

Hamburger Edition Foreign Rights Guide Fall 2026

New Titles & Recent Highlights

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Jakob Saß

Scandals in Uniform: The Long History of Right-wing Extremism in Germany's Bundeswehr



Skandale in Uniform. Die lange Geschichte des Rechtsradikalismus in der Bundeswehr
ca. 176,000 words / 564 pages
3 images
ISBN 978-3-98722-011-1
September 2026

Available rights
All languages

No more than a few isolated cases? A comprehensive study of the history of right-wing extremism in post-1945 Germany's military forces

The Bundeswehr is under scrutiny. For years, indeed for decades, far-right incidents within the military have been making headlines: soldiers giving Nazi salutes, hoarding weapons, and preparing for a coup d'état on Day »X«. Are these merely »isolated incidents«, as the German Ministry of Defense continues to claim?

This first in-depth analysis by historian Jakob Saß demonstrates that both the problem of right extremism and the tendency to downplay it are as old as the military forces established in West Germany after World War II as a parliamentary army. Since its founding, the Bundeswehr has been considered attractive by right-wing extremists, who are drawn to its weapons and uniforms, its camaraderie, and — not least — the glorification of the Wehrmacht as part of the cultivation of German military traditions. The neo-Nazi political party NPD and right-wing terrorist groups successfully recruited soldiers, particularly during the Cold War. At the same time, anti-Semitic incidents were dismissed by military leaders as no more than macabre jokes. Such scandals repeatedly called into question the Bundeswehr's self-defined ideal of soldiers as »citizens in uniform«, who were purportedly loyal to the country's constitution. Ultimately, the Ministry of Defense was forced to implement reforms.

Drawing on a broad range of sources, this book examines for the first time the far-reaching networks of opportunity within the Bundeswehr that have developed over decades, from which the radical right continues to benefit to this day.

Jakob Saß is a historian who completed his doctoral thesis with research conducted at the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam. He is the founder and co-director of the non-profit organization Game Change Lab.

Ariane Leendertz

The Shadow Government: A History of Germany's Ministerpräsidentenkonferenz



Die Nebenregierung. Eine
Geschichte der Ministerpräsi-
dentenkonferenz
ca. 150,400 words / 504 pages,
14 images
ISBN 978-3-98722-010-4
October 2026

Available rights
All languages

New insights into an overlooked part of the workings of German federalism

At the height of the COVID-19 crisis, the *Ministerpräsidentenkonferenz* (MPK, Conference of Minister-Presidents)—in which the heads of the sixteen German Federal States came together—suddenly became the focus of public attention. For months, the minister-presidents met frequently with one another or with the German Federal Chancellor to discuss and decide on an increasing number of pandemic-control measures. But this form of co-operation and governance was by no means new: the Conference of Minister-Presidents has been in existence since 1954. As early as the 1960s, it became a key player in national politics, but has nonetheless mostly escaped the scrutiny of researchers until this day.

Ariane Leendertz traces how the Conference of Minister-Presidents became a powerful political force and a centerpiece of political decision-making and negotiations in the Federal Republic of Germany. The MPK played a decisive role in the emergence of a highly interconnected federal state in West Germany, in which the numerous relevant actors were compelled to cooperate. Even the most resolute chancellor could not simply rule unchallenged. As an institution, the MPK continues to embody a political culture in which the search for consensus, compromise, and uniform federal regulations is regarded as of the utmost importance.

Ariane Leendertz is an associated scholar with the Historical Commission of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Munich and a researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History.

Eddie Hartmann, Thomas Hoebel, Susanne Krasmann (eds.) Contested Violence: Studies on Contemporary Society



Umstrittene Gewalt. Studien zur Gesellschaft der Gegenwart
ca. 75,000 words / 250 pages
ISBN 978-3-98722-009-8
November 2026

Available rights
All languages

Today's shifting perceptions of violence – as seen by sociologists

What constitutes violence in a society is highly controversial—and not always easy to define. In part, this is the case because victims must first articulate their experience and be heard. Movements such as Black Lives Matter and #MeToo that have called for recognition of painful ordeals have thus contributed to significantly transforming perceptions of violence in recent years. But societal upheavals such as the »return of war to Europe« or the expansion of autocratic regimes have also sparked significant, on-going shifts. The authors in this volume examine various spheres—military violence, discrimination, sexualized violence, hate speech, and violence against animals—to probe how violence is negotiated socially and how sensibilities and normative self-conceptions are changing. The authors in this topical volume reach rather skeptical conclusions regarding the prospects for realizing nonviolence in contemporary societies.

Eddie Hartmann is a sociologist and heads the project »Umstrittene Gewaltverhältnisse« at the Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture.

Thomas Hoebel is currently an adjunct professor for the sociology of social differentiation and social culture at the University of Kassel and a visiting scholar at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research.

Susanne Krasmann is a professor of sociology at the University of Hamburg.

