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"The day before she died, Simone called me.
I remember it very well because I had no time."

Berlin in the mid-eighties. Two young women growing up in the East of the city. Two friends partying and travelling and falling in love. Then the wall comes down and their lives change at breakneck speed. Simone travels the world; Anja has a baby, gets married, starts to work. They drift apart, but never lose sight of one another—until the day when Simone goes forever, and Anja is left behind.

Who was Simone? How can someone be so in love with life and yet end up being broken by it? In her search for answers, the author travels back in time—to her own past and that of her friend. She talks to family, friends and experts; reads letters, diaries and other documents. The result is a book of personal detective work that is both moving and insightful. A story of an extraordinary friendship between two women in a time of upheaval.

Anja Reich-Osang is a Berlin-born author and journalist who has written for the *Berliner Zeitung* since 1996, working as New York correspondent from 2001 until 2006 and Tel Aviv correspondent from 2018 until 2020. She has been awarded the German Reporter Prize and the Theodor Wolff Prize for her journalism. Her latest book to be published by Aufbau was *Getauschte Heimat: Ein Jahr zwischen Berlin und Tel Aviv* ('Swapping Homelands: A Year Between Berlin and Tel Aviv'), co-authored with Yael Nachshon Levin. She lives in Berlin.



Anja Reich
Simone
Memoir. 304 pages
Aufbau. Hardcover
2023, August
English sample translation available

"A heartbreaking and deeply personal story." DIE ZEIT

„A portrait of society during and after the years of the German reunification” LEIPZIGER VOLKSZEITUNG

“A very personal book with journalistic elements [...] both the time before and after the fall of the Wall [...] come alive once again.” MÄRKISCHE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

Russia's wavering power structure

Sabine Adler witnessed Putin's inauguration in 1999 as a correspondent in Moscow – and how the new Kremlin chief waged a cruel war in Chechnya while the West welcomed him as a potential partner. Putin is currently waging war again, he has passed his peak as head of state, and his country is largely isolated. Censorship and repression have been on the rise in Russia for years. Few people know the true state of Russian society and its leadership, because information on the subject is systematically oppressed.

The Deutschlandfunk expert on Eastern Europe has years of insight into Putin's dictatorial state, more than almost anyone else. Is the Kremlin leader's power on the wane? Who are the new political, military, and economic players? What do Russians think of their country? Is there reason for hope, or is the nation drifting into the abyss?

Sabine Adler takes a look at one of the most influential, but also most unscrupulous global players, and assesses current developments in Russia and Eastern Europe as a critical reporter for a large audience.

Sabine Adler is a long-standing expert on Eastern Europe at *Deutschlandfunk*. She reported from Moscow for many years, was head of the capital city studio in Berlin and correspondent in the Warsaw studio with a focus on Poland, Belarus, the Baltic countries, and Ukraine. During the events of the Maidan Uprising, she reported from Kiev. She also reported on the war in Eastern Ukraine and, since February 2022, on the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. She has received numerous awards for her work, including "Political Journalist of the Year." Her book *Ukraine and Us* became a *Spiegel* Bestseller.



Sabine Adler

**What Will Become of Russia?
A Nation Amidst War and Self-Destruction**

Non-Fiction. 336 pages

Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover

2024, February

"Adler's judgment is clever and razor-sharp." SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

"One can rely on Sabine Adler's political analyses." ZDF

"Hardly anyone explains the events in Russia and Ukraine as precisely and as personally as Sabine Adler." STEPHAN LAMBLY, in a laudatory speech for Political Journalist of the Year 2023

Why the Balkans are pivotal for the future of Europe

More than a hundred years ago, the First World War broke out in the Western Balkans, as the Great Powers wanted to establish dominance in the region. Today, China is building roads in the Western Balkans, Russia is inciting nationalists, Turkey and the Gulf States are investing in mosques and hotels. They all see this as a way to exert influence in Europe. Is history repeating itself?

Florian Bieber, one of the top experts on the Balkans, depicts the explosive situation in the region. It is the setting of the new global conflict between the West and autocratic regimes. At the same time, stakeholders in the region are pursuing their own agenda. This book is a wake-up call for Europe to finally take action, because this region could determine Europe's future.

