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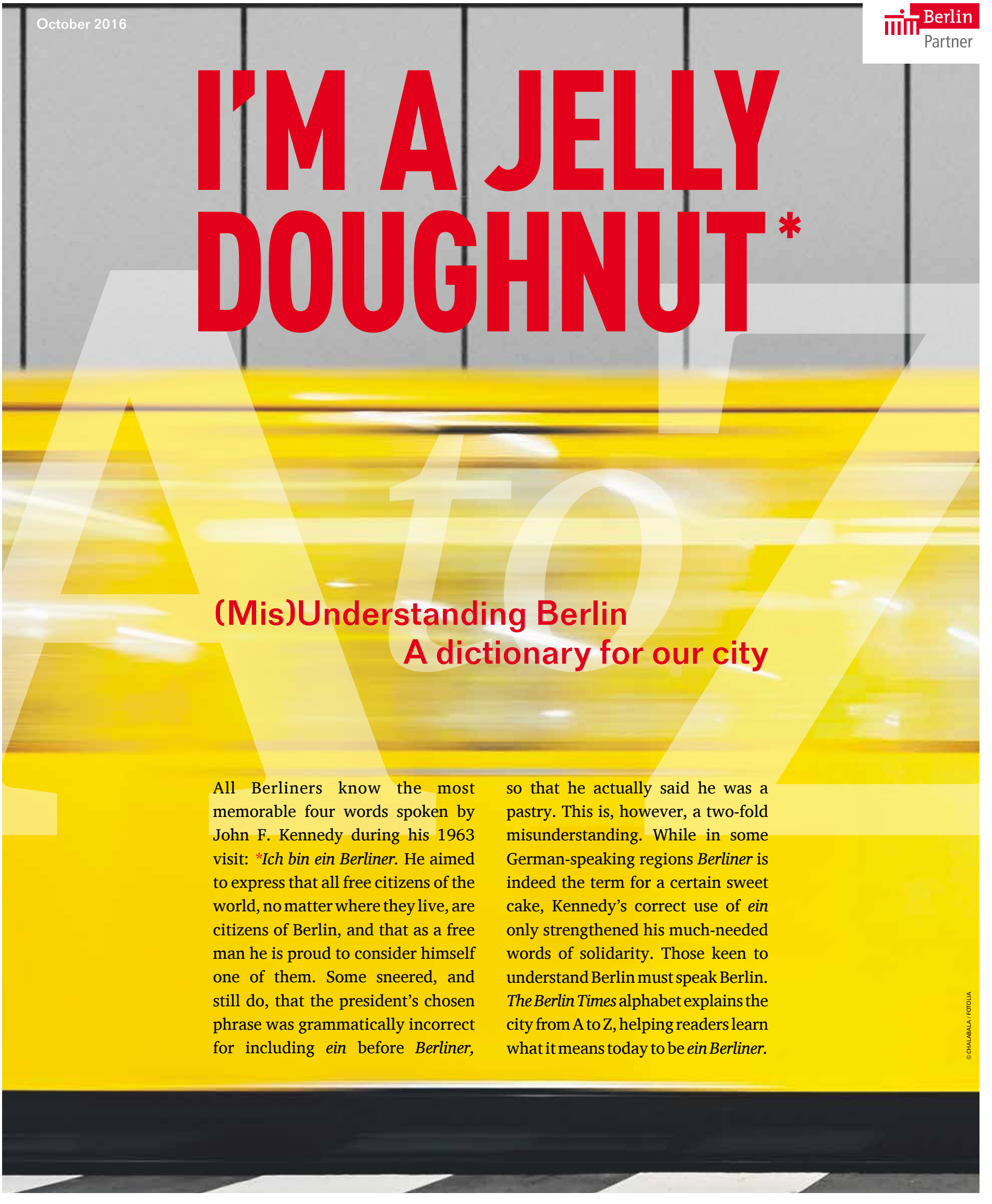

(Mis)Understanding Berlin
A dictionary for our city

All Berliners know the most memorable four words spoken by John F. Kennedy during his 1963 visit: **Ich bin ein Berliner*. He aimed to express that all free citizens of the world, no matter where they live, are citizens of Berlin, and that as a free man he is proud to consider himself one of them. Some sneered, and still do, that the president's chosen phrase was grammatically incorrect for including *ein* before *Berliner,* so that he actually said he was a pastry. This is, however, a two-fold misunderstanding. While in some German-speaking regions *Berliner* is indeed the term for a certain sweet cake, Kennedy's correct use of *ein* only strengthened his much-needed words of solidarity. Those keen to understand Berlin must speak Berlin. *The Berlin Times* alphabet explains the city from A to Z, helping readers learn what it means today to be *ein Berliner*.

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BERLIN IS A ...

Wundertüte
['vʊndɐtyːtə]

Bag of marvels

Wundertüte is a wonderful German word. It is wonderful to be given a Wundertüte as a child, as on your very first day of school. It customarily contains all sorts of sweets and toys. Of course, today there are fewer sweets, as most parents feel the long-term health of their children is more important than one fleeting feeling of joy. So, more toys it is, and today that means smartphones and tablets.
Berlin is also a Wundertüte. Upon opening this edition of *The Berlin Times* you'll find all sorts of treats: We say goodbye to President Obama, who has twice visited the city, and ask whether Angela Merkel can again be elected chancellor this coming year; We welcome refugees while also learning that the silent majority of German-Turks will not speak up for fear of the fanatical followers of Turkey's President Erdoğan; We look into our future (startups) and discover old Berlin novels; We climb steep walls (in a city without hills) and take a twirl on the tango floor; We grill with a penchant for meat, but it is not too warm to contemplate twelve men fighting over a black disk on a patch of ice.

Reach inside your Wundertüte, every page a surprise – it would be a shame not to read it.

Detlef Prinz
Publisher

The Berlin Times

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City of jobs

Berlin is on a roll
By Michael Müller, Mayor of Berlin

Berlin has become a strong lure for people from all over the world. In recent years, Berlin's population has grown by more than 40,000 people annually. As early as 2025 the city could be a metropolis with a total population of 4 million.