Gerd Hankel

Genocide: Reflections on a Contested Concept



Völkermord. Überlegungen zu
einem umkämpften Begriff
ca. 34,200 words / 160 pages
ISBN 978-3-98722-008-1
August 2026

Available rights
All languages

Disputed terms

The term genocide sparks controversy. The accusation that an actor has committed genocide is the gravest possible charge—and attempts to refute it are correspondingly vehement. Like the mark of Cain, this verdict can haunt perpetrators and perpetrator states for generations, making it all the more important to examine current expansions of the concept with care and with skepticism. Debates about the assessment of such crimes frequently lose sight of a significant aspect: first and foremost, genocide is about murder—mass murder—committed against a specific population group. Other acts that also fall under the definition of genocide according to the Genocide Convention but do not involve immediate physical extermination should be considered additional elements but not as part of the core.

Slogans like “Never again” or “Never again is now” polarize opinion. What some observers consider legitimate emphasis can come at the expense of conceptual clarity. An all-or-nothing stance that, by focusing on the accusation of genocide, relegates other serious violations of international law—such as war crimes and crimes against humanity—to the status of trivialities must be critically examined. This essay proposes guidance for dealing with these issues.

Gerd Hankel is a scholar of international law. For more than two decades, his work has focused especially on legal conflicts relevant to international criminal law in East Africa. Hankel is a member of the Arbeitskreis Völkerstrafrecht (Study Group on International Criminal Law) and a legal expert in cases involving political asylum law and international criminal law.

Ute Daniel

An Interim Regime: A History of the Weimar Republic, 1918 to 1933



Im Zwischenreich. Eine Geschichte der Weimarer Republik 1918 bis 1933
ca. 95 000 words / 320 pages
ISBN 978-3-98722-003-6
February 2026

Available rights
All languages

A new perspective on the Weimar Republic highlights contemporaries' perceptions of the period that ended with the rise of Nazi Germany

Looking back at the fate of Germany's first democracy, the Weimar Republic, there is a tendency to seek reassurance in a palliative cliché—the claim that it did not necessarily have to end the way it did. And this is followed by the assertion that what transpired was by no means a matter of coincidence. True as such statements may be, they apply to practically everything that has ever happened in world history.

Today, right-wing parties are on the rise again, not only in Germany. Premature comparisons with the period between the two world wars engender panic. All the more reason to once again engage in discussions and debates about the developments that took place during the Weimar Republic. And precisely this is what historian Ute Daniel has set out to do with her new book.

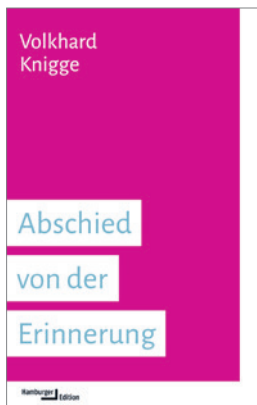
The success of extreme right-wing parties can and should not be reduced to the effectiveness of their strategies or leaders. With respect to the Weimar Republic, such an assessment would be much too simplistic—even if, from 1929 on, many people focused primarily on Adolf Hitler, either with admiration or fear. Instead, Daniel argues, we must reconstruct how other contemporary political actors perceived the situation. For most of them, the Weimar Republic was an interim regime, a temporary aberration. The actions of these contemporaries were decisive in shaping the end of the Weimar Republic. Hitler merely benefited from these developments.

- Chapter 1 1918–1920: The beginning and the end of the Weimar Coalition
- Chapter 2 Inflation, two trials in 1924 and the first regime of reparations (1920–1927)
- Chapter 3 1927/28–1930: The state budget, the second regime of reparations, and the transition to de-parlamentarization
- Chapter 4 1930–1932/33: The contracting state, the Great Depression, and Brüning's hedgehog position

Ute Daniel is professor emeritus for modern history at the Technical University Braunschweig.

Volkhard Knigge

Farewell to Memory: Confronting National Socialism and the Holocaust



Abschied von der Erinnerung.
Zur Auseinandersetzung mit
Nationalsozialismus und
Holocaust
ca. 40 000 words / 210 pages
ISBN 978-3-86854-878-5
Oktober 2026

Available rights
All languages

A compelling political and historical essay about the erosion of the culture of memory in Germany from a highly-recognized scholar of the Holocaust

For more than a decade, the extreme right has steadily gained support in Germany. The Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) has firmly established itself in the country's parliaments. The party program and leaders' statements aim to relativize National Socialism, shift the boundaries of what can be said, and in effect rewrite history. Although Germany has long been perceived as having made significant efforts to come to terms with its National Socialist past and keep knowledge of that history alive, erosion of the country's so-called culture of remembrance began quite some time ago. In this process, morally charged platitudes have supplanted historical knowledge. Remembrance is becoming detached from critical historical awareness and has come to serve imaginary constructions of identity and promote conflicts over commemoration and memory.

