

Ch. Links Verlag

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Autumn 2018

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Michael Sontheimer / Peter Wensierski

Berlin – City of Revolts



“If you don’t fight, you’re not living right.” This is what it says on the crumbling façade of a building in the Kreuzberg borough of Berlin. Berlin is a city that is filled with places that were once the scenes of varied revolts: the student movement in the West, dissidents in the East, and the squatters, punks and pirate-radio operators in both parts of the city. The resistance movements in divided Berlin were quite varied, since they were fighting against two fundamentally different systems. But the motivations and courageousness of these mostly youthful rebels had something in common too, revolting as they were against outdated hierarchies and authorities.

Michael Sontheimer and Peter Wensierski, both long-time residents of Berlin, have drawn a map of the many revolts in their city. They give contemporary witnesses their say, offer a wealth of photos, and invite the reader on a walk through Berlin.

You only see what you know.

448 pages, 79 illustrations

ISBN 978-3-86153-988-9

Released in March 2018

Michael Sontheimer

Born in 1955, studied history at the Free University of Berlin and was a founding member of the *tageszeitung (taz)* newspaper; editor and author for *Die Zeit* in the 1980s, and since 1995 for *Spiegel* magazine.

Peter Wensierski

Born in 1954, began reporting in 1979 as a travel correspondent for various media outlets in the GDR; from 1986 to 1993 TV journalist for *ARD*, since then at *Spiegel* magazine.

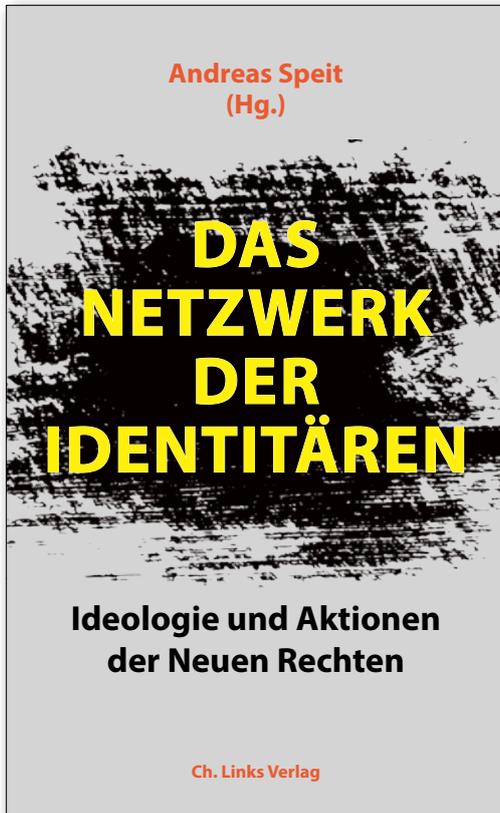
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Andreas Speit (ed.)

The Identitarian Network

New Right Ideology and Activism



ca. 220 pages
ISBN 978-3-96289-008-7
Release in October 2018

Andreas Speit

Born in 1966, degree in social economics, freelance journalist and publicist, columnist at *taz*, regular contributions to *Freitag*, *Blick nach rechts* and *jungle world*; author and editor of various books on the subject of right-wing extremism, including several with Andrea Röpke; his most recent publication with Ch. Links Verlag is *Reich Citizens: The Underestimated Peril* (2017).

Their banner was hanging at Brandenburger Tor. Their black and yellow logo, the Greek letter lambda, is conspicuously displayed at websites. In recent years the identitarian movement has become firmly anchored in the political landscape. It consists of only around 500 activists, but has a large group of followers supporting it financially via crowdfunding. The movement has managed through its social networks to launch discussions and fuel debates. Its main concern is the “Islamization of the West.”

The movement originated in France in 2012 and quickly spread to Austria and Germany. The entire New Right has welcomed these intelligent young people who draw attention to themselves using forms of political activism similar those of the protest movement of '68. They have meanwhile established excellent relations with the far-right Alternative for Germany party.