Florian Bieber, born in 1973, is considered one of the top experts on the Balkan countries. He is a professor of history and politics of Southeast Europe at the University of Graz and director of the Centre for Southeast European Studies. He has taught in the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Hungary, and he lived for more than five years in Belgrade and Sarajevo. So far, he has written six books in English and German on nationalism, the EU and on political developments in the Balkans. His analyses have appeared in several publications, including The New York Times, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Der Standard, Die Zeit, Die Presse and Politico. He regularly appears in national and international media.



Florian Bieber

**The Balkan Tinderbox
How Dictatorships Are Exerting
Influence in Europe**

Non-Fiction. 248 pages

Ch. Links Verlag. Quality Paperback

2023, October

"Florian Bieber is a true expert on the Balkans, artfully and knowledgeably providing us with insight into Europe's current crises. A very enlightening book!" JAGODA MARINIĆ

"Bieber confidently deconstructs pseudo-historical myths and half-truths." FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG

"an equally explosive and relevant book about the current state of the region." SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN

"This book is an absolute must for anyone wanting to learn more about this part of Europe." MANUEL SARRAZIN, Federal Government Special Representative for the Countries of the Western Balkans

When conservation is prioritised over human rights

More and more natural areas around the world are being placed under protection. That sounds like an important contribution towards saving the planet. But millions of people live in these areas. In the Global South, the poorest of society are being deprived of much of their fertile farmland. Does biodiversity come at the expense of human rights?

Simone Schlindwein spent more than a year researching in Congo and Uganda. She reports on how national parks are being turned into fortresses and how highly equipped gamekeepers are increasingly using violence against indigenous people and local farmers. Western countries such as Germany are involved as donors, whose arms companies also profit from the militarisation of nature conservation. Yet there are African alternatives to Western concepts of protection. An eye-opening book.

Simone Schlindwein, born in 1980, is the *taz* newspaper's correspondent for the Great Lakes region: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Central African Republic and South Sudan. From 2006 to 2008 she was, among other things, Moscow correspondent for the news website *SPIEGEL*. For her work she has been awarded the journalism prize "Der lange Atem" and the Otto Brenner Prize. Her books include *Dictators: Europe's Bouncers* (with Christian Jakob) and *Congo Crime Scene* (with Dominic Johnson and Bianca Schmolze).



Simone Schlindwein
The Green War
How Nature in Africa Is Being Protected at the Expense of People – and How the West Is Involved

Non-Fiction. 256 pages
 Ch. Links Verlag. Quality Paperback
 2023, March

Nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Award

"Reads like a crime novel." NEUES DEUTSCHLAND

"Thorough and disarmingly fully of facts." SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

"What matters more, biodiversity or human rights? And how could both be thought together if local knowledge were taken into account? These are the questions Simone Schlindwein's book focuses on. Her extensive research on national parks in Congo and Uganda leads to uncomfortable insights. In doing so, she addresses the glorified image of Africa as well as the questionable funding policies of the Western world with equal commitment and knowledge." JURY STATEMENT, LEIPZIG BOOK FAIR AWARD

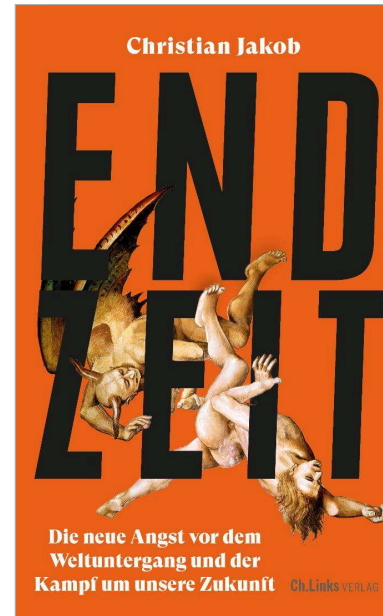
What do we do when more and more people are gripped by the fear of doom?

Climate change, pandemics, economic crises and now the threat of nuclear war: the crises are piling up and undermining our faith in our ability to shape the future. More and more people are convinced that the end is drawing near. In a global survey of young people, 56 percent said that humanity is doomed. Why is this fear suddenly so widespread? Why do some people remain capable of action while others feel powerless? And why do so many people underestimate the positive developments that exist despite everything? Politically speaking, this “doomism” is dangerous, and there are good arguments for believing in an open-ended future.

