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Sahr has successfully identified the structures that privilege so few and put so many at a disadvantage. … The way in which the author presents these issues, unravels the connections and structures, and elucidates the illegitimacy of the money-production privilege adds up to an outstanding piece of sociological scholarship. — Stefan Freichel, Monetative Blog

Total global wealth currently amounts to about 256 trillion US dollars, a figure about eight hundred times higher than Germany’s national budget. On the other side of the balance sheet is the record total of some 152 trillion dollars in private debt. And the distribution of both debt and wealth is increasingly uneven.

Probing the interrelationship of private wealth, debt, and economic inequality, Aaron Sahr uncovers, in the »engine room of capitalism«, a para-economic source for the generation of wealth: private banks’ money-creation privilege. Today, private banks produce money out of nothing with a simple keystroke. Sahr argues that this unusual privilege mostly benefits a minority that is in a position to appropriate the returns of this »keystroke system«. It is essential to understand the channels through which this appropriation works, what it means for our understanding of capitalism, and how the issues raised should be dealt with.

Aaron Sahr reconstructs how the banking system has become disengaged from demand for capital assets. He dissects the errors in reasoning that conceal the transfer character of the financial system and describes the para-economic mechanisms that exacerbate economic inequality.

Addressing all those interested in a critical examination of contemporary political economy, this book demonstrates why the focus of debates should move beyond discussion about introducing taxes on wealth, capping exorbitant executive salaries, or imposing limits on financial speculation. Instead, Sahr emphasizes, we need to talk about the »engine room of capitalism«—that is, about reforming the means by which money is generated. Ultimately, ongoing developments will force us to decide whether democratic societies should reclaim the sovereign right to create money. If we wish to counter growing inequality, he argues, there is no real alternative.

Aaron Sahr is a sociologist and researcher at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. After studying philosophy, sociology, and political science, he completed his doctorate in economics and social science at the University of Kassel. His work focuses on sociological and economic theories of money, banks and the credit system, international accounting standards, and theories of finance capital.
Michael Wildt explored, in his study *Hitler's Volksgemeinschaft and the Dynamics of Racial Exclusion*, how the *Volksgemeinschaft*, a Nazi «community of the people» became reality, as Germans perpetrated violence against Jewish citizens.

Wildt returns to the concept in this essay, out of concern about the rise of right-wing populist political movements that aim to rehabilitate Nazi-era concepts like *Volk*, *völkisch* and *Volksgemeinschaft*. The far-right party Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) asserts that these terms should be «positively connotated»—and misquote Wildt to back up such views.

This book offers a concise survey of the history of key political and philosophical concepts—*demos*, sovereignty, nationhood, community—as it relates to this recent discussion. Moving from Athens to the American Federalist-Antifederalist debate, from Hobbes to Tonnies to Carl Schmitt, the author reviews ongoing controversies: Who should belong to the people? How can the people express its will and wield power? Why has support for self-determination led to demands for ethnically homogeneous nation-states?

After 1918, the *Volksgemeinschaft* idea was embraced across the political spectrum, by liberals, conservatives, and social democrats, not only in Weimar Germany but also elsewhere in Europe, for example in Sweden with its *folkhemmet* idea. Wildt warns that a definition of «the people» based on purported shared culture rather than political equality and citizens’ rights comes with the risk of political radicalization. He calls instead for a concept based on citizenship whose rights are recognized globally.

