

1. Contemporary German politics, culture and society

The opening of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the reunification of Germany in 1990 transformed the landscape of German politics, generating both euphoria and a mass of unforeseen problems. Fundamental were the challenges of integrating the Länder of the former GDR into the political system of the Federal Republic, the socio-economic and political legacy of the GDR, the question of the identity and self-image of the newly reunited Germany. Equally important were the implications of reunification for Germany's position in the European Union and for the development of Germany's relations with the wider world. The changes of government from Helmut Kohl's CDU/CSU coalition to Gerhard Schröder's SPD/Green coalition in 1998 both underlined continuities and signalled new beginnings. The emergence of Angela Merkel at the head of a grand coalition in 2005 and then of a CDU/CSU/FDP coalition from 2009 was accompanied by a growing self-confidence of the Berlin Republic which was evident in the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of 'Die Wende' in 2009-10 and the twenty-fifth anniversary in 2015-16. At the same time, however, further challenges and crises have emerged – ranging from the European financial crisis, the so-called refugee crisis and the rise of the right-wing AfD to Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing, yet increasingly urgent question of climate change. As Germany approaches the end of the 'Merkel era', this module will explore key themes and developments in German politics over the last 30 years and consider their relationship with wider cultural and socio-economic factors.

In addition to the preparatory reading below, students are encouraged to consult recent issues of the journal *German Politics and Society* – especially '30th Anniversary of German Reunification: Parties, Policies and Performance since 1989', 37:4 (2019) – and to follow coverage of the 2021 election in both German and international media outlets.

- P.C. Caldwell and K. Hanshew, *Germany since 1945. Politics, Culture and Society* (London, 2018).
- P. O'Dochartaigh, *Germany since 1945* (Houndmills, 2003).
- Tom Heneghan, *Unchained Eagle. Germany after the Wall* (London, 2000).
- R. Wittlinger, *German National Identity in the Twenty-First Century. A Different Republic After All?* (Houndmills, 2010).
- J. J. Anderson and E. Langenbacher (eds.), *From the Bonn to the Berlin Republic: Germany at the Twentieth Anniversary of Unification* (Oxford, 2010).
- I. Götz, *Deutsche Identitäten: Die Wiederentdeckung des Nationalen nach 1989* (Cologne, 2011).
- S. Colvin (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of German Politics and Culture* (London, 2015).
- E. Langenbacher (ed.) *The Merkel Republic. An Appraisal* (Oxford, 2015).
- E. Langenbacher (ed.) *The Twilight of the Merkel Era: Power and Politics in Germany after the 2017 Bundestag Election* (Oxford, 2019).
- F. Biess., *German Angst: Fear and Democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany* (Oxford, 2020) – German original 2019.
- E. Wolfrum, *Der Aufsteiger: Eine Geschichte Deutschlands von 1990 bis heute* (Stuttgart, 2020).
- K. Brückweh et al (eds.), *Die lange Geschichte der »Wende«: Geschichtswissenschaft im Dialog* (Berlin, 2020).

2. 'Zwischen Kafka und Koran': Islam in German Culture post-9/11

German-language writers from Wolfram von Eschenbach to Goethe and Lessing have long engaged with Islam, a religion often presented as bound to an exotic or dangerous 'other' against which the European 'self' might define itself. Today, however, in the wake of twentieth-century migration to Germany, the Muslim population of the FRG numbers over four million and many German-language writers and artists self-identify as Muslim, situating their work 'between Kafka and the Qu'ran'. In this module, students will be introduced to literary and film texts that engage with Islam and Muslim identities. We will read these against the background of 9/11 and the increased visibility of Islam in German debates around identity and integration, engaging with issues of gender, sexuality, and orientalism as we do so.