Christian Jakob, born in 1979, studied sociology, economics and philosophy in Bremen and Milan, and global studies in Berlin, Buenos Aires and Delhi. He has been an editor at *die tageszeitung* since 2006, starting out at *taz Nord* in Bremen, and has been working in the reporting and research department since 2014. In 2017, he was awarded the Otto Brenner Prize for critical journalism for his reporting.

"Christian Jakob makes a smart case for acknowledging the progress made in the present era." TAZ

"Even if Jakob does not have a magic formula for finding a way out of the climate crisis, his book succeeds in maintaining faith in a better future 'without denying the crisis-ridden nature of our times and depriving many people's fears of their justification.'" ANALYSE & KRITIK



Christian Jakob

End Times

The New Fear of the End of the World and the Battle for Our Future

Non-Fiction. 304 pages

Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover

2023, September

Recommended by New Books in German

English sample translation available

In a global analysis, Jakob dissects the mechanisms of end-time fear and shows ways to be hopeful in the face of accumulating crises.

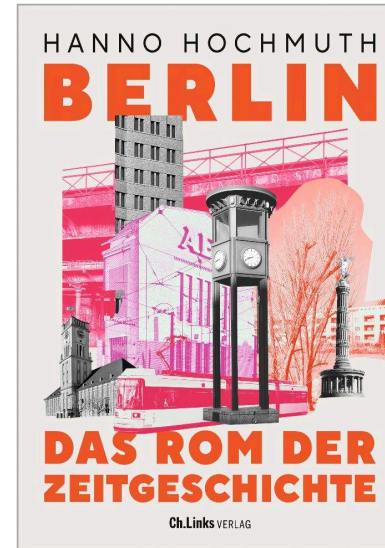
A topographical journey through 20th-century Berlin

The city of Berlin was all too often at the center of events in the 20th century. Berlin was, in turn, a democratic, a fascist, and a socialist capital city. From here, two world wars were carried out into the world, which backfired heavily upon the city. The Cold War came to a head in Berlin before reaching its symbolic end there. The city stood at the center of world history, much like Rome two thousand years ago, hence Berlin being considered the Rome of contemporary history.

Until the coronavirus pandemic, more and more tourists visited the city on the Spree every year. They come not only for Berlin's party scene, but also for its rich cultural and memorial landscape. Berlin's often fractured history in the 20th century has become a unique feature of the location. The Rome of contemporary history is part of the city's branding, but it is more than just a marketing term.

Hanno Hochmuth approaches Berlin's past and present in a topographical and photographic manner. Based on popular perceptions of the city, he visits 51 selected places of remembrance and tells the story of Berlin in the 20th century

Hanno Hochmuth, born in East Berlin in 1977, studied history in Berlin and Minneapolis and completed his doctorate at the Free University of Berlin. He is a historian at the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam (ZZF) and teaches Public History at the FU Berlin. His publications are on Berlin's contemporary history and public history, including *City History as Contemporary History – Berlin in the 20th Century* (ed. with Paul Nolte, Göttingen 2019), and *Dream and Trauma – The Occupation and Evacuation of Mainzer Straße in East Berlin in 1990* (co-edv., Berlin 2020).



Hanno Hochmuth

Berlin

The Rome of Modern History

Non-Fiction. 304 pages

Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover

2024, March

**With 50 contemporary photos
by the author**

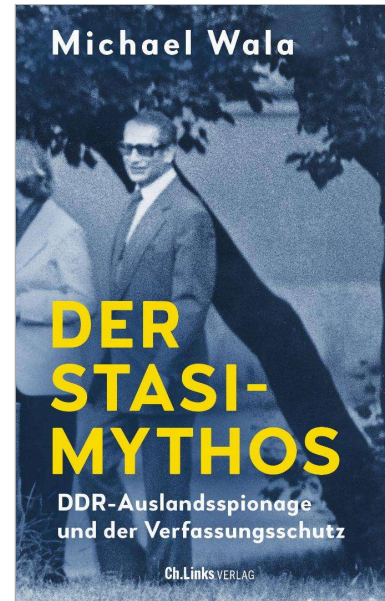
“Two thousand years ago the proudest boast was: ‘Civis romanus sum.’ Today, in the world of freedom, the proudest boast is: ‘Ich bin ein Berliner.’” JOHN F. KENNEDY, June 1963

Spies debunked

Was the GDR's foreign espionage department one of the best in the world? Were its employees all conspiracists who were unconditionally loyal to their nation even after its demise? Were the informers in the West all idealistic "scouts for peace"? To this day, many myths persist about the Stasi's department for espionage in West Germany, the HVA ("Hauptverwaltung A"). Former employees carefully perpetuate this image. So far, it has not been possible to independently verify these stories, as almost all relevant documents have been destroyed. But now the history of the German-German war of intelligence services must be rewritten.