Against this backdrop, saying farewell to memory highlights the need to abandon complacent notions of successful catharsis and become aware of the pitfalls of memory. This book challenges forms of remembering and commemorating that block out historical understanding in favor of identification with »the« victims and constructions of collective identity. Volkhard Knigge calls instead for the kind of historical memory that is linked to critical awareness of history and effective social criticism. His assessment draws not only on his research as a historian but also on his work in shaping practices at concentration camp memorial sites in Germany.

Volkhard Knigge is professor emeritus for the history of the media and the public sphere at the Historical Institute, Friedrich Schiller University Jena. From 1994 to 2020 he was the director of the Stiftung Gedenkstätten Buchenwald und Mittelbau-Dora (Foundation Memorials Buchenwald and Mittelbau-Dora).

Klaus Holz / Jan Weyand

The Third Party: The Sociology of Anti-Semitism



Die Figur des Dritten. Zur Soziologie des Antisemitismus
ca. 90 000 words / 300 pages
ISBN 978-3-98722-005-0
May 2026

Available rights
All languages

Retraces current developments in anti-Semitism in Germany and outlines key issues in the sociology of anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism is commonly understood to mean a negative image of Jews. While this definition is certainly correct, it is also too simplistic. Negative concepts about Jews do not occur in isolation, but are always related to a collective self-image. Klaus Holz and Jan Weyand assert that such self-images are not founded in a racist opposition between »us« and »them«. Rather, an anti-Semitic image of Jews creates a third party, undermining this idea of two opposing poles. Unlike the »outsider«, the »Jew« does not embody another purportedly inferior community, but rather the »subversive« counter-image of all communities. The key to understanding anti-Semitism is the figure of the third party and its reference to a collective self-image. This perspective opens up a clear path to answering the question of where to draw the line between anti-Semitism and criticism of Israeli policy.

In their analysis, the authors address fundamental questions of social theory related to racism and anti-Semitism, to community and society, and to latent communication and post-Nazi nationalism. This is a decisive contribution to a sociology of anti-Semitism that highlights how the history of anti-Semitic attributions is based on the dynamics of collective self-images.

Klaus Holz is a sociologist and researcher on anti-Semitism. He was for many years the general secretary of the Protestant Academies in Germany. Besides his work as a scholar and author, he also advises foundations, NGOs, and institutions on anti-Semitism and its prevention.

Jan Weyand is a sociologist whose work centers on cultural sociology and issues in anti-Semitism. He currently holds an interim professorship for the dynamics and regulation of the economy and society at the University of Hamburg.

Thomas Etzemüller

Hand Granade or Pencil? On the Ambivalence of Modernity



Handgranate oder Zeichenstift.
Zur Ambivalenz der Moderne
ca. 29 000 words / 144 pages
ISBN 978-3-86854-879-2
September 2025

Available rights
All languages

»How can we grasp the contours of modernity if the focus is on violence and murder, without asking why relatively violence-free societies and situations could nonetheless exist, despite imperialism, insecurity, and radicalization?« – Thomas Etzemüller

For many historians, the term »modernity« is a largely undefined, diffuse concept. Many books have focused on the catastrophic events that occurred prior to 1945: collapsing democracies, wars, the Holocaust, Stalinism. But some of the European democracies that were established at the end of World War I successfully resisted totalitarian challenges.

Decades ago, scholars like Zygmunt Bauman and Detlev Peukert pointed out that the rationality of modernity incorporates both progress and mass destruction. In this slim but compelling volume, Thomas Etzemüller revisits the truly ambivalent history of modernity, a period in which some worshipped masculinity and combat. Elsewhere »social engineers« built apartments, schools, and hospitals, aiming to guide people to educate themselves to become enlightened, rational »new human beings«. But this seemingly positive current in modernity also had another, darker side: relentless exclusion was part of this history.

Casting a new look at the ambivalent period of modernity in the twentieth century, historian Etzemüller not only reviews the story of a complex era. His book is also an incisive commentary on the present that reminds us how democracies dealt with and overcame the multiple, far-reaching crises of the twentieth century.

Thomas Etzemüller is professor of European history of the nineteenth to twenty-first century with a focus on the cultural history of modernity at the University of Oldenburg.

Julian Kaspar Genner

In Preppers' Basements: Individual Crisis Preparedness in Times of Social Uncertainty



Im Prepperkeller. Persönliche
Krisenvorsorge in Zeiten gesell-
schaftlicher Verunsicherung
ca. 105 000 words / 330 pages
ISBN 978-3-98722-004-3
March 2026

Available rights
All languages

A compelling ethnographical account offers insights into Germany's prepper scene for the first time

Preppers implement intensive preparations for possible future crises by stockpiling food, medical supplies, survival equipment, and, in some cases, weapons. Contrary to the common stereotypical portrayal of preppers as solitary outsiders, Julian Genner shows that this trend is rooted in mainstream society.