The upcoming coalition talks will surely center around the key issues for Berlin in the coming years: the question of the "growing city," creating affordable housing, integrating refugees, budget consolidation, social justice and participation for all our residents.

The key to a city committed to the principles of solidarity will remain education and the good jobs that education results in. A prerequisite for good jobs is a strong economy.

Thanks to our goal-oriented policy-making in recent years, we were able to rebuild Berlin as a business location. In 2015 we saw stronger economic growth than any other German state.

In 2015 alone around 50,000 new jobs generating social security contributions were created, which makes 300,000 of these new jobs since 2005.

Employment now stands at less than 10 percent – the city's lowest figure since reunification.

This economic success is the precondition for further investment and, in turn, for being able to shape a growing city committed to solidarity.

Our policies will therefore continue to ensure that the economic upswing and the resulting tax revenues will be used to make investment possible. Thanks to Berlin's positive development we were able to invest an additional €500 million in our city in 2015 alone.

The coming years will be all about making sure this trend continues. We want to show the people of this city that we will use the economic upswing to improve everyone's prospects. Above all, that means creating additional jobs.

Berlin is now home to a myriad of thriving industries and business sectors, meaning that our economic development rests on a much broader foundation than was the case a few years ago. A new business is started here once every 20 hours!

PICTURE ALLIANCE / DPA

Berlin is a center of science and learning that is unique in Europe. This environment gives rise to new businesses with sustainable jobs every day.

The focus of our economic policy must stay on creating the necessary framework conditions for developing and applying the technologies of the future. With a strong concentration of scientific, academic and research institutions, labs and startups, we are poised to become both a test bed and a production site for Industry 4.0.

We need to prepare for different industries; for instance, the solutions that worked for traditional sectors will not be adequate for startups. And since startups in Berlin employ more than 60,000 people, that's a big issue. There will be 50 new IT professorships in the field of digitization. The professors will be appointed by Technische Universität Berlin, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Universität der Künste Berlin, Beuth Hochschule für Technik and Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin and will constitute part of the new Einstein Center Digital Future. Over the next 10 years we will invest an additional €100 million annually in strengthening Berlin as a center of science and learning.

Our economic policy is also facing many challenges. What's most important here is that we understand economic and labor policy as a shared responsibility of policy-makers and the business community, as well as, of course, the trade unions and business associations.

In order to make Berlin a better business location we must also continue to recruit skilled staff for our civil service, thereby creating the necessary conditions for attracting more business.

To me, the motto "Berlin as a city of jobs" will remain one of the guiding principles of the new legislative term.

A–Z

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CLAAS

A
German: Arbeit
['aʊbaɪt]
English: Work
Berlin: Sitting in the park and e-mailing from your iPhone.

STANDING STILL

If we just let things carry on as they are, we are risking a dangerous new arms race
By Frank-Walter Steinmeier

The Berlin Wall came down 27 years ago. Walking around Berlin today, there are many spots where I can still see the remains of that inhumane border: the concrete, the metal plates in the ground, the occasional iron struts still jutting out of the ground. The Wall divided not only Germany, but Europe and the world as well.

What is left of the Wall today looks like the skeleton of a vanished world. A few corners are crumbling away and the gray concrete is covered in colorful graffiti. But despite the bright colors, the old heaviness and inhumanity remain. What has changed, even more than the Wall itself, is the world around it.

Beyond any doubt, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the reunification of Germany and finally the collapse of the Soviet Union marked an historic watershed. All at once, the Cold War and the bloc mentality that had divided people were things of the past. Back then, many people thought "everything will be better now." Some even spoke of the "end of history." Almost everyone hoped for a new order that would bring peace and stability to all corners of the globe.

We have to acknowledge that much of the new normality we thought the end of the Cold War would bring now seems anything but certain. The world is in disarray. The denseness and intensity of the crises and conflicts raging around us are greater than anyone would have predicted 27 years ago. New and old actors are fighting for influence in a world that has become increasingly complex. A new order to replace the bloc-based confrontation has yet to be found. The end of history? Absolutely not.

A brutal civil war has raged for years in Syria, dragging an entire region down into a spiral of violence. The ISIL terrorist organization is committing atrocities from Iraq to Nigeria. With the bitter result of the British referendum on whether to remain in the EU, what was long unthinkable has become a reality. And the annexation of Crimea and the situation in eastern Ukraine have even brought the issues of war and peace back to Europe. Given the numerous trouble spots, one has to say that today's world has become more chaotic, more complex and much more unpredictable.

Nevertheless, diplomacy still has chances of success. Despite all the crises, we have seen concrete instances of this in recent years: the nuclear agreement with Iran; the Minsk agreement in the Ukraine crisis, despite all its shortcomings; the gradual success in managing the refugee crisis; and the peace agreement in Colombia, which has brought an end to a conflict that long appeared hopeless. These are all examples of successful diplomacy.

It is important to draw attention to these successes, because images of crises and disasters often stay in memory longer than tough negotiations producing lengthy agreements. We cannot simply swing the wrecking ball and get rid of all the world's problems overnight. We need to keep taking small, laborious steps towards solutions, sometimes working more with a file than with a wrecking ball. This is often time-consuming and sometimes frustrating, but it is important that we have the right instruments to counter the feeling of having lost control.

The Berlin Wall fell 27 years ago, and that is the age of many of our young diplomats going out to represent Germany in the world. When they start work with us, the world's new crisis mode is their default setting. They know the Cold War only from their history books. That is why they need a different range of tools than we used to have. It is a matter of learning to identify small steps that can be taken, and to stop focusing on the great wall that we could never pierce with a single blow.

PARVEZ

Frank-Walter Steinmeier on top the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. The Social Democrat has been serving his second term in office since December 2013.

In recent years, we have therefore reviewed and revitalized our foreign policy, and we are increasingly looking at the entire cycle of a conflict, ranging from humanitarian aid and crisis prevention to stabilization and expanding our urgently needed mediation capacities.