Michael Wala was given exclusive, full and unrestricted access to the secret archives of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution's counterintelligence. His book reveals for the first time the methods the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution used to try to track down East German spies and the success they had in doing so. *The Stasi Myth* depicts a particularly fascinating chapter in the history of the Cold War, debunks numerous myths and is full of bizarre stories of the war of intelligence services on German soil.

Michael Wala, born in 1954, is a professor of North American history at Ruhr University in Bochum and one of the most distinguished news historians in Germany. His most recent publications include *No New Gestapo. The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Germany's Nazi Past* (with Constantin Goschler, 2015) and *Otto John. Patriot or Traitor: A German Biography* (with Benjamin Hett, 2019).



Michael Wala
**The Stasi Myth
East German Espionage
and Protecting the Constitution**
Non-Fiction. 352 pages
Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover
2023, October

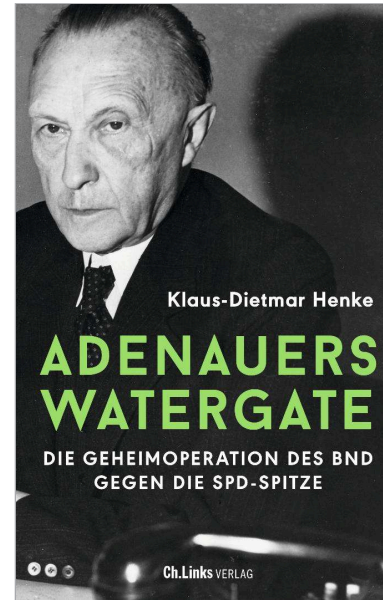
“Wala’s book is a must read not only for anyone interested in German history, but also for anyone interested in any of the world’s intelligence services. It tackles the deepest secrets of the Cold War, and its findings are as relevant today as they would have been 30 years ago.”
SHLOMO SHPIRO, expert on intelligence services, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan

How democratic was Konrad Adenauer?

The most blatant abuse of power in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany: for years, the leader of the Social Democratic Party was spied on by Germany's foreign intelligence service, the BND. The information obtained from this espionage was passed on to then Chancellor Konrad Adenauer (of the Christian Democratic Union), who used it against his political opponent and gained considerable advantages for his domestic and party politics. Adenauer was not only the founding chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, but as a highly esteemed statesman, he shaped an entire era. To this day, he enjoys widespread respect, despite the criticism of certain details. But Klaus-Dietmar Henke's revelations show that, to secure power, Adenauer resorted to dirty tricks throughout almost his entire chancellorship that overshadow anything else in West German history.

In *Adenauer's Watergate*, respected historian Klaus-Dieter Henke depicts for the first time his sensational revelations about Adenauer's instrumentalisation of the intelligence service for a wide audience beyond expert groups. From now on, the cracks in Adenauer's legacy will not be overlooked – a first-rate contemporary political thriller.

Klaus-Dietmar Henke, born in 1947, is a contemporary historian and, until 2022, was the spokesperson of the independent historical commission for research into the history of the German intelligence service. Before that, he was a research associate at the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich and the Department of Education and Research at the Stasi Records Archive in Berlin. From 1997 to 2012, he was a professor of contemporary history in Dresden. He is the author of numerous publications on 20th century German history.



Klaus-Dietmar Henke
Adenauer's Watergate
A Chancellor's Espionage Against
His Greatest Political Opponent

Non-Fiction. 288 pages
 Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover
 2023, August

"Konrad Adenauer won't be seen in the same light ever again." SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

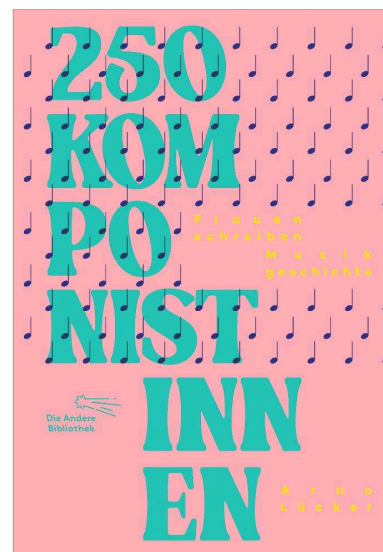
"A German Watergate" THE WASHINGTON POST