But who are Germany's preppers? Julian Genner has devoted years of research to this question, talking to dozens of preppers, attending prepper meetings, taking part in survival courses, and researching relevant social media platforms. His study offers a unique insight into the lives of German preppers. Genner's work shows that the popularity of prepping reflects a massive loss of trust. For preppers, the future appears threatening and uncertain, whereas their preparedness schemes are seen as offering a degree of security. But this security is deceptive. The more intensively preppers prepare themselves, the more threatened they feel.

This book examines how mistrust spreads and encourages a friend-or-foe mentality. And it addresses the connections to problematic developments in mainstream society, including right-wing populism, adherence to outdated images of masculinity, and the new wave of right-wing terrorism.

Julian Kaspar Genner is a scholar of empirical cultural studies who conducts research and teaches at universities in Switzerland and Germany, most recently at the University of Freiburg and the University of Basel. His work focuses on political anthropology, ethnographic analysis of ideas about the future, and exploring how security and insecurity are negotiated in society.

Tabea Koepp

Suffering Violence: A Sociology of Organized Forms of Sexualized and Ritual Violence



Gewalt erleiden. Eine Soziologie organisierter sexualisierter und ritueller Gewalt
ca. 110 000 words / 350 pages
ISBN 978-3-98722-006-7
April 2026

Available rights
All languages

This first major sociological study on the subject in Germany employs the perspective of victims of organized sexualized and ritual violence as a key analytical category

The existence of organized forms of sexualized and ritual violence in Germany is unimaginable for many people. And yet the experience of this kind of violence fundamentally shapes the everyday lives of the children and adolescents who are its victims. Based on interviews with survivors and professionals, this book describes the lives of sexually exploited children. A distinctive feature of this form of violence is that it is embedded in deeply anti-democratic worldviews, ranging from neo-Germanic and other völkisch (racial-nationalist) worldviews to variations on Christian religious concepts and Satanism to esoteric ideas.

This first major sociological study on the phenomenon in Germany focuses on the perspective of those who suffer violence. Koepp shows that ideologically embedded sexualized violence is not exceptional. Rather, it involves specific forms of violence committed exclusively by perpetrators organized in groups, who are for the most part well integrated into society and who lead lives that appear on the surface to be quite unremarkable and inconspicuous.

Tabea Koepp is a sociologist and a researcher at Dissens – Institut für Bildung und Forschung e.V. in Berlin, where her current work examines how sexualized violence is dealt with in institutional contexts.

Hannah Catherine Davies

The Rule of Law and Patriarchy: A History of Sexual Violence in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1973 to 1997



Rechtsstaat und Patriarchat.
Eine Geschichte sexueller Gewalt
in der Bundesrepublik 1973 bis
1997
ca. 170 000 words / 520 pages
ISBN 978-3-86854-876-1
November 2025

Available rights
All languages

The first comprehensive historical account of the struggle to change how post-1945 West Germany dealt with sexual violence against women

With the emergence of the #MeToo movement in 2017, the phenomenon of sexual harassment and violence against women became a focus of attention—in the United States, Europe, and worldwide. Largely forgotten, however, is the decades-long activism of earlier phases in the women's movement on this issue, particularly that which began targeting male violence against women in Germany beginning in the 1970s. Against massive resistance, feminist activists denounced rape myths, founded counseling centers, and worked tirelessly for a reform of criminal law on sexual violence.

In West Germany, it was not until 1997—later than in other European countries—that the paragraph on rape in criminal law was finally reformed.

This book reconstructs these decades of feminist struggles and shows how they fundamentally changed the way the public, academia, and the law view the problem of sexual violence. It also explores the significance of social movements and their relationship to the state, shedding new light on the role of women as political actors in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Hannah Catherine Davies is assistant professor of modern history at the University of Zurich. Her book Transatlantic Speculations: Globalization and the Panics of 1873 was published in 2018 by Columbia University Press.

Klaus Schlichte The Misery of Geopolitics



Das Elend der Geopolitik
ca. 40 000 words / 200 pages
ISBN 978-3-98722-002-9
February 2026

Available rights
All languages

Where is international politics headed, in view of the current revival of geopolitical concepts?

Geopolitics has become a highly popular catchword in recent years. The term appears in nearly every description of international politics, especially those that address the foreign policy of Russia and the US. And when President Ursula von der Leyen first took office as the head of the European Union Commission in 2019, she declared that she would head that institution as a »geopolitical commission«, because she felt that was what the EU needed. Klaus Schlichte shows that the categories and concepts of geopolitics fail to do justice intellectually to the structures and challenges of contemporary international politics. Indeed, he argues, geopolitics leads to misery, because what lies behind the term as it is currently used is nothing more than power politics.

