Norbert Mappes-Niediek

Poor Roma, Evil Gypsies
Are the prejudices based on fact?

Why can’t the Roma in Eastern Europe find a way out of their misery? Norbert Mappes-Niediek offers the first thorough analysis of European Roma policy.

Why can’t the Roma in Eastern Europe find a way out of their misery? Are they poor because they are discriminated against, or discriminated against because they are poor? Are they work-shy, criminal and possibly less intelligent than others? These are the questions that are asked, though seldom openly. The answer: “Typical Gypsy.”

The veteran Balkan correspondent Norbert Mappes-Niediek checks the facts and comes to some surprising conclusions. He also presents a fundamental critique of Europe’s Roma policy and the “Gypsy industry” it fosters, while pointing out alternatives.

“The best thing would probably be to just forget about everything we think we know about the Roma and read this book, which idealizes nothing while explaining many things in a plausible way – and is well-written to boot.”

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Norbert Mappes-Niediek

Born in 1953; has lived since 1992 in Styria, Austria as a freelance correspondent for Austria and Southeast Europe.

Books published by Ch. Links Verlag:
Balkan Mafia. States in the Hands of Crime – A Threat to Europe, 2003;
Decoding Hitler’s secret service

Foreign Armies East, the General Staff department operating under Reinhard Gehlen as of April 1942, was the core of Hitler’s military intelligence on the Eastern front. The organization was professional and reliable. But on the strategic level its work revealed some major flaws. It had little knowledge of production figures in the Soviet armaments industry, of military-policy objectives and the concrete offensive plans of the Red Army.

Reinhard Gehlen was given the task of building up a new foreign secret service in the newly founded Federal Republic, an organization which later became the Federal Intelligence Service (BND).

Magnus Pahl’s work offers the first comprehensive overview of the structure, staff and working methods of Foreign Armies East.

Magnus Pahl

Born in 1975; Studied history at the Bundeswehr University in Hamburg; received his Ph.D. in 2011 with this work, his dissertation; occasional research assistant at the Military History Research Institute (MGFA) in Potsdam; currently a department director at the Bundeswehr Military History Museum in Dresden.
Thomas Kunze

Head of State, Ret’d

The Final Years of Erich Honecker

The Rapid Fall of the Most Powerful Man in the GDR

In October 1989, Erich Honecker was overthrown during a dramatic session of the SED Politbüro. Three weeks later the Wall came down, ushering in the demise of the GDR. This one-time most powerful man of East Germany suffered a hard fall. His final years were spent in a parsonage, in embassies, hospitals and prisons. Honecker sought asylum in Moscow and in Santiago de Chile. When he died in 1994 in Chile, his wife Margot did not have his remains interred. The urn is still in her apartment to this day, waiting for its final resting place in Germany.

Thomas Kunze depicts Erich Honecker’s dramatic life between his fall from power and his death. He has compiled a surprising amount of facts and documents as well as talking to a host of protagonists active back then. The result is a vivid portrait of the stormy years of transition following the peaceful revolution.

“Thomas Kunze has written a gripping work of history.”

Süddeutsche Zeitung

“A detailed portrayal, loaded with sometimes unknown facts.”

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

“A gem of recent German historiography!”

Leipziger Volkszeitung

Thomas Kunze

Born in 1963; studied history, German and education at the universities of Jena and Leipzig, Dr. phil.; since 2010 regional commissioner of the Conrad Adenauer Foundation for Central Asia in Tashkent.

PETER SEBALD

The German Colony of Togo 1884–1914
The Aftermath of Foreign Rule

What really happened in the “model colony”

Togo was the smallest of four German colonies in Africa but was considered a “model colony,” being the only one to turn a profit. This success story went hand in hand with violent punitive measures; corporal punishment was the order of the day for Africans living there, whose living spaces were intersected by arbitrarily drawn borders.

Peter Sebald, who has been researching the history of this West African country for more than 50 years now, offers a comprehensive overview of the entire history of the German colony, from the first hoisting of the flag in 1884 to its demise in the three-week war of 1914. The key areas of life and rule are presented in the process, from administration to the economy and education, as well as missionaries, offering both a contemporary German and a Togolese perspective.