A musical voyage of discovery into the unknown and unheard

The world of classical music is attached to tradition more than any other art form or part of society. Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart, Verdi and Wagner dominate the stages of concert halls and opera houses. But why, even to this day, do women composers hardly appear on their repertoires? Most people interested in music know of Clara Schumann, Hildegard von Bingen and perhaps Fanny Hensel. But there are so many more! Arno Lücker has set out to bring the classical music business into the present day. For many years, he has been studying the lives and music of women composers. Most of them had to overcome numerous obstacles for their creative development. Compiled in this book are 250 women composers from all over the world and from many different centuries. In glittering short portraits, we are immersed in the lives of these women musicians, with one question always lingering: What does this unfamiliar music sound like? Arno Lücker opens our eyes and ears to the unheard.

Arno Lücker, born 1979 in Braunschweig, studied musicology and philosophy and works as a musicologist, music critic, pianist and composer. He has been editor of Opernwelt magazine since 2021. He also teaches musicology at the Philipps University of Marburg. Since 2019, he has been writing the much-acclaimed series of articles *250 Women Composers* for VAN Magazine, in which he portrays women musicians from all over the world and from all centuries – right up to the present day.

“How fortunate that all these creative women are finally being recognised. Arno Lücker deserves thanks and respect for bringing our attention to such great musicians.” ELKE HEIDENREICH



Arno Lücker
250 Composers
Women Who Wrote Music History
Non-Fiction. 648 pages
Die Andere Bibliothek. Hardcover
2023, November

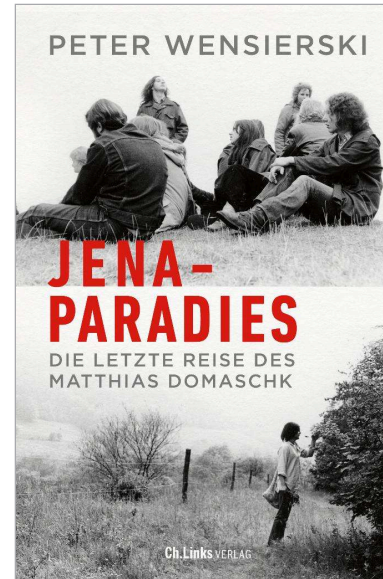
*An indispensable reference work
for music lovers and concertgoers*

A young generation in search of a free and self-determined life

Friday, 10 April 1981: In Jena, East Germany, 23-year-old Matthias Domaschk boards the express train to Berlin. He's on his way to a birthday party. But he never arrives, because the packed train is stopped in Jüterbog and Matthias and three other residents of Jena are arrested. Two days later, he lies dead in the visitors' room of the Stasi detention centre in Gera. What happened back then?

Peter Wensierski captivantly tells the story of a non-conformist young man and his adversaries in a totalitarian state, based on Matthias Domaschk's final days. He sheds light on how the police raid on a shared flat and the protest against Wolf Biermann's expatriation became turning points for the Jena scene. And he paints the picture of an increasingly politicised generation that went against their conformist parents and intolerant citizens, and who communicated politically and culturally across borders as early as the 1970's in search of an upstanding and self-determined life.

Peter Wensierski, born in 1954, is a documentary filmmaker and studied political science, history and journalism at the Freie Universität Berlin. From 1979 he reported as a journalist from the GDR and from 1986 to 1993 he was a television journalist for ARD and worked for various magazines. Wensierski has been awarded the German Film Award, the European Television Award and the German Cross of Merit. He has had several books published, including the bestsellers *The Forbidden Journey* (2014) and *The Incredible Ease of Revolution* (2017). *Berlin – The City of Revolt* (2018) was published by Ch. Links Verlag.