While the accusation of pursuing power politics is levelled primarily at the current Russian and US governments, the governments of numerous other states follow similar notions rooted in the new discourse on sovereignty. In doing so, they not only reduce the opportunities for international cooperation but also jeopardize peace and the possibilities for a better future for the entire international community. Are there feasible alternatives?

Klaus Schlichte is professor for international relations and world society at the University of Bremen.

Felix Roßmeißl

Jihadists: Young Men in a Totalitarian Subculture



**Dschihadisten. Junge Männer
in einer totalen Subkultur**
ca. 103 000 words / 328 pages
ISBN 978-3-86854-880-8
August 2025

Available rights
All languages

Exploration of how young people from Western societies become jihad activists and a critical assessment of recent research on radicalization

Kai, Cazim, and Patrik are the names of the protagonists of this book—pseudonyms, not their real names. Two converted to Islam, the third grew up in a Muslim household; all three are from Germany or Austria. What they have in common is the decision, reached as teenagers, to devote themselves to militant Salafism.

Why do young men who have grown up in modern societies join the jihad? Why do they submit to an authoritarian ideology that glorifies violence?

Based on unique interviews with former jihad activists, their parents and relatives, as well as court records and propaganda documents, this book describes how »jihadist careers« unfold. Starting point is the experience and the practices of the actors themselves. But this account reveals how individual paths are significantly shaped by different social and societal conditions.

The author portrays young men who discover the ideal of an absolute religious life in the collective structure of a »total subculture« and are drawn into the quest for realizing that ideal. Felix Roßmeißl provides deep insights into the lives of »completely normal young men« who have come to believe that violence against those who think differently is the only true path to serving what they perceive as a higher power.

Felix Roßmeißl is a sociologist and researcher in the collaborative project »SaFe – Shaping Future Society« at the Fulda University of Applied Sciences, which is funded by the DRG, German Research Foundation. In 2025, his doctoral thesis was awarded the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University's Werner Pünder Prize for outstanding scholarship on liberty and totalitarianism.

Aaron Sahr

Fake Coins: Digital Money and Freedom beyond the Digital



Fake Coins. Digitales Geld
und analoge Freiheit
ca. 165 000 words / 500 pages
ISBN 978-3-86854-390-2
March 2026

Available rights
All languages

False promises: a critical perspective on Bitcoin's fifteen-year history, on the European Central Bank's digital-euro fiasco—and on why the end of hard cash is not necessarily a sign of progress

Digitalization in the world of money: cash is in the process of disappearing, dynamic financial startups are pushing out traditional banks, and smart phone apps are increasingly replacing checks and bank cards. A key element of this transformation is a radical project: Bitcoin, a computer program for the operation of a new global means of payment, independent of states and financial institutions, accessible to all, protected from inflation and censorship. Bitcoin has been touted as the realization of the utopia of monetary freedom—with a huge impact and an even bigger problem.

In his new book, Aaron Sahr shows why Bitcoin is based on false promises and ill-founded forecasts. In political terms, Bitcoin is by no means a revolution; it is a continuation of the existing, radically liberal monetary order. Sahr argues that limiting our understanding of monetary freedom to individual freedom of choice and protection from state intervention is bound to be disastrous for society and will deprive us as a political community of what is perhaps the most important means of tackling the pressing crises of our time. Current debates about digital money should be perceived as a unique opportunity to stop treating money as if it were a constant—an immovable fact. Money is in fact an element of our social infrastructure that can and should be changed—to secure and enhance genuine freedom.

*Aaron Sahr is an economic sociologist and visiting professor at Leuphana University in Lüneburg, Germany. He heads the research group Monetary Sovereignty at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. Sahr was awarded the Franz-Xaver Kaufmann Prize 2019 by the University of Bielefeld's Department of Sociology for his outstanding work as an early-career social scientist. His research focuses on the sociology of money, on monetary policy and theory, and on the de- and re-politicization of monetary orders. One of his earlier books was published in English by Verso Books as *Keystroke Capitalism: How Banks Create Money for the Few*.*

Stefanie Coché

Religious Awakenings and Earthly Power: Religion and Democracy in the US



Religiöse Erweckung und irdische Macht. Religion und Demokratie in den USA
ca. 198 000 words / 560 pages /
5 images
ISBN 978-3-86854-398-8
March 2025

Available rights
All languages

A fascinating account that interweaves biographical narratives and historical analysis to reconstruct the interplay of religion and democracy in the United States

The 2024 presidential election campaign and the recently revived controversies over abortion rights are only the latest political phenomena that underscore how strongly religion influences American society, culture, and democracy. Religiosity presents itself as not necessarily in opposition to modernity but rather as a flexible system for navigating life in a constantly changing society.