For example, Germany has now become the world's third-largest provider of humanitarian assistance. The crisis in Syria is, of course, our main focus. We managed to get aid and supplies to 110,000 people in Deir ez-Zor in eastern Syria via airdrops.

However, we are not only concerned with alleviating acute suffering; we also think about what happens afterwards. One illustration of this is our reconstruction work in cities such as Ramadi and Tikrit, where – after they were liberated from ISIL control – we rapidly ensured that the people could once again make their homes there. Ninety percent of the population has now returned to these cities.

Our cultural relations and education policy also forms part of our work in crises. Together with the Federal Agency for Technical Relief, we are providing practical training for young Syrians so that they can one day rebuild their country.

Of course, the overarching goal is to find a political solution to the conflict.

Parallel to these crisis instruments, we are also working to create structures for an improved international order, as Germany is one of the beneficiaries of a rules-based world. That is why we assumed the OSCE Chairmanship in 2016; that is why Germany is standing for election to a seat on the UN Security Council in the 2019/20 term; and that is why I have suggested that we go back to talking about arms control, with the West and with Russia. If we just let things carry on as they are, we are risking a dangerous new arms race, and in the end there will be no winners, only losers on all sides.

At this time, when peace is not guaranteed, Germany must give impetus to finding solutions for instilling new order in a world that is out of joint. Germany should be sending a signal and giving hope that life in the age of globalization consists not only of constantly defending one's own ground, but also of shaping the world. I would even say that, with patience and willingness to approach others, this world can be made a little more peaceful and a little more just.

As there is no use in just hiding and withdrawing, we need to tackle the problems. Standing still is not an option.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier is foreign minister of Germany.

A–Z

IS NOT AN OPTION

B
Bargeld
[ˈbaːɐ̯ˌgɛlt]
Cash
The only way to pay the check at most restaurants in the city

THE END OF THE AFFAIR

Angela Merkel's refugee policy has lost her the trust of many voters. Her party is seething. Will she stand for another term? | *By Günter Bannas*

The political situation in Germany is more uncertain than at any time since Angela Merkel was elected German chancellor in 2005. The parties currently represented in the Bundestag – the CDU, CSU, SPD, Greens and the Left Party – are losing voters' trust. Doubts are growing that "those up there" or "those in Berlin" can still govern Germany.

Figureheads of the establishment parties are finding it increasingly more difficult to communicate their positions – a problem pronounced most explicitly in Germany's refugee policy, where the conflict over faster deportation of undocumented immigrants has become a permanent issue.

The loss of voter confidence suffered by the CDU and SPD has very real consequences for the achievement of stable governing majorities. Three-party coalitions now govern four German states: Thuringia (Left Party, SPD, Greens), Saxony-Anhalt (CDU, SPD, Greens), Rhineland-Palatinate (SPD, FDP, Greens) and Schleswig-Holstein (SPD, Greens and the ethnic-Danish South Schleswig Voters' Association). These conditions are also reflected in Cologne, Germany's fourth-largest city, where the independent Henriette Reker governs as mayor with the support of the CDU, Greens and the FDP.

First and foremost it is the mass influx of refugees that has permeated Germany's political landscape over the last year. Even among the ranks of her own CDU, Chancellor Merkel's "We can do this" has drifted far from the consensus.

The conservative wing of the party, which has seen itself marginalized into the role of misfit, is seething, yet has no clout to challenge her authority within the party. Its Bavarian sister party, the CSU, is in rebellion, but it too lacks the power to force its demands on the chancellor's power machine.

While they may voice loudly their demands for a ceiling on migration and a burqa ban, these measures are probably unconstitutional. The SPD initially supported the chancellor's policy – and quite proudly, not least because they believed Merkel would be lost without the Social Democrats. They are now distancing themselves verbally from her. The cries of their municipal officials who felt overwhelmed by the refugee influx had consequences.

But the SPD's change of tack is being seen simply as a campaign tactic, rendering it less credible. In nationwide surveys the SPD continues to languish at about 25 percent of the vote – a figure far too low to capture the chancellery.

Meanwhile, the once revered role of chancellor candidate is being tossed around like a hot potato. Promising figures, especially Hamburg Mayor Olaf Schulz, are maintaining a dignified silence. Sigmar Gabriel, the party chairman, will probably step up to the plate. In fact, the perceived wisdom – not least due to hints from the SPD – is that Gabriel will have to take on Merkel. He would otherwise lose the party leadership.

And as for Angela Merkel herself? Many factors indicate that she would run for yet another term at Germany's helm. However, her continued lack of commitment one way or the other has been striking. At least she refuses to make one publicly, repeating her mantra that she will make an appropriate announcement when the time is ripe. She has refrained even from committing herself within her party's most exclusive body, the CDU presidium, while senior CDU figures claim to know nothing of her plans. As the CDU/CSU parliamentary party leader Volker Kauder has done, they may indeed go public with their party's wishes for a fourth Merkel candidacy. Thus far, however, mum's the word.

Kauder recently stated that in the election campaign the conservative parties would fight to lead the federal government following the 2017 vote, yet stopped short of saying that the campaign's goal was to continue Merkel's chancellorship.

With their constant criticism of Merkel, Horst Seehofer and the entire CSU leadership in Munich are acting as if they no longer want to see this chancellor from eastern Germany as their head of government. However, in the case of her choosing to stand, she holds a strong hand: no one in the CDU is positioning themselves as a potential successor.

PICTURE ALLIANCE/AAP/IMAGES

Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble will turn 75 next year. Party sources say that while Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière may be a good cabinet official, a party leader he is not. Ursula von der Leyen, Germany's defense minister, is not especially well liked within the CDU's leadership committees or parliamentary group.

Even Merkel critics, including CDU lawmaker Wolfgang Bosbach, admit that she still commands high respect within the party. No one wants to be the one to topple her and all candidates for her succession have supported her refugee policy. Moreover, Merkel takes advantage of her strong position, refusing to back down from her stance. The most she concedes is that things must get "better."

Her rivals, meanwhile, are groaning and clenching their fists, but that's the extent of it. Perhaps Merkel will share the fate of all her forerunners. From Konrad Adenauer to Gerhard Schröder, none have left the chancellery voluntarily; each was toppled either by his party, coalition partners or the German electorate.