**BEST
SELLER**

Peter Wensierski
Paradise Station
The Last Journey of Matthias Domaschk
 Non-Fiction. 368 pages
 Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover
 2023, March

RIGHTS SOLD TO:
 USA, UK

Recommended by New Books in German
 English sample translation available

"Almost all the rebels and resistance fighters in humanity's eternal war of freedom ultimately remain nameless – whether a brave person's name was briefly on everyone's lips or can only be found on a list next to all those who were murdered. Matthias Domaschk is a good name, one which we will at least not forget." WOLF BIERMANN, SEPTEMBER 2022

"The concept of the book is on point. It is a great read. It is breathtaking. [...] Wensierski's book will be the benchmark for any future work on the subject." MDR KULTUR

"Wensierski's descriptions infuse his book with haunting authenticity." DIE WELT

"Meticulously and with great attention to detail, Wensierski depicts the hours of this case's protagonists between April 10 and 12, 1981." EVANGELISCHER PRESSEDIENST

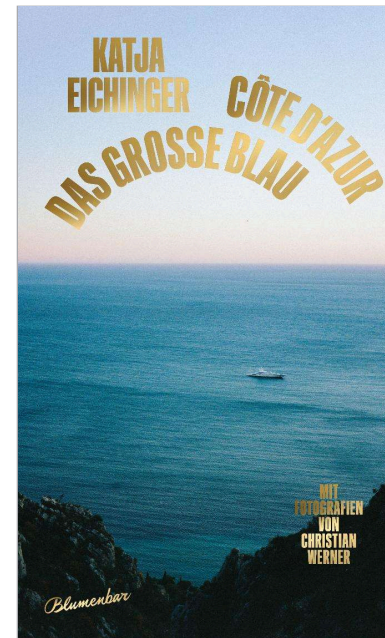
Dream destination Côte d'Azur – a sunny place for shady people

Ultramarine blue sea, white beach promenades, palm trees, mimosas, and one-of-a-kind light: the Côte d'Azur. Nowhere else is the density of stories, and the artists who have immortalized them, greater. Nietzsche was here, as well as Coco Chanel, Marlene Dietrich, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, James Baldwin, and the Rolling Stones. A place where extremes and excess – the yachts and mansions of the super-rich, the glitterati and EasyJet tourists – converge in front of the pristine, enchanting nature. On her walks through Cannes, Nice, Monaco, and Saint-Tropez, Katja Eichinger recounts the history of the French Riviera in personal anecdotes, and reveals its true essence.

The book for anyone who wishes to dream of the sea and be brilliantly entertained at the same time.

Katja Eichinger studied at the British Film Institute and worked as a journalist in London, including for *Vogue*, *Dazed & Confused*, and the *Financial Times*. Following her bestseller *BE*, the biography of Bernd Eichinger, Blumenbar published the essay collections *Fashion and Other Neuroses* (2020), and *Love and Other Neuroses* (2022), which also became bestsellers. In addition to her work as an author, Katja Eichinger also produces music. She lives in Munich and Berlin.

Christian Werner, born in 1977, is a photographer. He works for magazines such as *Zeit-Magazin*, *032c*, *SSENSE* and *Numéro*. He has published several books and lives in Berlin.



Katja Eichinger
**The Big Blue
Côte d'Azur**
Non-Fiction. 208 pages
Blumenbar. Hardcover
2024, April

**With exclusive images from the
photographer Christian Werner**



Katja Eichinger
Fashion and Other Neurosis
Essays. 208 pages
Blumenbar. Hardcover
2020, April

**BEST
SELLER**

Live and in colour: A revolutionary and visually stunning journey through time spanning 40 years

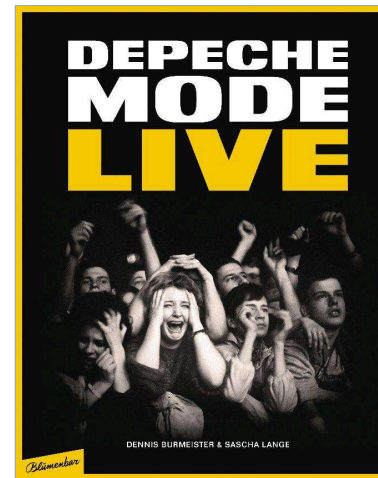
For decades, British band Depeche Mode has been captivating fans all over the world. From the band's first gigs in smoky pubs, playing for around a dozen people, to the sold-out world tour with spectacular shows in front of millions of fans – the band's history and success are rooted in its unparalleled live performances. Following the bestseller *Depeche Mode: Monument*, which is now considered the fan bible, Dennis Burmeister and Sascha Lange present another book with powerful images. They have compiled a wealth of previously unpublished photos, unseen material and exclusive interviews with friends of the band. *Depeche Mode: Live* traces the growth of this band from tour to tour from 1980 to 2023, which, despite all the misfortunes, continues to thrill millions of people at its concerts to this day.