Historian Stefanie Coché has examined the lives of fourteen American religious leaders from the early nineteenth century to the present to reveal why religious worldviews were enticing for Americans and what changes have ensured that they remain attractive for followers. The protagonists of Coché's account include the former slave Amanda Berry Smith, who aimed to overcome America's segregated society after the Civil War; Jerry Falwell, who was a driving force behind the emergence of the ultra-conservative New Christian Right in the 1980s; Pauli Murray, who became an icon of the LGBTQ movement after her death; and, last but not least, Baptist pastor Billy Graham, who filled halls in Europe as well as the US with his crusade against liberalism and what he considered to be immorality.

Taking as her starting points key biographical moments retraced on the basis of a broad range of sources, the author weaves a nuanced tapestry of some two centuries of American society. Her account will take readers from the individual life histories to consideration of conclusions that can be drawn about central socio-historical issues such as race, class and gender—and to an understanding of democracy that goes far beyond lessons taught by the individual figures presented here.

Stefanie Coché is a historian who lectures and conducts research at the Historical Institute of Justus Liebig University, Giessen. Her areas of work include German, US, and transatlantic history; the history of the German dictatorships; right-wing violence and German reunification; the history of psychiatry, medicine, and the body; and the history of religion.

Ferdinand Sutterlüty

Resisting: Attempts to Live a Right Life in the Wrong One



Widerstehen. Versuche eines richtigen Lebens im falschen
ca. 58 000 words / 208 pages
ISBN 978-3-86854-400-8
February 2025

Available rights
All languages

About people who find things amiss in contemporary societies—and have sought and found alternatives

Dissatisfaction is on the rise in many contemporary societies. Yet, while some despair and others seem caught up in endless cycles of criticizing and finding fault, most people simply carry on as before. And only a few decide to draw consequences and take action based on their perceptions of what is wrong. Rather than remaining idle, these individuals oppose prevailing conditions and counter widespread expectations.

Ferdinand Sutterlüty sought and spoke to some of those who follow the other path. His book is a sociologically informed account of his conversations with people who have chosen to engage with issues and phenomena that the majority of us have apparently resigned ourselves to. Sutterlüty talks with a sea rescuer in the Mediterranean and a teacher. With political activists and Alpine farmers. With a cleaner who motivates colleagues to join the fight against humiliating working conditions and for the establishment of trade union structures. With a forest official who has sought justice in the courts, in a case that has dragged on for years, in her struggle against discrimination in the workplace. With one artist who lives as a self-supporter and another who works with trans women.

For Sutterlüty, these people are beacons of hope and pioneers who show that things can be done differently—some who are at times loud or raucous, some who work quietly, some who shy away from the public arena, and others who do not avoid the limelight. What they have in common is that, like characters in great novels, their lives and their stories will leave no reader indifferent.

Ferdinand Sutterlüty is a professor of sociology at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main. His research addresses the sociology of children, youths, and families; the sociology of violence and criminality; practices of resistance; new forms of authoritarianism; and social theories, in particular critical theory.

Patrick Hönig

When Violence Doesn't End: Forced Migration in the Democratic Republic of Congo



Wenn die Gewalt nicht endet.
Erzwungene Migration in der
Demokratischen Republik Kongo
ca. 99 000 words / 368 pages;
4 maps
ISBN 978-3-86854-401-5
April 2025

Available rights
All languages

Examines what becomes of refugees in the region around the Democratic Republic of Congo and outlines perspectives for protecting refugees in this and other conflict regions

Forced migration is the phrase used to refer to situations in which the decision to stay or leave is taken out of people's hands. But how do those forced to leave their homes find protection, when rebels or the henchmen of their own government continue to threaten their lives?

Based on interviews with refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, this book shows that international refugee law falls terribly short—existing international conventions and declarations remain silent when it comes to the dangers that continue to threaten people after they have fled to neighboring regions outside the direct combat zones. As Hönig's analysis demonstrates, it is as if the ongoing vulnerability of refugees in the host country is tacitly accepted, as the price to be paid for protection from immediate persecution.

In the long term, the international community cannot afford to exclude political and social upheavals, such as those exemplified in the Congo, from the migration discourse. And it cannot avoid confronting the need for effective protection of refugees in the countries that have offered them refuge. If we fail to develop sustainable solutions for refugees, measures to reduce the causes of flight are also destined to fail. And migration to Europe and other more secure continents and countries will continue to gain momentum.

Patrick Hönig is a legal scholar who has worked at universities and academic institutions in Europe, North America, and Asia and for international governmental and non-governmental organizations, mainly in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. His research interests and numerous publications center on peace and security, human rights law, and conflict resolution and dispute settlement. This is his second book for the Hamburger Edition.

Micha Knuth

The Silent Revolution: Marcel Gauchet's Historical Anthropology of Democracy



Die stille Revolution.
Marcel Gauchets historische
Anthropologie der Demokratie
ca. 165 000 words / 496 pages /
6 images
ISBN 978-3-86854-399-5
April 2025

Available rights
All languages

The first comprehensive survey and critical appraisal of the work of Marcel Gauchet, one of contemporary France's most prominent intellectuals

In France, Marcel Gauchet is widely regarded as one of the most important thinkers of his generation, and his analysis of current political developments is much sought-after in French media. And yet international reception of his ideas and books has been limited. Micha Knuth now presents the first complete account of Gauchet's career and his groundbreaking historical analysis of Western democracies. In the process of retracing Gauchet's thought, this book simultaneously opens up new perspectives on the intellectual history of France after Foucault and post-structuralism.