The success of the AfD in regional elections and opinion polls is a harbinger for the Bundestag elections. A new, right-wing populist rival has emerged in German politics. Merkel, acting like a president above the inter-party fray, recently tried in the Bundestag to form an anti-AfD alliance stretching from the CDU/CSU to the Left Party. In election campaigns, this sort of thing is doomed to failure, yet her attempt betrays her concerns that the AfD's advances will come mainly at the expense of her own party. Merkel and the CDU have yet to repeat the experiences of the SPD and its last two chancellors. It was during Helmut Schmidt's tenure that the Greens emerged. The Left Party arose during Gerhard Schröder's chancellorship. Each time, the SPD hemorrhaged voters. Merkel's legacy for the conservative parties goes by one name: AfD.

A to Z

VOLKSWAGEN
AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

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GOODBYE, MR. PRESIDENT

C
Charme *[ʃaʁm]*
Charm
Tough love

Barack Obama failed to meet some of his goals. But perhaps his presidency will be remembered less for what it achieved than for what it avoided | *By Peter H. Koepf*

Back in July 2008 when Senator Barack Obama spoke at Berlin's Victory Column, 200,000 perspiring people assembled to hear the man they believed could make the world a better place. They took on board that as president he would demand more from the Germans than in recent memory: more money, more arms and more soldiers. "In this new century, Americans and Europeans alike will be required to do more – not less." Had George W. Bush uttered these words, the reply would have been a chorus of boos, jeers and whistles.

Eight years later, in the twilight of the Obama Era, more than a few people, including Germans, are disappointed in the US president, who – it seems – has managed to keep just a handful of his promises. He took up the fight for gay marriage and pushed through his health care reform that has brought affordable health insurance to more than ten million Americans. The country has also managed to overcome the effects of the financial crisis; the economy is back on track.

However, Guantánamo prison – a human rights fiasco – remains in operation. Gun violence in America is still rampant. Tensions between whites and African Americans have grown worse, a fact attested to by more than just the lopsided statistics of police violence. And let us not forget that eavesdropping on the German chancellor's phone conversations was not exactly polite.

The big questions have to do with foreign policy. One accusation holds that, as the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad committed one atrocity after another in the country's civil war, Obama sat on the fence.

"We have been very clear to the Assad regime," Obama explained in the summer of 2012, "that a red line for us is we start seeing a whole bunch of chemical weapons moving around or being utilized." A year later, hundreds of people died in a poison gas attack in Ghouta, a region east of Damascus. Obama did nothing. Assad remains the head of a rump state where the self-proclaimed Islamic State has long since also made its mark.

It was not only the trigger-happy hawks among the Republicans that decried Obama's silence. Hillary Clinton also railed against Obama's inaction, saying it had hurt America's credibility and deterrent potential. Clinton's outspoken rival for president recently remarked that the withdrawal from Iraq allowed the jihadists to gain strength; Obama was therefore the "founder of ISIS," which could then spread far and wide through Syria.

Lest we forget, it was George W. Bush who invaded Iraq on the basis of untruthful arguments. The 2003 attack is now recognized as the starting point for all the region's upheavals, not least because there was no power-sharing plan for the region's groups. The eclipse of the Sunnis in Iraq's political and military hierarchy led to their radicalization, providing IS with plenty of specialized fighters.

Obama, however, refused to be drawn into a war – especially not alone. That was why he left the visible air strikes in Libya to the British and French when strongman Muammar Gaddafi pledged to drive the Benghazi rebels from their hideouts "like rats." US Air Force drones destroyed Libya's air defenses before the Europeans flew their sorties. But, just like eight years earlier in Iraq, there was no plan for the time after Gaddafi. Obama admitted as much in a Fox News interview when asked about his worst mistake. War heroes Nicolas Sarkozy and David Cameron quickly turned their attention to other matters. Since then, Libya has also become a failed state where IS has gained a foothold. According to Jeffrey Goldberg in the April issue of *The Atlantic*, Obama now refers to the Libya intervention as a "shit show."

PICTURE ALLIANCE/DPA

Obama is the first US president to recognize that "the West" could not help rule the Middle East and North Africa. Yet, as he could not leave that task to the terrorists, he ordered drone strikes that killed not only targeted individuals but hundreds of civilians as well. Criticism from Germany for this morally dubious activity has not been nearly as strident as that which George W. Bush could have expected.

Obama has a motto: "Don't do stupid shit." In foreign policy, Obama has avoided stupidity. And it would have been stupid to follow the "foreign policy establishment and its cruise missile playbook," as Goldberg calls it, as well as the "demands of America's frustrating, high-maintenance allies in the Middle East – countries, he complains privately, seeking to exploit American 'muscle' for their own narrow, sectarian ends."

Obama's caution had other grounds. He believed the US had become overstretched in its role as world policeman, which is an enormous burden on the country's finances. He decided to weigh costs and benefits more finely – especially toward Syria and IS, which he did not consider the greatest threats to the US and the world. That – and here we arrive at Obama's greatest achievement – would be climate change.

The Clean Power Plan of August 2015 will require America's coal-fired power stations – which provide almost 40 percent of the country's electricity – to cut their CO_2 emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels. Most Americans support Obama's climate objectives, but in February 2016 the Supreme Court suspended the targets until lawsuits filed by multiple states are decided. And yet, Obama's change of direction, as well as agreements with China and India on reducing emissions, enabled world leaders to sign a historic climate pact that would limit global warming to a maximum 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The US, once an obstructive force on climate issues, has joined the activist vanguard.

New thinking also informed the US approach to its bitter foe, Iran. The 2015 Vienna nuclear accords only became possible by rethinking outdated diplomatic strategy. The same is true for the thaw in US-Cuban relations. And Obama's "pivot to Asia" has proven to be a prescient strategy to contain China's hegemonic ambitions. The Transpacific Partnership, a free-trade agreement without Chinese participation, is a key element of these efforts.