Dennis Burmeister, born in 1975, is a graphic designer, DJ and event organiser and has compiled one of the largest DEPECHE MODE collections of the last 35 years. With several thousand exhibits, it is enough to fill a museum.

Sascha Lange, born 1971 in Leipzig, is a musician, author and historian with a specialisation in youth cultures in the twentieth century. He is also an academic consultant for museums, media and theatre. Lange and Burmeister's *Depeche Mode: Monument*, the largest showcase of the British band's work to date, was published by Blumenbar.

"Depeche Mode are godlike and Monument is their bible." WELT ONLINE

"There has never been anything like it before and there will almost certainly never be anything like it again." SONIC SEDUCER

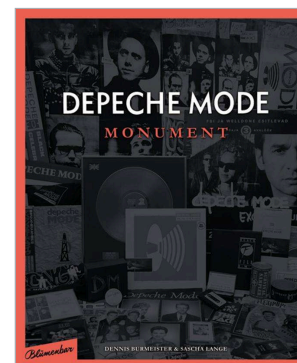


Dennis Burmeister, Sascha Lange
Depeche Mode: Live
 Non-Fiction. 424 pages
 Blumenbar. Hardcover
 2023, October

RIGHTS SOLD TO:

Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, USA

English sample translation available



Dennis Burmeister, Sascha Lange
Depeche Mode: Monument
 Non-Fiction. 424 pages
 Blumenbar. Hardcover
 2013, May

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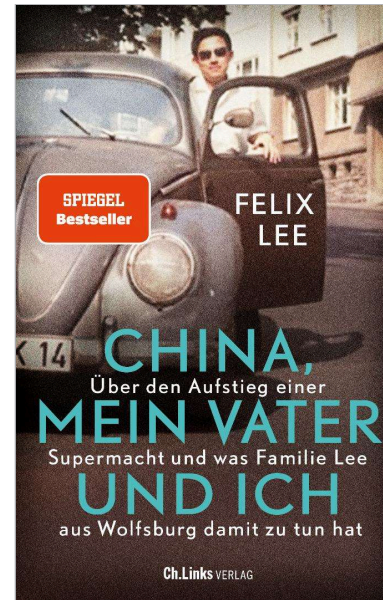
France, USA, Russia, Italy, Czech Republic, Poland

A new take on the rise of China

On 17 April 1978, Wenpo Lee is in his early forties and head of the research department at Volkswagen in Wolfsburg. He has come a long way: as a child he fled from China to Taiwan, where he lived on the streets until a married couple who were teachers took him in. He went on to study in Germany. He was done with China – until one day when a Chinese delegation stood in front of the VW factory. Wenpo Lee subsequently became one of the architects of VW in China, making a significant contribution to the country's rise to economic power.

Based on his family's story, Felix Lee writes about China's rapid development in a new way: pointed, multifaceted, full of anecdotes and written with the critical eye of a business journalist.

Felix Lee, born in Wolfsburg in 1975, studied social sciences, economics and politics, and graduated from the Berlin School of Journalism. He has been the economics and politics editor at the newspaper *taz* since 2003. From 2010 to 2019 he was its China correspondent in Beijing. His book *The Winner of the Crisis – What the West can learn from China* was published in 2011 and the biography *Power and Modernity. China's great Reformer Deng Xiaoping* in 2014. He lives in Berlin.



**BEST
SELLER**

Felix Lee

China, my Father and I
The Rise of a Superpower and what the Lee Family from Wolfsburg Has to Do with it

Non-Fiction. 256 pages

Ch. Links Verlag. Hardcover

2023, March

Shortlisted for the German Economics Book Prize

“China determines world events. That was not always the case. Until the end of the 1970s, China was a completely impoverished, underdeveloped, isolated country. During my childhood in Wolfsburg, hardly anyone knew anything about China. People my age only knew about the country from a children’s book called “Jim Knopf”. One time, two children whispered about me in the street: ‘Look, a Chinese person. I’ve never seen a Chinese person in real life.’” FELIX LEE, TAKEN FROM THE PREFACE

"Felix Lee understands the contradictions of modern China like no other German journalist." DER SPIEGEL

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