In this context, the »silent revolution« refers originally to the change in values in Western democracies after 1968. Gauchet's life's work is dedicated to the question of how this change in the spirit of democracy, which still characterizes today's democratic societies, came about. Fully committed to the tradition of the social sciences' claim to develop comprehensive explanations, his approach spans themes ranging from the emergence of the first nation-states and the political history of religion to the history of violence in the twentieth century and the apparent triumph of democracy in the period after World War II. Readers who follow Gauchet on this journey will find insights that lead them to consider the present and future prospects of democracy from new perspectives.

Micha Knuth focuses in his research on the intellectual history of contemporary France since 1968 as well as various issues in political theory and political philosophy. He has studied and conducted research at the universities of Freiburg and Aix-en-Provence, at Humboldt University in Berlin, and at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research.

Isabel Feichtner

Resources: Exploitation and Commoning



Bodenschätze.
Über Verwertung und
Vergesellschaftung
ca. 57 000 words / 304 pages
ISBN 978-3-86854-393-3
February 2025

Available rights
All languages

Contemporary investments targeting urban real estate and the ocean floor — on the impacts of appropriating and exploiting common property on our societies

Who owns the cities? Who owns the land? Who owns the ocean floors? Privatization of urban land has a considerably longer history than schemes to make the deep sea available for private use. Urban landscapes have long been a focus of private investors. But only recently have we begun to witness heightened investor interest in the ocean floor, for example by companies aiming to mine deep-sea minerals essential to the production of batteries for electric vehicles. What fundamental issues link residential urban real estate and deep-sea minerals as fields of investment — and what are the far-reaching implications of privatization for societies worldwide?

On the surface, it might seem that nothing could be farther apart, geographically and otherwise, than urban spaces and the deepest reaches of the world's oceans. But urgent and fundamental issues related to how they are being evaluated and utilized connect the two. And resistance to investments in these two sectors is growing. In Germany, fierce debates about urban land usage are underscored by the success of a referendum launched in Berlin by a citizens' initiative — Deutsche Wohnen & Co. Enteignen — calling for expropriation of the property of private real-estate companies with 3,000 or more residential rental units in the city. And coalitions like the Sustainable Ocean Alliance are mobilizing to campaign against mining the deep-sea bed. The concept of habitability is acquiring a central role in shaping planetary policies.

Isabel Feichtner analyzes how land is distributed and utilized and what role legal norms play in these processes. Moreover, her topical book reveals how rights and counter-rights can and should be used to reclaim commons and joint property.

Isabel Feichtner is a professor of public law and international economic law at the University of Würzburg. During the academic year 2023/2024 she headed the research program Reclaiming Common Wealth: Towards a Law and Political Economy of Land Commons at The New Institute in Hamburg. Her research centers on international economic law, transnational commodity law, monetary and financial law, and the law of commons.

Bogdan Musial

Doctors in Auschwitz: The Functions and Dilemmas of Prisoner-Physicians, 1940 – 1945



»Lagermedizin« in Auschwitz.
Funktion und Dilemmata der
Häftlingsärzte 1940 – 1945
Ca. 175 000 words / 656 pages;
32 images; 2 maps
ISBN 978-3-86854-394-0
September 2024

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Polish (Zysk i-Ska)

The first comprehensive history of prisoner-physicians in the Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz

This place will be hell on earth — that was what a member of the SS told prisoners constructing the fence that was to enclose the Auschwitz concentration camp in June 1940. After 1945, Auschwitz became synonymous with the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust. People from all walks of life and all professions were among the prisoners, including physicians. Physicians who were assigned to work in the camp infirmary significantly increased their own chances of survival, but were also able to use their medical knowledge to help others. When Auschwitz was expanded and became an extermination complex in 1942, the treatment of sick inmates was in effect turned over to these prisoner-physicians, with SS doctors acting as their overseers. The prisoner-physicians experienced terrible dilemmas in their daily work: although they were indeed able to help fellow inmates, the orders of their SS superiors forced them to assist in implementing decisions that brought death to others.

German-Polish historian Bogdan Musial has written the first comprehensive study of the role of prisoner-physicians in Auschwitz, from the earliest beginnings of the infamous concentration camp to the liberation and evacuation of inmates in January 1945. Musial describes the prisoner-physicians' daily lives, their work duties, and how not only »medical experiments« but also the »selections« of those who were to be sent to their deaths, the testing of various murder methods, and the mass extermination of inmates were organized and conducted. Musial's monumental study retraces a hitherto neglected aspect of the Auschwitz complex and is an outstanding contribution to research on Auschwitz and on the Holocaust as a whole.