Accessible overview from the top expert in the field

Rare historical photos

Peter Sebald
Born in 1934; Dr. phil.; Studied world history in Leipzig; 1978–91 research assistant at the Academy of Sciences of the GDR in Berlin; since 1990 yearly research trips to Togo, instructor at Lomé University. Numerous publications on the German colonial history of Togo, including his 800-page magnum opus Togo, 1884–1914. A History of the German Model Colony Based on Official Sources. Berlin 1988.
Legends and reality – A study of the military commitment of the GDR in the “Third World”

Whereas the military activities of the GDR in the “Third World” attracted a great deal of attention in the West, even giving rise to speculations that Honecker had raised a “Red Afrikakorps” in the 1980s, in the East they were kept top secret until the end of SED rule. Even afterwards, the question long remained unanswered as to whether the National People’s Army (NVA) had actually been deployed in Africa with thousands, even tens of thousands of troops.

This book debunks the legends and, with the help of extensive archival research and witness interviews, offers some surprising answers. It provides in-depth analyses of the training of foreign military personnel by the NVA and of East German arms supplies to the “Third World.”

A special chapter includes three case studies about the cooperation with Egypt, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

Klaus Storkmann

Officer training; 1997–2001 studied history, social sciences and political science in Hamburg and Connecticut; troop and staff assignments at home and abroad; 2007–11 research assistant at the Military History Research Institute (MGFA) in Potsdam; 2010 Ph.D. in Hamburg; since 2011 MGFA research assistant at the Freiburg Military Archive Department of the German Federal Archives.
Ed Stuhler

The Kremlin Aviator
Mathias Rust and his air adventure

How a youthful prank embarrassed a superpower

On May 28, 1987 nineteen-year-old Mathias Rust from the town of Wedel near Hamburg lands his sports plane on Red Square in Moscow. The entire air-defense system of the Eastern military alliance proves helpless. A global power is ridiculed. Mikhail Gorbachev uses the opportunity to replace his military command. Rust’s stunt helped break decades of rule by old hardliners, end the war in Afghanistan, lower armament expenditures, and give Soviet allies more room for maneuver.

Twenty-five years after this curious incident, an ARD television documentary and the accompanying book by Ed Stuhler reconstruct the historical consequences of this airborne adventure. Interviews with: Mathias Rust, the former West German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the head of the West German Federal Intelligence Service Hans-Georg Wieck, Soviet military officers and the writer Wladimir Kaminer.

Ed Stuhler
Born in 1945; 1965–68 degree in chemical engineering in Magdeburg; 1973–78 degree in cultural studies and literature at Humboldt University in Berlin; as of 1976 editor at the “Haus für Kulturarbeit” in Berlin; since 1979 freelance writer. Numerous publications including Margot Honecker – A Biography (Vienna 2003); The Final Months of the GDR (Berlin 2010).
Lars Hellwinkel

Hitler’s Gateway to the Atlantic
German military bases in France, 1940 – 1945

Nazi megalomania on France’s Atlantic coast – the political history of gigantic submarine pens in Brest, Lorient, Saint Nazaire, La Pallice and Bordeaux.

The Wehrmacht overran France in May and June 1940, fulfilling the German Navy’s dream of access to the Atlantic. In Brest, Lorient, St. Nazaire, La Pallice and Bordeaux they converted the existing ports into bases. Forty-five thousand workers of the Todt Organization built monumental bunkers there in which up to 20 submarines could be serviced and repaired simultaneously.

The bunkers were so massive – in Brest alone it was 330 meters wide and 190 meters long, with six-meter-thick concrete ceilings – that they withstood Allied bombings virtually unscathed while the cities around them were laid to ruin.

Naval historian Lars Hellwinkel tells the history of these bases – from their construction in 1940 to their downfall in 1944-45, as well as their subsequent use. He is the first to focus on the ambivalent relationship between the French population and the Germans, including both collaboration on the part of local shipyards and the French Navy as well as resistance to the occupying power.

