, Surrealism was a pioneering movement in literature too. Surrealism is characterised in particular by its diversity, whether in words, pictures, film or photography. At its heart is a radical language which brings into play the unconscious and free association, rebels against conventional logic and bourgeois values, promotes free love and the magic of the everyday, and inspires the imagination. This book shines a light on the entire spectrum of Surrealism, and also looks at the biographies of Surrealist artists.

**Andreas Trojan** is a Professor of General and Comparative Literary Studies at the University of Munich. His research focuses on French and German-language literature from the 19th century to the present day.



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Andreas Fahrmeir

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From The Beginnings To The Present

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**Andreas Fahrmeir** is a Professor of Modern History at the University of Frankfurt am Main.

Frank Rexroth

## German History In The Middle Ages

This book provides a compact overview of the history of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, from its beginnings to the dawn of the modern era. It outlines the key events in the Holy Roman Empire's political history, but also gives an insight into central aspects of its society and culture. This helps the reader understand structures and trends that shaped German history until the beginning of the modern era, and in some cases until the very recent past.

**Frank Rexroth** is a Professor of Medieval and Modern History at the University of Göttingen.



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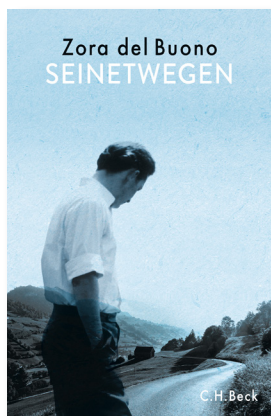
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*For me, Zora del Buono is one of our most underrated authors – her work is a masterclass in pared-back form.*  
- Barbara Meixner, *BuchMarkt*

Zora del Buono was eight months old when her father died in a car accident in 1963. Her dead father was a great void at the heart of the family. She and her mother hardly ever spoke about him. When her mother did mention him, Zora broke off the conversation, her heart pounding. She couldn't bear her mother's pain. Now, at 60, she wonders: what happened to E.T., the then 22-year-old man who caused the accident? How has he lived with the guilt for the past 60 years?

*Because of Him* is the story of a search: the narrator goes looking for E.T., wanting to confront him with her family's story. Her search takes her to dark, mysterious places where she finds answers that throw up new questions. What will it do to her, knowing more about the man who killed her father than about her father himself? And how can a person heal when there will always be a void in their life?

**Zora del Buono** was born in Zurich in 1962 and lives in Berlin and Zurich. She studied architecture at ETH Zurich and spent five years working as a site manager in post-Reunification Berlin. She is a founding member and cultural editor of the magazine *mare*. Her books *Gotthard* (2015), *Hinter Büschen an eine Hauswand gelehnt* (2016) and *Die Marschallin* (2021) are also published by C.H.Beck.

Elke Schmitter

## Everything I Know About Love Is In This Book

A Novel

They stand in the half-darkness, in this moment which is without shyness, without triumph and without embarrassment. Everything stands still. Dialogue without words. Feeling, touching. Smooth skin, an elbow; a nipple hardening. Muscles, soft tissue. Hair. Islands you pause at. A rapidly beating heart. A feeling of calm that descends until the next touch comes and sweeps all calm away. When they move apart, eventually (they do not look at the time), this too is without reflection, without comment; it was enough. Nothing has ever been so enough.

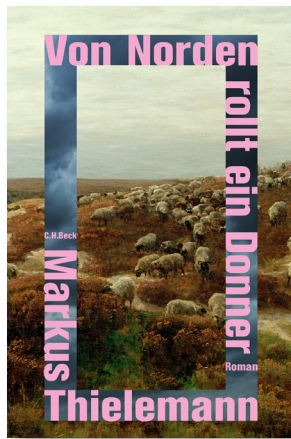
*Everything I Know About Love is in This Book* is a story about the joy and the agony of love, about longing, closeness and not knowing how to go on. It is an Einbildungsroman – a novel of imagination – but it is also a Bildungsroman: an education, an experience, complete with footnotes. What do we now know about our internal ‘chemical factories’, about narcissism, ghosting and the mystery of spontaneous attraction? And were lovers from previous centuries similar to us in these respects? A polyphonic book about the most emotional subject there is – for anyone who has been in love, who is in love now, or for whom it is an alien condition or one they have forgotten.