Barack Obama failed to attain all his goals because even "the most powerful man in the world" eventually reaches his limits. War and terrorism render some foreign policy objectives obsolete. And an opposition Congress has dashed many a presidential dream – yet considering who may next take office, that may be a comforting thought.

A–Z

D
Doppelgänger *['dɔplˌgɛŋɐ]*
Look-alike
Every bearded, retro-dressed, bespectacled hipster in Neukölln

PICTURE ALLIANCE/UNITED ARCHIVES/WHA

PICTURE ALLIANCE/AKG-IMAGES

PICTURE ALLIANCE/AP

MERCURY

The Olympic Village from the 1936 games, in Elstal, 30 kilometers from Berlin, exudes the dark charm of decay. Several buildings have been demolished; the gymnastics hall is home to a lone rusted pommel horse; the swimming pool is bone dry. Not much remains from the propaganda show put on for the Nazi games 80 years hence. With one exception: Jesse Owens. The star sprinter, who won four gold medals in Berlin (top), has been honored at the grounds with his own museum, which alone is worth a visit. Owens' room in the Olympic Village has been reconstructed, with beds, footstool and wooden table. Adjoining rooms chart his rise from college athlete to Olympic champion and emblematic proof of Hitler's delusions: a black man faster than all Aryans. As it happened, Berlin spectators cheered him on, even then. The German Luz Long, Owens's biggest rival in the long jump and eventual silver medalist, became his good friend (middle), much to Hitler's chagrin.

Berlin's Olympic Stadium, where his name was inscribed on the monument listing gold medal winners (bottom), today houses a Jesse Owens Lounge; the street running alongside the arena is Jesse Owens Allee. Nonetheless, the runner's home is still where it always was – the Olympic Village.

E
Ehrgeiz
['eːɐ̯gaɪ̯ts]
Ambition
Clubbing at Berghain from end-of-work Friday to start-of-work Monday

SILENT MAJORITY

In Berlin, tens of thousands of German-Turks demonstrated in support of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Yet, to believe the entire community stands by the AKP would be a mistake. Erdoğan's detractors are many; they just don't dare take to the streets. An assessment of the situation by *Güner Yasemin Balci*

Turkey is transforming into a dictatorship before our very eyes and anyone, be they Turkish or Turkish-German, who denies it is taking a risk. Even those who live here in Germany have quite a bit to lose. At a minimum they would face a travel ban to Turkey, and this would mean not seeing family and friends for an indefinite period. While a statement in the German public about current conditions of Turkey may breeze by with nary a retort, on the Bosphorus it can unleash a tornado of reaction.

The people are afraid, thus the raucous tens of thousands of Erdoğan supporters fill our streets without encountering hundreds of thousands of counter protestors, also with Turkish roots. To conclude that "the Turks" all stand behind Erdoğan would be a mistake. The others are experiencing a feeling of powerlessness in the face of a development in which systematic injustice is declared just – for the moment, the struggle for a free, democratic Turkey appears lost. Martial law will predominate for an indefinite amount of time, opposition parties are nothing but extras in Erdoğan's sultanate, and anyone not wishing to be persecuted simply shuts up.

The failed coup attempt has made it easier for Erdoğan to implement his dream of converting Turkey's parliamentary democracy into an authoritarian presidential system faster than he could have hoped. And those still campaigning for the persecuted Fetullah Gülen should not forget that Erdoğan and Gülen were once good friends, and that it is a verifiable fact that it was Gülen supporters who, beginning in 2007, stripped countless dissidents of their jobs under false pretenses and incarcerated them without trials.

Many are now asking themselves what happened as they ponder the masses of Turkish-Germans who so fervently demonstrate for Erdoğan, against freedom of the press, against civil rights and for the reinstatement of the death penalty. The answer is simple: nothing. Nationalist Turks, with their orthodox interpretation of Islam, have been part of the Federal Republic of Germany since the early 1960s; it is only now that people have taken notice. An exception over the years has been the Antifa activists and the radical left, which willingly sought the support of Turkish-German citizens, even known members of the "Gray Wolves," a nationalist group that defined itself as a pure race and nourished hopes of someday becoming a world power. But most Germans can only imagine German-German Nazis as real Nazis.

However, the possibility that one of them may be named Ahmet or Betül has been lost on most German citizens not of Turkish origin. And then there is the fatal multi-culti reflex. When Betül Ulusoy, an activist in a headscarf who belongs to Ditib (the Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs, the umbrella organization for Turkish-Islamic mosques in Germany, which is administered by the Turkish prime minister) as well as a German law graduate and blogger, uses historically problematic rhetoric to praise the mass arrests in Turkey as a long-awaited "cleansing" that is sure to have Allah's blessing, she can be certain that a German colleague will spring to her side to protect the supposedly misunderstood Muslim woman from the allegedly Islamophobic witch hunt. Were she not a Turk in a headscarf, she would have zero chance of ever becoming a lawyer or journalist in Germany. And that would be just fine.

PICTURE ALLIANCE/DENIZ PRESSFOTO

People whose forbears immigrated from Turkey learn early on that there are two types of German-Turks: the enlightened ones who found the Bundestag's Armenia resolution well over due and would like to live in an open democracy, and those who only act as if they are part of this society, but in the depths of their heart harbor dreams of the great Turkish empire that would be Sunni Muslim, know no borders and where dissenters would have no, or at most a very limited voice. Although these greater Turkish visionaries may not represent the majority of German-Turks, they are well established in Ditib communities, other nationalist-religious organizations and billion-dollar corporate coalitions with structured networks in all areas of public life. With their two-pronged strategy of reaping all the benefits Germany has to offer without surrendering their orthodox-Muslim national identities, they can always count on the support of elected German representatives. However, all other critical lone warriors, for whom no lobby exists either in Turkey or Germany, are left out in the cold – for example the Islamic reform theologians who teach in Germany but will remain unnamed in this newspaper for fear that they may lose their university jobs or suffer some other indignity. After all, the arm of Erdoğan is a long one, and this country's culture of denunciation has been known to react with trigger-happy glee.

> "Turkey remains multi-ethnic, comprising various cultures, languages and religions."