»Michael Wildt is one of the most innovative historians of contemporary history working in Germany today. ... His scholarship is marked by imaginative questions and answers that are arresting, original, patiently reconstructed, close to the sources, and justly influential.« — Yad Vashem Studies about *Hitler’s Volksgemeinschaft and the Dynamics of Racial Exclusion*, first published in German by Hamburger Edition

Michael Wildt is a historian and professor of modern German history at the Humboldt University, Berlin. From 1993 to 2009, he was a research fellow at the Research Centre for Contemporary History in Hamburg, the Hamburg Institute for Social Research, and the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. His texts on Nazi Germany, the Holocaust, and on racial ideology are widely cited as standard works in the field. Two of his books first published by Hamburger Edition are available in English: *Hitler’s Volksgemeinschaft and the Dynamics of Racial Exclusion*. Violence against Jews in Provincial Germany, 1919–1939, Berghahn Books, 2012; *An Uncompromising Generation. The Nazi Leadership of the Reich Security Main Office*, University of Wisconsin Press 2009.
Philipp Staab
False Promises: Growth in Digital Capitalism

“A concise book that dissects the logic of generating profits in the digital economy.” — Louisa Reichstetter, DIE ZEIT

“Even some Silicon Valley companies are beginning to support the idea of a guaranteed basic income for all, because they hope it will secure the consumer demand that they are endangering with their own business model.” — Philipp Staab

Digitalization is the buzzword of the decade. Some link the disruptive potential of digital innovations to hopes for new sources of unlimited growth. Others fear massive job losses and a dramatic increase in social inequality.

Philipp Staab analyzes the leading digital economy companies and their international business model. Beginning with a brief review of the history of Google, Apple, Amazon, and other top players, he elucidates the ideology of digital capitalism and contrasts this with the economic imperatives that the digital economy faces. The strategies pursued by these corporations target a critical fault line in today’s economic system. Since the end of Fordism, the development of consumption in highly developed OECD countries has been unable to keep pace with increases in productivity. Digital capitalism key aim is to counter this systematic weakness in contemporary consumer demand, as a characteristic of today’s capitalist economies, by rationalizing consumption.

In the process, however, contradictions are generated that exacerbate the problem that this strategy was designed to solve. Staab identifies this consumption dilemma of today’s digital capitalism as a problem that could effectively transform the growth potential of digitalization into an inverse trend. The hopes raised by digital capitalism may soon prove to be false promises.

I Introduction
II From the political economy of the twentieth century to digital capitalism
III Digital ideology – digital economy
IV From the rationalization of production to efficient consumption
V Digitalization and social inequality
VI The consumption dilemma

Philipp Staab is a sociologist and currently a researcher at the Institut für die Geschichte und Zukunft der Arbeit (Institute for the History and Future of Work, igza.org). From 2008 to 2016 he was on the research staff of the Hamburg Institute for Social Research and an adjunct lecturer at the University of Kassel. His main areas of research are transformations of work, digital capitalism, social inequality, and political sociology. His book Power and Domination in the World of Service was published by Hamburger Edition in 2014.
Tim B. Müller

After World War I: Crisis and Survival of Modern Democracies

- A reexamination of the period between the two world wars as a crucial phase in the emergence of modern democracies
- »There is something fascinating, encouraging, and nonetheless alarmingly about Müller's undertaking, especially because he draws parallels to our times.—Erhard Eppler, Süddeutsche Zeitung

World War I was the »seminal catastrophe« of the twentieth century. In its wake came the development of modern democracy. Limitations to voting rights fell and modern knowledge-based society was born. Many »old« democracies at last become democracies in every sense, and new democracies emerged throughout Europe at a rapid pace. Based on broad socio-political foundations, the establishment of the democratic welfare state commenced.

This perspective highlights the need to revise mainstream concepts of the interwar period, concepts that all too often focus on the crises and political developments that led to World War II. Although in some states democracy soon was forced into a defensive position—and the Weimar Republic, as the most modern democracy of the period, failed, leading to enormous upheaval in Europe’s center—Scandinavia, Great Britain, and the United States continued on the path of establishing social democracy.

To learn why modern democracies can fail, as well as how they can retain their stability and vitality in fundamental crises, we must examine the interwar period between World War I and World War II, an era in which our own political and social world was born.