Fifteen authors who for many years have followed developments in the right-wing scene now present an accessible overview, depicting the movement's development, analyzing its ideology, describing its forms of activism and exposing its networks. A special chapter is concerned with its activities in Eastern Europe.

Susanne Dohrn

The End of Nature

Agriculture and silent death on our doorstep



272 pp.

ISBN 978-3-86153-960-5

Release in August 2017

Germany's countryside is fine, right? And we Germans are model environmentalists? Far from it! A dramatic extinction of species is underway in our neck of the woods. Countless meadow plants, crop varieties, insects and birds were something we completely took for granted until just a few decades ago. Nowadays many of them are endangered, if they haven't vanished already. The more farmers engage in big agriculture, the more our species-rich meadowlands and pastures are degenerating into intensive grasslands and the more our diverse farmlands are turning into industrially managed monocultures. Politics, instead of putting a check on these developments, only seems to be making the situation worse. Hence, in many places, modern agriculture is essentially becoming the gravedigger of biodiversity.

Susanne Dohrn shows this silent but drastic loss taking place right on our doorstep, impressively describing endangered biospheres and the lifeforms that make their home there. She points out key actors in politics, industry and the world of lobbying, and provides some illustrative examples of more nature-friendly farming practices.

Susanne Dohrn

Born in 1955, Dr. phil.; freelance journalist, publicist and editor; since 2013 city councilor of Tornesch in Schleswig-Holstein.

www.susanne-dohrn.de

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Eckhard John

Brothers, to the Sun, to Freedom

The Incredible History of a Revolutionary Song



When the thrones were toppled in Germany in 1918 it was a revolution without music – because Germany, at that point, did not have any well-known revolutionary songs. A melody from the Russian workers’ movement filled this void in the 1920s and became the anthem of German socialists, “Brothers, to the Sun, to Freedom”, and many others, like England: “Workers unite for the battle“.

Eckhard John depicts how the song came into existence and became an international phenomenon, how it was used by the Nazis as well as by the resistance. Originally an opposition song critical of society, in the socialist camp it became the hymn of the ruling state powers. This mutability reflects the history of the political song during the twentieth century, which John outlines by way of this example.

208 pages, 30 illustrations

ISBN 978-3-96289-016-2

Released in July 2018

Eckhard John

Born in 1959, musicologist at the Center for Popular Culture and Music of Freiburg University; previously a research assistant at the German Folk Song Archive (2000–14). His research interests includes German–Russian musical history; he is a founding editor of the *Historisch-kritisches Liederlexikon* (www.liederlexikon.de) encyclopedia.

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Kristina Volke

Heisig Paints Schmidt

A German Story of Art and Politics



In 1986, four years after the end of his chancellorship, Helmut Schmidt traveled to the GDR to have his portrait painted for the Bonn chancellors' gallery. His mostly secret studio visits to Leipzig artist Bernhard Heisig were minutely monitored by the Stasi. Schmidt's choice of artist was a source of irritation at the Federal Chancellery, Heisig being considered a "state artist" and "cultural poster boy" of communist East Germany. But Schmidt's decision reinforced his conviction that art can sometimes set a better example than politics.

Kristina Volke reconstructs the events surrounding the chancellor portrait and discovers the affinity between two men whose paths through life could not have been more different.

ca. 220 pages, numerous mostly color illustrations

ISBN 978-3-96289-015-5

Release in October 2018

Kristina Volke

Born in 1972, degree in art history and cultural studies in Berlin, 2004–07 research assistant at the "Culture in Germany" Commission of Inquiry of the Federal Bundestag, since 2007 advisor and deputy curator of the German Bundestag art collection, numerous publications on the transformation of art and culture in East Germany and the connection between culture and politics, including (with Ch. Links Verlag): *Inventing the Future: Creative Projects in Eastern Germany* (2009).

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Martin Sabrow / Susanne Schattenberg (eds.)