Turkey is a multi-ethnic state that since its founding as a republic has sought by force to transform itself into a country of one people, with the goal of Turkey for the Turks – the Sunni Muslims – who should all be ready to die for the fatherland. Despite genocidal campaigns against Armenians, Arameans and the Zazas in Dersim, despite the ongoing pogrom-like atmosphere concerning the Kurds, the forced resettlements, forced Islamizations and language prohibitions, Turkey remains multi-ethnic, comprising various cultures, languages and religions. While the majority of Turks ascribes to Sunni Islam, this group can be rather nuanced, ranging from atheist to agnostic to ultra-orthodox, not to mention the diversity of political tendencies.

Sure, many Turks stand behind Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his party, but an absolute majority they are not, despite regular statements to the contrary. The elections of Nov. 1, 2015, were manipulated, a fact attested to by not only countless independent journalists, who now sit in prisons in Turkey, but also by elections observers from the Council of Europe and the OSCE. Hardly any German politician has spoken out against the fraud, as Turkey is too important as a partner for Europe, NATO and Germany's refugee policy.

Perhaps it is good that these hordes of Islamist headscarved women and flag-waving Turkish nationals are finally visible on the streets of Germany; perhaps the German school curriculum concerning Islam – which is organized by Ditib – will now be taught more critically, and perhaps this display of Islamist-Turkish self-awareness is an occasion to rethink the Federal Constitutional Court verdict that even public employees may wear headscarves, along with the other concessions we have made. These are particularly inconsistent with an open, democratic and secular society.

Hundreds of thousand of German-Turks would be grateful. Perhaps for the first time they would feel they are not alone.

Güner Yasemin Balci is a filmmaker and author. Her most recent book, Das Mädchen und die Gotteskrieger (The Girl and the Jihadist), *was published in June of this year. Her film* Der Jungfrauenwahn (The Virginty Obsession) *won the 2016 Bayerischer Fernsehpreis.*

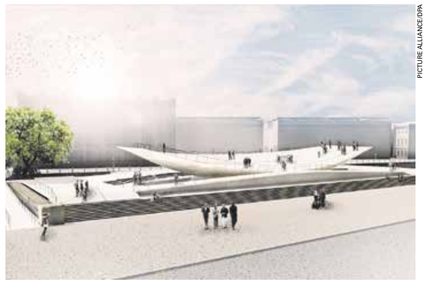
A–Z

F
Furcht
[fʊʁçt]
Fear
Winter is coming

Shake it off

Does Berlin need a monument to German reunification? | *By Harald Jähner*

Some call it a disgrace, others are relieved; most couldn't care less. For the time being, Berlin will not receive a monument to German unification. Planning for a memorial on Schloßplatz recalling the peaceful revolution in East Germany and subsequent reunification has been stopped. The German parliament's budgetary committee recommended all work on future construction be broken off, due to cost.


PICTURE ALLIANCE/DPA

The people's seesaw: just an amusing idea. Thank goodness.

> "The city still needs some time before the reconciliation process is truly over."

Even before the first shovel hit the soil, cost estimates for the project had climbed from 10 to 15 million euros. But the sudden financial scruples revealed other, deeper reasons to stop the planned monument. That is, the otherwise tolerable rise in price would almost certainly have been deemed acceptable if only the planned design had been more convincing or the basic idea an innate necessity. The Bundestag vote reads as a thinly veiled suggestion that Berlin needs no unification monument. And certainly not this seesaw.

Five years ago, after a chaotic competition, a jury had finally given the nod to a design by choreographer Sasha Waltz and Milla & Partner, a "agency for spatial communication." While the monument design's official name was "Citizens on the Move," it quickly became known as "the people's seesaw."

The object would have been an accessible, 50-meter-long gold-colored bowl that could be set in motion, but only if a large majority of the visitors atop the object shifted to one of its sides, thereby tipping it. The process would playfully express the power of the people – by the people themselves. Though it initially convinced some politicians and observers that the people's seesaw could become the "monument to joy" that political leaders had wanted, over time the doubts piled up. The plans excluded disabled people. The wheelchair-bound could only have traversed the middle of the bowl, and the strong damping of any movement – which would be necessary to maintain safety – would have taken all the fun out of it.

And finally, in the foundation of the former equestrian memorial to Kaiser Wilhelm I on which the new structure was to stand – symbolizing the progress of history – crews discovered another, special little folk. Daubenton's bat, *Myotis Daubentonii,* had found a suitable nesting place in the dignified old masonry and set out evening after evening on the hunt for mosquitoes swarming over the Spree. These creatures of the vesper bat family, weighing all of ten grams each, are under official wildlife protection and would have had to be resettled at considerable effort and expense. So, with the help of these tiny mammals, the seesaw of unity will hopefully remain just an amusing idea.

And thank goodness. For all the fun this kinetic sculpture might have been, it would never have matched the symbolic significance of another, existing edifice that long ago entered the popular consciousness as the encapsulation of Germany's division and reunification: the Brandenburg Gate. Closed for decades by the Wall, the gate was the international icon of German separation and, thanks to the hammers and chisels that people put to the Wall in its shadow in November 1989, the icon of German reunification as well. No new monument could equal the expressive power of the Brandenburg Gate. So why try to build one?

Berlin, if we look at it more closely, is its own living, breathing monument to reunification, which people are reminded of with practically every step they take through the city. This is especially true in Berlin's central districts, where the Wall often bisected densely inhabited, built-up neighborhoods, where its former path can still be surmised, and sometimes even felt.

It is not only the differing styles of postwar construction in the city's East and West, but also the divergent residential profiles and the social atmosphere in the streets that remind pedestrians, even 25 years after reunification, where the communist capital ended and the urban capitalist island began. Thanks to the antagonistic social systems that stubbornly faced one another during the Cold War, Berlin still needs some time, and a little more creativity, before the reconciliation process is truly over. There is really no need for a monument here – at least not yet.

It would make more sense to erect one in the middle of the former East Germany, in Leipzig, perhaps, to honor both the popular uprising that brought down the Wall and the subsequent vote to reunify. But there, too, plans of the sort have sputtered – after all, the reunified capital and the Brandenburg Gate belong to the people of Leipzig, as well.