Bogdan Musial is a historian who came to Germany from Poland as a political refugee and studied at the University of Hanover, Germany, and the University of Manchester. After completing his doctoral thesis on the persecution of Jews in occupied Poland, he was a researcher with the German Historical Institute and the Institute of National Remembrance, both in Warsaw. Musial held a professorship at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw from 2010 to 2015. He has published numerous books on German, Soviet, and Polish history.

Gerd Hankel

Distant Injustice, Foreign Suffering: The Enforcement of International Justice



Fernes Unrecht. Fremdes Leid.
Von der Durchsetzbarkeit
internationalen Rechts
ca. 85 000 words / 352 pages
ISBN 978-3-86854-395-7
September 2024

Available rights
All languages

Who determines what crimes are of most serious concern to the international community? And what are the impacts of such decisions? Can justice be enforced internationally?

Since the beginning of the modern era, there have been many attempts to react to unjust acts perpetrated in distant countries that nonetheless have impacts internationally. Diplomacy, military interventions with and without a UN Security Council mandate, decisions reached by national and international courts—these are all reactions to and attempts to sanction crimes of great concern to the international community. And these measures repeatedly generate considerable expectations in political circles and among the general public throughout the world.

In contrast to the monopoly on the use of violence by individual states, on an international level, the enforcement of international justice depends on the good will of individual states. Treaties and agreements aim to ensure that human rights are viewed as binding. International humanitarian law defines what rules must be adhered to in armed conflicts. As the framework for protecting individuals from violence or injustice perpetrated by state actors has been extended, so too has the number of mechanisms increased that are intended to prevent violations of these standards by states or to sanction violations when they do occur.

Nonetheless, in practice, the application and enforcement of international legal norms is plagued by numerous contradictions that seem quite unbearable in the face of injustice and human suffering. Gerd Hankel takes stock of decades of work to enforce international codes of justice. He analyzes just how much more needs to be done, before the ideal of a world conscience will be realized and that conscience will be equipped so that it will be activated when the need arises. Much has undeniably already been achieved. But because justice and self-righteousness are often closely related, these achievements may prove to be built on sand.

Gerd Hankel is a scholar of legal studies who works for the Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture. His research on contemporary and historical topics in international public law focuses especially on war and armed conflicts and genocide. Hankel has also served as a legal expert in proceedings involving issues of international criminal law and the right to political asylum.

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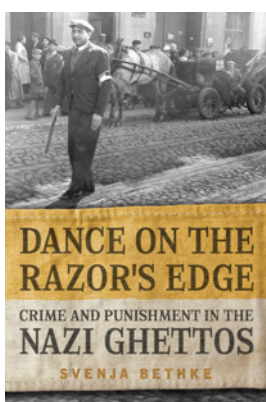
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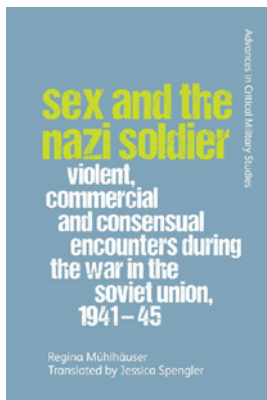
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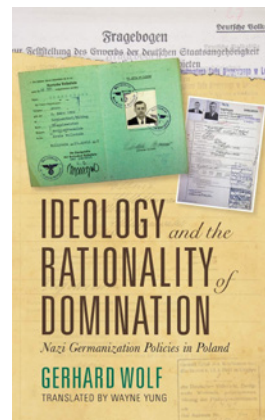
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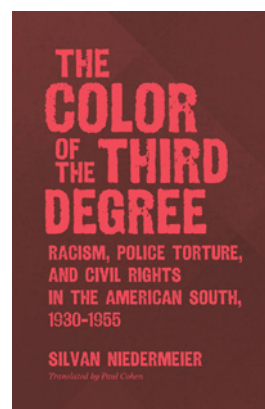
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2017: Spanish, Herder Editorial
2015: Korean, Dongnyok Publishers



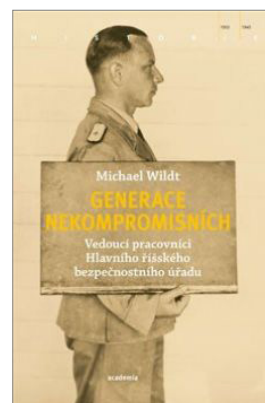
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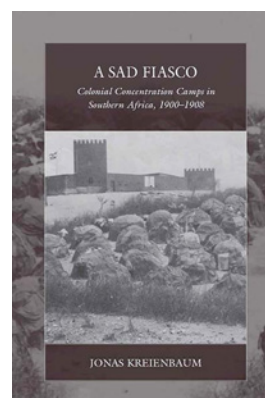
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