Prescribed texts:

- Emine Sevgi Özdamar, 'Großvaterzunge', in *Mutterzunge* (Hamburg: Rotbuch, 1990).
- Zaimoglu, Feridun, and Günter Senkel, *Schwarze Jungfrauen* (Reinbek: Rowohlt Theater, 2006). E-BOOK.
- Burhan Qurbani, *Shahada* (2010). FILM
- Feo Aladağ, *Die Fremde* (2010). FILM
- Navid Kermani, *Das Buch der von Neil Young getöteten* (2002), and *Kurzmitteilung* (2007), both reprinted in: Navid Kermani, *Album* (Munich: Carl Hanser Verlag, 2014).

Secondary reading:

- James Hodgkinson and Jeffrey Morrison (eds), *Encounters with Islam in German Literature and Culture* (Rochester, New York: Camden House, 2009)
- Frauke Matthes, *Writing and Muslim Identity: Representations of Islam in German and English Transcultural Literature, 1990-2006* (London: IGRS, 2011).
- Julian Preece et al., *Religion and Identity in Germany Today: Doubters, Believers, Seekers in Literature and Film* (Oxford: Peter Lang, 2010).
- Yasemin Yildiz, 'Turkish Girls, Allah's Daughters, and the Contemporary German Subject: Itinerary of a Figure', *German Life and Letters*, 62.4 (2009), 465-481.
- Beverly M. Weber, *Violence and Gender in the 'New Europe': Islam in German Culture* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).
- Sabine Hake and Barbara Mennel (eds), *Turkish German Cinema in the New Millennium: Sites, Sounds, and Screens* (London and New York: Berghahn, 2012).
- Gözde Naiboğlu, *Post-Unification Turkish German Cinema: Work, Globalisation and Politics Beyond Representation* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).
- Joseph Twist, *Mystical Islam and Cosmopolitanism in Contemporary German Literature: Openness to Alterity* (Rochester and New York: Camden House, 2018)

3. German *Flucht*-Narratives from the Second World War to the Present

In 2015 'Flüchtlinge' was chosen by the Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache as Word of the Year, in a testimony not only to the sharp rise in refugees arriving in the European Union from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, but the German public discourse around what became known as a Flüchtlingskrise. This module revisits these events and this discourse through the lens of Germany's recent (literary) history: introducing four novels spanning the period from World War II to the present, we will interrogate the terminology that surrounds migration events: Flucht and Emigration, Vertreibung and Exil, Heimat and Fremde. Telling of emigrants fleeing the Nazi regime across countries and continents, of war refugees and of the Germans displaced from former Eastern territories after 1945, of smugglers of escapees from the GDR, and of asylum seekers navigating the German immigration system in the new millennium, these narratives shed light on the historical, geopolitical, personal and bureaucratic circumstances that make the concept, and the realities, of Flucht anything but straightforward.

- **Set texts:**

- Anna Seghers, *Transit* (written 1941/42, first published 1948, Berlin, 2001).
- Christian Petzold, *Transit* (2018). FILM
- Christa Wolf, *Nachruf auf Lebende: die Flucht* (written 1971, Berlin, 2014).
- Christoph Hein, *Landnahme* (Frankfurt a.M., 2004)
- Abbas Khider, *Ohrfeige* (München, 2016)

- **Recommended Reading:**

- Till Breyer and Philipp Weber, *Transit des Europäischen. Poetik und Politik bei Anna Seghers*, in Wolfgang Johann et al. (eds.), *Transformationen Europas im 20. Und 21. Jahrhundert. Zur Ästhetik und Wissensgeschichte der interkulturellen Moderne* (Bielefeld, 2019), pp. 149-64.
- Jennifer M Gully and Lynn Mie Itagaki, *The States of Memory: National Narratives of Belonging, the Refugee Novel, and Jenny Erpenbeck's Go, Went, Gone*, in *Modern Fiction Studies* 66.2 (2020), pp. 260-80.
- Paul Michael Lützeler, *Migration und Exil in Geschichte, Mythos und Literatur*, in Bettina Bannasch and Gerhild Rochus (eds.), *Handbuch der deutschsprachigen Exilliteratur. Von Heinrich Heine bis Herta Müller* (Berlin/Boston, 2013), pp. 3-26.
- Kirsten Möller and Alexandra Tacke, *Flucht und Vertreibung. Einleitung*, in Elena Agazzi and Erhard Schütz (eds.), *Handbuch Nachkriegskultur. Literatur, Sachbuch und Film 1945-1962* (Berlin/Boston, 2013), pp. 243-52.
- Linda Warley, *Flucht und Vertreibung and the Difficult Work of Memory*, in *Life Writing* 10.3 (2013), pp. 329-50.