PICTURE ALLIANCE/AP PHOTO

The Brandenburg Gate, 1961.

Harald Jähner has been the feuilleton editor of the Berliner Zeitung *since 2004.*

A–Z

G
Größenwahn
['grøːsn̩ˌvaːn]
Megalomania
Owning a car in Berlin

Continental drift

Brexit poses a big opportunity for European cities wanting to attract startups. If Berlin wants to profit from Britain's brain drain, it must stay cheap, livable and open | *By Bastian Brauns*

When Britons voted to leave the European Union in June, they unwittingly handed an advantage to the cities on the continent. Brexit – a horror scenario for the entire European economic zone – would nevertheless create endless opportunities for startup locations like Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam and Stockholm. Even if the British government is not in official talks with the EU about the country's departure, one thing is clear – ever since the vote, the startup capital of London has been facing tougher competition from other cities in Europe for talent, ideas and innovations.

As Europe's most important financial center, many of London's advantages will remain even if the UK does leave the EU. There are good reasons why the British capital provides the current headquarters for some 275,000 startups. If anything, London, with its business-friendly tax laws, will be able to offer even bigger tax breaks in the future.

The country's new prime minister, Theresa May, is well aware of the importance of innovative new companies. A few weeks ago she underscored this fact at a meeting at 10 Downing Street, where she addressed representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises: "From dynamic startups to established family firms, our small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of our country." She added that the UK would never be fully cut off from the European market.

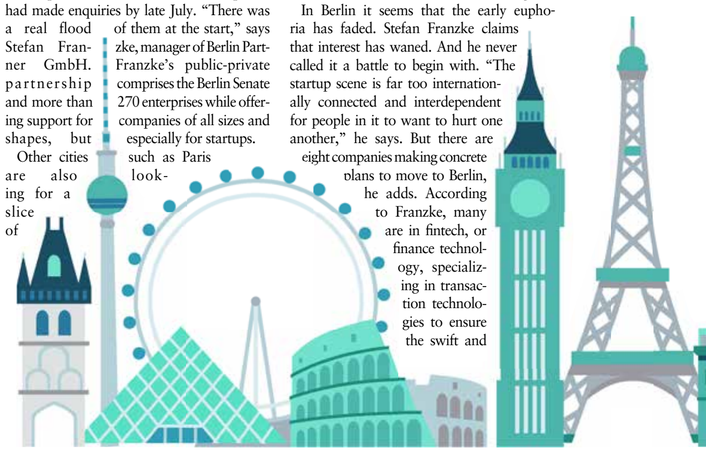
But at the moment, with the conditions for the UK's departure not yet negotiated and the consequences unpredictable, it is a dangerous time for London and a tempting one for Berlin. The battle to be seen as the most fertile ground for startups is underway. Fearing legal uncertainties, more and more investors may simply keep their money out of Britain, or invest it in cities that have a more predictable political and economic climate. When investors hesitate, startup companies get nervous. New companies in particular rely on cash and trust from investors in order to grow quickly in a competitive environment.

London may also be facing an uphill battle to attract the smartest minds and best ideas. The government has yet to answer the question of how tightly it will restrict immigration in the future. But at the very least it seems that freedom of movement for workers from the EU will come to an end in the foreseeable future. More than half of those working at startups in London come from outside the UK. Many interpret Brexit as the UK saying "You are not wanted here!" Smart people are thinking of packing their bags.

Straight after the vote, many London startups made the call to Berlin to ask about the pros and cons of a move to the city on the Spree. Berlin Senator of Economics Cornelia Yzer reported that more than 100 companies had made enquiries by late July. "There was a real flood of them at the start," says Stefan Franzke, manager of Berlin Partner GmbH. Franzke's public-private partnership comprises the Berlin Senate and more than 270 enterprises while offering support for companies of all sizes and shapes, but especially for startups.

Other cities such as Paris are also looking for a slice of the pie. Valérie Pécresse, the councilor of the Île-de-France capital region, sent out 4,000 letters to British companies as soon as the referendum result was announced. Her words were blunt: "The battle of the cities has begun."

In Berlin it seems that the early euphoria has faded. Stefan Franzke claims that interest has waned. And he never called it a battle to begin with. "The startup scene is far too internationally connected and interdependent for people in it to want to hurt one another," he says. But there are eight companies making concrete plans to move to Berlin, he adds. According to Franzke, many are in fintech, or finance technology, specializing in transaction technologies to ensure the swift and secure flow of money around the world. Banking apps are just one of many fintech fields. BrickVest, a British-German property investment startup, has officially announced that its headquarters are moving to Berlin. But the online platform will continue to be run from its London office (see interview p. 12).



FOTOLIA/ANTIKWAR1

For the moment, Berlin as a business location appears to have been weakened rather than strengthened. According to the Ernst & Young startup barometer, the German capital is ranked not number one, as it had been in the past, but only number four, with investment volumes of €520 million. London is back on top with investments of €1.3 billion, followed by Stockholm, which attracted a cool billion, and Paris, at €673 million.

Yet this is just one snapshot of Europe's financial development. One-off deals bringing a big investment to a single company – as was the case with Spotify in Stockholm – can make it seem that the location overall is enormously valuable. Yet the number of financing rounds must also be considered, for they show how many startup projects the investments are distributed across.

In 2015 Berlin was well ahead of London in terms of these financing rounds. Investors put money into Berlin startups on 205 occasions, compared to 132 for London startups. In the first half of 2016, however, Berlin was no longer number one; with 117 financing rounds – estimated to be cloud music platform number three. Paris topped the list with 178 rounds of financing, followed by London with 157.

What has to happen for Berlin to get back on top? After all, the German capital is home to more than 6,000 startups, including around 100 fintech companies.

Chris Bartz, is a venture partner at FinLeap, one of Europe's key fintech firms, and chairman of the FinTechs, Insurance & Banking Innovations working group at the digital industry association, Bitkom. "Here in Germany we mustn't think too small when it comes to financial technologies," he says.