The Last General Secretaries

Communist rule in late socialism



How was power exercised and what forms did authority take at a time when communism had lost its claim to stand for the better tomorrow?

The essays on Leonid Breschnew, Michail S. Gorbačev, Edward Gierek, Wojciech Jaruzelski, Erich Honecker, Gustáv Husák, János Kádár, Nicolae Ceaușescu, Josip Broz Tito and Todor Schiwkow examine the cultural and milieu-specific influences of these last general secretaries, inquiring into their social and generational characteristics while addressing the styles of governance and the rituals of rule during the era of real socialism.

ca. 304 pages, ca. 25 illustrations

ISBN 978-3-96289-028-5

Release in December 2018

Martin Sabrow

Professor of recent and contemporary history at Humboldt University in Berlin and director of the Center for Contemporary History in Potsdam; recent publications include: *Erich Honecker: His Life Before, 1912–45* (Munich 2016).

Susanne Schattenberg

Professor of contemporary history and the culture of Eastern Europe at the University of Bremen and director of Eastern European studies; recent publications include: *Leonid Brezhnev: Statesman and Actor in the Shadow of Stalin: A Biography* (Cologne 2017).

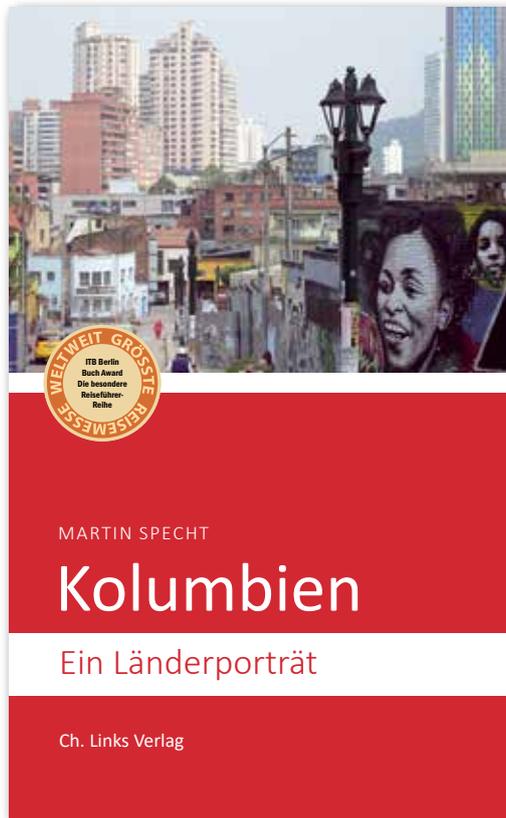
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Martin Specht

Colombia

A country portrait



ca. 200 pages, 1 map
 ISBN 978-3-96289-018-6
 Release in September 2018

Martin Specht

Born in 1964, works as a journalist. As a reporter he has covered the collapse of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, civil wars in the Balkans and Africa, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. His commentaries have been published around the world. He first traveled to Colombia to research his book *Narco Wars* (2016), and now spends most of his time there.

Colombia is a land full of contrasts: drug wars and joyful living, natural beauty and environmental destruction, impenetrable jungles and cities that are home to millions. Fifty million people live in this country on the coast of the Caribbean and the Pacific between the Andes and the Amazon. One of the oldest democracies in Latin America, it is hoping for a stable peacetime transition after half a century of civil war. Yet poverty, crime and corruption are still major challenges in politics and society.

Simón Bolívar, Gabriel García Márquez, FARC and a state president awarded the Nobel Peace Prize – Martin Specht relates the country's turbulent history as well as its exciting present and explains why so many colombians are struggling with the peace process that has dominated the presidential election in May 2018. He also honors the particular resilience of its people in the face of everyday problems.

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Publications of the Independent Commission of Historians for the Investigation of the History of the Federal Intelligence Service.