Tim B. Müller is a historian and research fellow at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. He is also an editor of the journal Zeitschrift für Ideengeschichte. His first book published by Hamburger Edition, Krieger und Gelehrte: Herbert Marcuse und die Denksysteme im Kalten Krieg [Warriors and Scholars: Herbert Marcuse and Cold War Culture], is a study of German émigrés in the US and their role in the intellectual history of the Cold War.
Is demographic transition endangering the foundations of modern democracies? A unique fusion of perspectives—constitutional law, the sociology of space and infrastructure, and social policy analysis—offers stimulating answers

Despite widespread debates in recent years on demographic transition in Europe and in Western societies more generally, the issue of how population shrinkage and aging societies will affect practical politics in contemporary democracies has hardly been adequately addressed. Meanwhile, the proportion of the population that needs care continues to rise in relation to those who work and provide care; increasingly large rural areas face age-specific migration to a small number of growing urban centers. In the face of such developments, there can be little doubt that changes in democratic process as well as in the status and functioning of the welfare state will be forthcoming.

In this topical essay, three scholars from the fields of public law, social structure analysis, and social policy examine the tensions between demography and democracy from three perspectives: the constitutional framework of contemporary welfare-state democracies, the status of these societies’ infrastructure and its effects on social space, and the architecture of the welfare state and policies of distribution. Their assessments highlight potential impacts of demographic transition on equality, individual and collective responsibility, and other principles on which contemporary social systems are based. Moreover, the authors outline perspectives for safeguarding these democratic and social foundations of our societies.

“Three professors ... describe vividly the problems of the welfare state with diminishing births, ageing populations, and migration...The authors call for constitutional safeguards for justice between the generations ... – Highly recommended.” – Elke Günther, ekz-bibliotheksservice

Jens Kersten is a professor of public law at Ludwig Maximilians University Munich; his research has ranged from Georg Jellinek's theory of the state to legal issues of human cloning.

Claudia Neu is a professor of sociology at the University of Applied Sciences Niederrhein; her research interests include rural sociology, the sociology of households, and social structure analysis.

Berthold Vogel is a sociologist at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research and director of the Sociological Research Institute, University of Göttingen who focuses on the political sociology of inequality, the world of employment, and the welfare state and its public goods and services.
No Peace without Justice? The Role of International Criminal Justice

William Schabas

>While reading the impression arises that one is watching the goddess of law Justicia holding her scales and can see how heavily the arguments weigh, tipping first to this side and then to that. ... A book that is recommended for all jurists, historians, and NGO activists who are concerned with large-scale international crimes.« — Conrad Lay, Andruck, Deutschlandfunk

One of the defining moments in the progress of humanity was, writes William Schabas, the installment of the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg. The tribunal established influential principles in international law: a war of aggression is an international crime; leaders who wage them are personally responsible, as are individuals who cite obedience in following their orders, rather than adhering to humanitarian norms; atrocities perpetrated by governments against their people are international crimes.

Since the 1990s, international justice has been extended with the ad hoc tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and permanently institutionalized with the creation of the International Criminal Court. But the practice of international criminal justice continues to spark critique and face inherent dilemmas. Schabas, a historian, legal scholar and recognized authority in international law, reviews the history of conceptualizing international criminal law and its practice in international tribunals and courts in this highly topical book.

The focus here is on central issues that have accompanied developments in the decades since Nuremberg. Are international criminal courts called on mainly to promote or restore peace in post-conflict societies? Or is it their overriding aim to secure justice for the victims of atrocious crimes against humanity? How does the international community define justice in the highly-charged contexts of mass crimes, crimes perpetrated by states, and human rights violations? How does the prosecution of international criminals differ from judicial action against violators in a national context? What is, or must be, the role of politics in international justice? What about charges of »victor's justice«?

In this small and accessible volume, the author shows why the answers to the problems of international justice cannot be resolved by attempting to separate it from international politics: the ongoing project of international justice is an imminently political undertaking. Justice, William Schabas argues, is not an end in itself. What it can and should be is an essential element in pursuing last peace and a mutual understanding of what has threatened peace in the past.