4. The 'red decade' and Political Violence in Germany

The years from 1967 to 1977 have been called West Germany's 'red decade'. This module addresses the New Left social movements, protest, and political violence in Germany during that decade, and the cultural memory or 'memory contests' that subsequently developed around the period. We begin with the emergence of the New Left and the student movement, and its concerns and hopes for local and global transformation. We then move to protest and look at modes of peaceful and violent protest and the emergence of armed terrorist groups such as the Red Army Faction and 2 June Movement. The student movement differentiated between violence directed against property ('Gewalt gegen Sachen'), which was deemed acceptable, and violence against other human beings ('Gewalt gegen Personen'), which was unacceptable; the latter part of this module looks at how and in what contexts a willingness to injure and kill other human beings develops in the context of hopes to change the world for the better. We will also look at how (and by whom) those developments are remembered, in images, film, and text.

- Gerd Koenen, *Das rote Jahrzehnt: Unsere kleine deutsche Kulturrevolution 1967-1977* (Cologne 2001).
- Jeremy Varon, *Bringing the War Home: The Weather Underground, the Red Army Faction, and Revolutionary Violence in the Sixties and Seventies* (Berkeley, CA, 2004).
- Sarah Colvin, *Ulrike Meinhof and West German Terrorism* (Rochester, NY, 2009).
- Wolfgang Kraushaar (ed.) *Die RAF und der linke Terrorismus*, 2 vols (Hamburg, 2006).
- Gerrit-Jan Berendse and Ingo Cornils, *Baader-Meinhof Returns: History and Cultural Memory of Left-Wing Terrorism* (Amsterdam 2008).
- Ingo Cornils and Sarah Waters (eds), *Memories of 1968: International Perspectives* (Bern 2010).
- Ingo Cornils, *Writing the Revolution: The Construction of '1968' in Germany* (Rochester, NY, 2016).
- Astrid Proll, *Hans und Grete: Die RAF 1967-1977* (Göttingen 1998).
- Stefan Aust, *Der Baader-Meinhof-Komplex* (1985; new edns 1997 and 2008).
- *Der Baader-Meinhof-Komplex*, dir. Uli Edel (Germany 2008) FILM.

5. History and Identity in Germany 1945-2015

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The module will examine the ways in which Germans have

creation of the Berlin Holocaust memorial (2005) and the formal statements about the German past before 1945 made by German Presidents and Chancellors in the last fifteen years.

- Jeffrey Herf, *Divided Memory. The Nazi Past in the Two Germanys* (1997).
- Peter Reichel, *Vergangenheitsbewältigung in Deutschland: Die Auseinandersetzung mit der NS-Diktatur in Politik und Justiz* (2007).
- Mary Fulbrook, *German national identity after the Holocaust* (1999).
- Bill Niven, *Facing the Nazi Past. United Germany and the Third Reich* (2002) .
- Ruth Wittlinger, *German National Identity in the Twenty-First Century. A Different Republic After All?* (2010).
- K. Hammerstein, *Gemeinsame Vergangenheit – getrennte Erinnerung? Der Nationalsozialismus in Gedächtnisdiskursen und Identitätskonstruktionen von Bundesrepublik Deutschland, DDR und Österreich* (Göttingen, 2017).