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Christoph Rass: **The Social Profile of the Federal Intelligence Service**

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Wolfgang Krieger (Hg.): **The BND's Operations Abroad**

With essays by Andreas Hilger, Tilman Lüdke, Holger M. Meding et al. • [Vol 13](#)

Klaus-Dietmar Henke: **Secret Services: Domestic Political Surveillance by the Gehlen Organization 1953 – 1963** • [Vol 14](#)

Thomas Wolf

The Origins of the BND

Structure, Financing, Oversight



The roots of the BND – the West German Federal Intelligence Service – go back to the postwar years, when Wehrmacht General, ret., Reinhard Gehlen set up an intelligence agency with the help of the U.S. Army and the C.I.A. The apparatus he built up, however, defied all criteria of rational organization. He employed a range of dubious and unsuitable individuals and was even engaged in the black market. To make matters worse, he massively influenced the West German architecture of security behind the scenes, becoming a factor in domestic politics with no accountability to anyone. Thomas Wolf uses previously inaccessible documents to offer a precise picture of the staff and financing of the BND, depicting its activities at home and abroad until the end of the Adenauer era.

ca. 500 pp.

ISBN 978-3-96289-022-3

Release in October 2018

Thomas Wolf

Born in 1985, studied history, political science, sociology, philosophy and education at Dresden University of Technology, conducted seminars, e.g., at the Free University of Berlin and the University of Potsdam, since 2012 research assistant with the Independent Commission of Historians for the Investigation of the History of the Federal Intelligence Service.

Klaus-Dietmar Henke

Secret Services

Domestic political surveillance by the Gehlen Organization, 1946–53



From the very beginning, the Gehlen Organization was supposed to be a foreign intelligence service. And yet it was almost equally involved in domestic surveillance – the purview of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution founded four years later. Reinhard Gehlen illegally spied on and influenced opposition circles in West Germany in order to safeguard the policies of Chancellor Adenauer. He even went so far as to engage in character assassination against any individual whose thinking did not conform to the worldview of his authoritarian-conservative clique in Pullach. Using previously inaccessible files, Klaus-Dietmar Henke shows how this domestic spying, passed off as “counterintelligence,” spiraled out of control and eluded democratic oversight.

ca. 850 pp.

ISBN 978-3-96289-023-0

Release in October 2018

Klaus-Dietmar Henke

Born in 1947, studied modern history and political science in Munich, 1979–92 research assistant at the Institute of Contemporary History, 1992–96 director of the Education and Research Department of the Federal Commissioner for the Stasi Archives (BStU), 1997–2001 director of the Hannah Arendt Institute for Research on Totalitarianism, 1997–2012 professor of contemporary history at Dresden University of Technology, since 2011 spokesman of the Independent Commission of Historians for the Investigation of the History of the Federal Intelligence Service.

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Ronny Heidenreich

The BND's East German Intel

From Its Founding to the Construction of the Wall



The gathering of intelligence on the GDR was generally considered the showpiece of the Federal Intelligence Service (BND). But the files, now evaluated in detail for the very first time, show to what extent these claims diverged from reality. After a brief pinnacle, the BND's East German reconnaissance actually lagged far behind that of other Western and West German services – even before the Wall was built. What's more, the KGB managed to manipulate BND reporting to the Federal government at a number of key points.

Ronny Heidenreich investigates the practice and performance of intelligence gathering on the GDR, showing how the BND hid its weakness from the public and even from its own employees by orchestrating an image of success.

ca. 650 pp.

ISBN 978-3-96289-024-7

Release in November 2018

Ronny Heidenreich

Born in 1980, studied modern and recent history, political science and East European studies in Leipzig and Berlin; 2007–09 employed at the Federal Foundation for the Reappraisal of the SED Dictatorship; 2009–11 research assistant at the Berlin Wall Memorial; since 2011 research assistant with the Independent Commission of Historians for the Investigation of the History of the Federal Intelligence Service.

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“Ch. Links Verlag – a trusted name in the German publishing industry.” *Die Welt*



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 900 titles, his three-man staff has grown to twelve, 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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