William Schabas is a professor of international law at Middlesex University in London and chairman of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland Galway. He is also associated with a number of other universities worldwide. Besides serving on the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission he has been an expert advisor to the United Nations on capital punishment. Schabas has published widely on human rights law, international criminal law, and the International Criminal Court.
Maren Lorenz
Vandalism as an Everyday Phenomenon

“... in this slim volume Lorenz retraces the history of vandalism in a precise and highly readable account. She corrects the notion that mass destruction of property by youths is a phenomenon of modern society.” — Michael Jeismann, Die Zeit

This analysis of the history of vandalism in Germany from the seventeenth century to reunification in 1989, which also cites examples from other eras and countries, demonstrates how academic and popular debates reflect shifting normative assumptions, collective self-images, and political crises.

“In this slim, elegantly argued volume ... Lorenz examines a phenomenon that has always existed and has always been subject to diverse interpretations ... One can hardly praise Maren Lorenz’s succinct book enough for having dissected these discursive mechanisms.” — Thomas Wörtche, Der Freitag

Maren Lorenz is a historian and lecturer at the University of Hamburg.

Wolfgang Kraushaar
The Revolt of the Educated: From the Arab Spring to the Occupy Movement

“This very informative survey examines such disparate movements as the Arab Spring and Occupy within the framework of one analysis... Taken together, this is a kind of social seismograph of the present state of the world.” — Harald Welzer, Süddeutsche Zeitung

In 2011, the world was witness to unexpected and increasingly dramatic protests around the globe. Demonstrations in Arab states left their rulers with no choice but to abdicate and flee the country. And with »Occupy Wall Street« in Manhattan, the rebellion arrived in the center of international finance. Protests targeting the financial system spread like brush fires on every continent. Millions demanded control of financial markets and policies to combat the growing divide between rich and poor. What kind of movements are these? Who are the activists, what are their goals, and prospects for success? What are the chances of curtailing the international finance system?

Wolfgang Kraushaar is a research fellow at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research and has been a visiting professor at universities in Berlin, Beijing, and Zürich. Protest movements in the Cold War era and leftist terrorism since 1945 are the main themes of his research and many book publications.
Wolfgang Kraushaar / Karin Wieland / Jan Philipp Reemtsma

Rudi Dutschke, Andreas Baader and the RAF

- Ninth place, Best Non-fiction Books (Börsenblatt / Buchjournal / NDR/SZ)
- Recommended by the editors of the weekly newspaper Die Zeit

These essays re-examine Rudi Dutschke and Andreas Baader, two charismatic leaders of Germany’s left—one seemingly the embodiment of a »new morality«, the other a personification of infernal evil. Their common ground—admiration for the guerrillero, an affinity to violence, a commitment to escalation—are a key to understanding the history of Germany’s post-1945 left—and leftist terrorism.

»... readers who are seriously interested in violence as an issue in the years of the student movement should read this volume ...« —Arno Widmann, Die Tageszeitung
»... an incisive polemic ...« —Gerd Koenen, Die Zeit

Wolfgang Kraushaar, political scientist, Hamburg Institute for Social Research; Karin Wieland, political scientist, Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture; Jan Philipp Reemtsma, director, Hamburg Institute for Social Research and professor of German literature.

Klaus Holz

Islamist, Democratic, and Anti-Zionist Anti-Semitism

»This is a small volume but one of considerable argumentative weight.« —Rainer Erb, Das Parlament

Klaus Holz analyses the activities, motivations and rhetoric of different anti-Semitic groups as they have recently emerged in various milieus, from European neo-Nazis to Islamic terrorists. In all these contexts, manifestations of Anti-Semitism show an increasing structural and ideological affinity. Muslims and Christians, Arabs and Europeans of all political convictions meet in today’s anti-Semitism.