Lars Hellwinkel

Born in 1974; Studied French and history in Brest and Kiel; 2003–06 fellow of the Centre d’Études d’Histoire de la Défense (CEHD) and the German Historical Institute in Paris; 2006 Ph.D.; 2008–09 research assistance at the Kiel Maritime Museum; since 2009 teacher at the Athenaeum Gymnasium in Stade. Numerous publications on military topics, most recently: The German Navy Base in Brest (Bochum 2010).
Wolfgang Klietz

Baltic Sea Ferries During the Cold War
Secret military transports of the Soviet Army

The first comprehensive documentation of the giant train ferries and the exciting story of the ferry port Mukran near Sassnitz.

Between 1982 and 1986, the largest transport project of the GDR was carried out in Sassnitz on the island of Rügen. Thousands of workers and hundreds of construction soldiers built a four-kilometer-long ferry port with 120 kilometers of railroad tracks costing a total of two billion marks. Five giant double-decker ferries with wide-gauge tracks henceforth handled a large portion of the freight traffic between the GDR and the Soviet Union, thus circumventing more time-consuming and costly transport through Poland. At the same time it enabled dangerous military goods to be transported across the Baltic Sea, unseen by third parties. Inside, the ferries had secret quarters for 300 soldiers.

Wolfgang Klietz offers a vivid documentation of this ferry traffic during the Cold War, illuminating the political backdrop as well as the surveillance activities of secret services and plans for similar connections to Lübeck and Kiel.

Wolfgang Klietz

Born in 1963; Degree in political science, history and literature from Christian Albrecht University in Kiel; freelance journalist at NDR, Holsteinischer Courier, and since 1989 editor at the Hamburger Abendblatt; since 1991 numerous trips to Lithuania via the ferry port of Mukran; lives with his family in Hamburg.
Unfulfilled Desire
When the wish to have children causes us distress

A stirring, profound and sensitive guidebook for all those driven by the desire to have children

At the age of 32, Millay Hyatt learns that she will never have children. But her longing is intense. So intense that it becomes an all-consuming desire, leading her and her husband to doctors, healers and adoption seminars. They refuse to give up.

Millions of people share the same fate – whether due to infertility, the absence of or a reluctant partner, or homosexuality. Many of them exceed their physical, emotional and financial limits to try and satisfy their desire for a child. While reproductive medicine is making steady advances, the desperation of those affected largely remains invisible. What is it that drives these people? How do they deal with the burden?

Millay Hyatt asks herself and many others, and analyzes the system behind it. A stirring, sensitive guidebook!

“Millay Hyatt cleverly investigates the question of how our unfulfilled desire for children can change our lives. A question that seemingly only affects a minority but is one that concerns us all.”

Stilbruch, the cultural supplement of Berlin-Brandenburg Broadcasting (RBB)

“A clever, philosophical book that goes well beyond her own affliction and gives ample space to the process of grieving...”

Berliner Zeitung
Lifeworlds at Ch. Links Verlag

The “Lifeworlds” series deals with the social and psychological impact of modern life on human beings. The varied experiences of individuals are interwoven with expert knowledge and practical guides to help. More than mere self-help books, they reveal the multitude of lifeworlds in varied social settings and environments and provide answers to specific problems in life.

Adelheid Müller-Lissner

 Forgiveness
How to forgive yourself and others
184 pages, published: April 2011

Adelheid Müller-Lissner’s book sheds light on the chances and obstacles of forgiving – not only in relationships, but in all areas of life.

Bettina von Kleist

 The Year After
When couples break up
256 pages, published: April 2011

A new beginning – Bettina von Kleist offers an intelligent guidebook for the first year after separation, when nothing is the way it used to be and many decisions need to be made.

Eric Breitinger

 Familiar Strangers
Adoptees speak
208 pages, published: October 2011

What do you do when your biological parents remain strangers? Eric Breitinger lends a voice to adoptees whose search for their parents has led to disappointment. This book is meant to encourage and to help make adoption an option.
Censorship in East Germany was abolished on December 1, 1989. This was the green light for Christoph Links, an employee at East German publishing house Aufbau Verlag at the time, to establish an independent non-fiction publishing company for politics and contemporary history. Since then he has brought out about 600 titles, his three-man staff has grown to ten, while the subject matter of his books, invariably weighing in on current events, has likewise expanded. Literary journalism, country studies, self-help, historical travel guides, coffee-tables books with accompanying texts on distinctive locations in German history, books about German colonial history, also e-books can be found in his publisher’s catalog.


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