**Elke Schmitter** studied philosophy in Munich. She is a freelance author and, after many years writing mainly for *taz* and *Der Spiegel*, now writes primarily for *Die Zeit*. Her debut novel *Frau Sartoris* (2000) was translated into more than 20 languages. Her novel *Inneres Wetter* (2021) is also published by C.H.Beck.



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Markus Thielemann

## A Thunder Rolling In From The North

A Novel

Every day, nineteen-year-old Jannes and his family drive the sheep over the heathland of Lüneburger Heide. But there is growing unease in the area: the wolf is back. More and more sheep are being killed, and these deaths cause conflicts in the village which quickly turn political.

As the situation escalates and threatens to culminate in vigilante justice within the community, Jannes takes refuge with his sheep on the heath. Until he starts running into a strange woman there.

He decides to follow her, and little by little he starts to learn the secrets of this supposedly idyllic landscape. He stumbles across violence, nationalist ideology – and a profound silence. With his compelling anti-Heimatroman, Markus Thielemann looks deep into the abyss of a 'quintessentially German' idyll.

**Markus Thielemann** was born in 1992 and lives in Hannover. He studied geography and philosophy in Osnabrück, and then literary writing in Hildesheim. *Thunder Rolling in From the North* is his second novel.

Amir Hassan Cheheltan

## The Rose of Nishapur

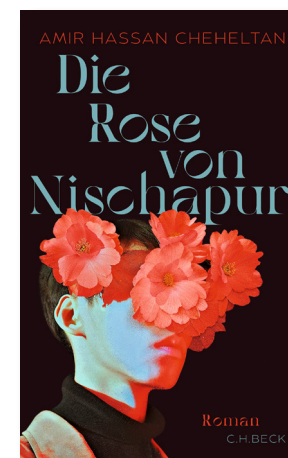
From the author of the novel 'Der Kalligraph von Isfahan'

In 2015, young Englishman David fulfils a long-cherished dream and travels to Iran, the homeland of his favourite poet Omar Khayyam. The country is still severely disrupted following the protests several years before – travellers from the West are advised to exercise extreme caution.

But David's Iranian friend Nader and his girlfriend Nastaran welcome him to Tehran and show him the mysterious corners of this exciting yet ravaged country. Out of their shared passion for Khayyam, a love triangle develops. But in a country that tramples on the rights and freedoms of its own citizens, this relationship is doomed to fail. 'The Rose of Nishapur' is a poignant novel about love, jealousy and the breaking of taboos in an authoritarian state, about the tension between East and West and about the incredible power of literature in helping people escape their own lives.

**Amir Cheheltan** was born in Tehran in 1956. He studied electrical engineering in England, took part in the Iraq War and has published novels and short story collections in Tehran. His novels 'Der Kalligraph von Isfahan' (2015), 'Der Zirkel der Literaturliebhaber' (2020) and 'Eine Liebe in Kairo' (2022) are also published by C.H.Beck.

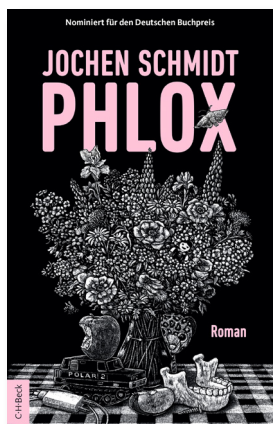
**Jutta Himmelreich** studied Romance Studies, American Studies and Ethnology in Frankfurt, Tucson (Arizona) and Paris. She has been a translator and interpreter since 1985, working with German, English, French, Spanish and Farsi.



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Richard Sparka is travelling to Schmogrow in the Oderbruch with his partner Klara and children Karl and Ricarda for the last time. The house where he spent his holidays as a boy is to be sold following the deaths of the charmingly eccentric owners. In memory of the long summer days he spent there, Richard continues his eternal struggle against the uglification of the world and tries to pinpoint the source of the joy of Schmogrow. But the deeper he dives into the past of his childhood paradise and the people who created it, the more painfully aware he becomes that idyll and abyss were always inextricably intertwined, and that perhaps this is precisely where Schmogrow's beauty lies.

**Jochen Schmidt** was born in 1970 in Berlin, where he now lives. Among other works, his novels *Müller haut uns raus* (2002), *Schneckenmühle* (2013), *Zuckersand* (2017) and *Ein Auftrag für Otto Kwant* (2019) are also published by C.H.Beck. *Phlox* was nominated for the 2022 German Book Prize.

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