»There is currently no better condensed account on this issue.« —Terz, Stattzeitung für Politik und Kultur in Düsseldorf und Umgebung

Klaus Holz, a sociologist, was a lecturer and researcher at the Universities of Freiburg and Leipzig and the Economic University of Vienna; he now heads the Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst.
Gerd Hankel
Limits to Killing in Today’s Wars

»Rather than just making appeals, Hankel offers concrete suggestions that are down-to-earth ... deals with abstract issues of international law but with numerous examples that make the problems understandable for laypeople.« —Annette Wilmes, Deutschlandradio Kultur

Today’s wars differ fundamentally from those fought when the Hague and Geneva Conventions defined the limits of war. These codes of war fail to deal adequately with the impacts of complex conflicts, especially with the growing number of civilians killed, further undermining acceptance of international interventions and agreements. Hankel analyzes key areas in which revisions are urgently needed and outlines how they can be implemented internationally.

»... Hankel’s small memorandum is a highly topical text.« —Alexandra Kemmerer, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Gerd Hankel is a scholar of legal affairs with the Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Research and Culture. His work centers on war crimes, mass violence, and national and international law.

Klaus Naumann
Mission without a Goal?
Why the Military Needs Politics

Second place, Best Non-Fiction Book (Börsenblatt/Buchjournal/NDR/SZ)

A factual and highly-readable analysis of why Germany’s political class has failed to come to terms with the transition from a policy of »defense« to one aimed at achieving »security«. It outlines how political and military structures must be re-aligned and citizens obliged to contribute to a secure future.

»This book is not a cool survey of military policy and strategic thought in Germany, it is a wake-up call ... Whoever has the slightest sense of what goes on in Berlin will agree with Naumann’s most important critique ... « —Herfried Münkler, Die Welt

»This book is so handy that it will fit into the pocket of every parliamentarian. And that is exactly where it should be ... succeed[s] in doing something that seldom occurs with political books: Naumann has not only analyzed a problem precisely, he has supplied a roadmap for dealing with it.« —Thomas Speckmann, Die Zeit

Klaus Naumann is a historian at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research; who works on the politics of memory and relations between society and the military.
Jan Philipp Reemtsma
Torture in Constitutional States?

»Jan Philipp Reemtsma observes our society with great precision. He has chosen the right moment to write a lucid book that challenges the erosion of fundamental legal norms.«
—Peter Wien, arte

Jan Philipp Reemtsma argues that modern societies’ unambiguous and unequivocal rejection of torture cannot be abandoned without severely damaging and endangering our legal tradition.

»Those who want to understand why a transformation ... of German attitudes on legal issues is perhaps taking place before our eyes will gain much from reading this book.«
—Horst Meier, Literatur

Jan Philipp Reemtsma is founder and director of the Hamburg Institute for Social Research and the Arno Schmidt Foundation and a professor of German literature at the University of Hamburg.

Jens Hacke
The Federal Republic of Germany as an Idea:
Reflections on the Need to Justify a Political Order

With his smoothly written essays, Hacke takes up political debates on the history of the German Federal Republic ... This slim volume offers a fascinating read«
—Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft

West Germany’s success story and its narrative of identity were long perceived as mere by-products of its prospering economy; the post-1945 republic has even been called the «country without an idea». Hacke’s analysis offers an overdue revision. The economic boom fostered not only a stable social order but also specific political ideas, while protest movements triggered open-ended political debates.

»... sets a noteworthy and strong accent ... For Hacke has indeed understood that ideas make policies.«
—Thomas Meyer, Frankfurter Rundschau

Jens Hacke is a political scientist at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research and lecturer at the Institute for Political Science, University of Hamburg.
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2018: Italian, Massari Editore

Catherine Colliot-Thélène
Democracy and Subjective Rights: Democracy without Demos
Demokratie ohne Volk

2017: World English, ECPR Press
2017: French, Presses Universitaires de France

Gudrun Schwarz
A Woman at His Side: Wives in the »SS-Sippengemeinschaft«
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2016: Polish, Prószyński Media

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Gesellschaft der Angst

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2017: Spanish, Herder Editorial
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