He compares Germany's current digital economy with how it looked around the year 2000. Back then, no one managed to establish a German Apple, Facebook or Google. "My first smartphone was a Siemens. No one talks about Siemens in that context any more," Bartz says.

He does not want to see a repeat performance. "There's a good chance right now that we will end up empty-handed once again, and it's up to us to change the situation." He points out that digitalization has led to an enormous shift in the value-creation chain. Bartz believes we need more political will so that we are not too content with what appears to work well enough. "We have to stop being so complacent and instead realign ourselves according to the current state of the technology," he says.

Bartz talks about the discouraging effect German laws can have. For instance, there are rules stating that two parties in a contract must be face to face when the contract is signed. This can often be exceedingly impractical when it comes to digital processes, he says. Bartz sees it as Germany's task to push forward further unification of the European market. "Brexit will hurt everyone in the long run, even if startup cities benefit in the beginning," Bartz says, because it is ultimately essential to have uniform rules and a long reach, without borders or barriers.

But he believes Berlin is on the right path. "A city's feel-good factor is more than just a fringe benefit," says Bartz. The framework has to be right not just for the entrepreneurs, but also for employees and their families. With its international outlook, welcoming culture, openness, freedom, well-trained IT technicians and affordable cost of living, Berlin has got it all. According to Bartz, entrepreneurs ask themselves two primary questions: "Where can I get the people I need?" and "Where do I myself want to go?"

Berlin's two coalition parties, the SPD and CDU, as well as other parties, are competing to come up with the best startup proposal for the city. In September Berlin even opened its own recruiting office in London's creative startup district of Camden. Working together with the consulting firm KPMG, Berlin officials aim to be on the spot to advise startup companies

continued on p. 12

H
Höflichkeit
['høːflɪçkaɪt]
Politeness
Waiting until dark before pissing in the street

continued from p. 11

eager to move to Berlin. Simultaneously the Berlin Senate announced that it would create 50 new IT professorships for Berlin, although they would not be tenured positions.

"Companies follow the talent," says Stefan Franzke. A first wave of educated arrivals came to Germany and its capital city following the 2008 financial crisis. "We benefit tremendously from the skilled labor that has come here, from Spain and Greece, for example," Franzke says. This international movement has siphoned talent to Germany, giving a boost to our entire startup culture. News like the results of the state election in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania – in which the anti-immigration AfD party placed second – are unhelpful, Franzke says, because "people in the business talk about how Germany is so welcoming to newcomers."

Finleap's Chris Bartz agrees. "It's up to us to develop and communicate a positive outlook for the future," he says. "Fear comes all by itself."

A-Z

I
Ideologie
[ideolo'gi:]
Ideology
A word not used since the fall of the Wall

White-collar refugees

Find out why the fintech company BrickVest moved from London to Berlin

In mid-September of this year, the online investment platform BrickVest was one of the first companies to make the post-Brexit move from the British to the German capital. Founded in London two years ago, this financial technology company manages a portfolio of €20 million, drawn from investors with capital ranging from €10,000 to €5 million. Seven of the company's 15 employees – their so-called back office – were involved in the move. *The Berlin Times* talked to co-founder Thomas Schneider about the reasons for the relocation.

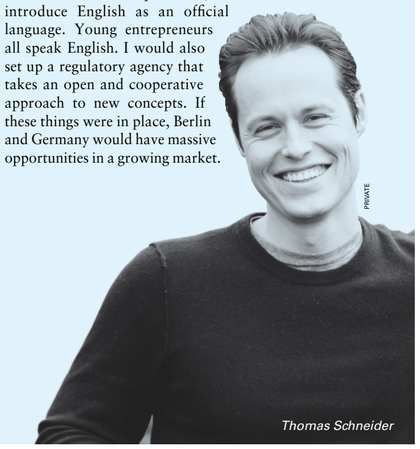
THE BERLIN TIMES: Why Berlin?
THOMAS SCHNEIDER: We'd been thinking of doing it for a while. Then the Brexit vote gave us that extra incentive to actually do it. Now, if and when Brexit comes, we'll already have a basis here in Berlin.

Is the Berlin market really so interesting?
The entire German market is interesting; all of Europe is, too, for that matter. We're a European platform. Office space and the cost of living are highly affordable in Berlin, and that's important for a young company like ours, where the salaries aren't as lavish as you might think.

Did government agencies support your move?
Yes, but I would have expected more in that regard. For example, the BaFin banking supervisory authority is very bureaucratic. They're overly cautious and focused on investor protection, which is, of course, important, but it's counterproductive to be suspicious of everything new – especially for us, seeing as our entire business model is based on "the new." For example, we do the real estate business differently and better than any bank could. If we did everything the way they do, there would be no need for us anymore.

To what extent is the system heavily bureaucratic?
In London, fintechs have more flexibility and face much less regulation. This is why all the startups are in London. Take for example the AIFM license, which we need wherever we do business. The same way a driver's license is more difficult to get in Germany, so is the AIFM.

What would you recommend Germany do?
The first thing would be to solve the language problem. If I were the BaFin or a politician, I would introduce English as an official language. Young entrepreneurs all speak English. I would also set up a regulatory agency that takes an open and cooperative approach to new concepts. If these things were in place, Berlin and Germany would have massive opportunities in a growing market.


PRIVATE
Thomas Schneider

✓ Language
✓ Training
✓ Work

More than one million refugees came to Germany in 2014 and 2015. While this year's numbers are far lower, the refugees now here are in need of places to live, jobs and prospects for the future. How can we make integration work?

The German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) and Humboldt University in Berlin have analyzed the data from surveys of refugees in Germany between 1990 and 2010. The findings revealed low levels of qualification, a low propensity to finish school (refugees: 20 percent, migrants: 10 percent), poor knowledge of German upon arrival, and a tendency to start their first job later than non-refugees. "But unlike work-seeking migrants, refugees are hardly able to prepare for the country they go to," says Martin Kroh of DIW Berlin.

Refugees are more often unemployed and earn less. About two-thirds of male refugees but only one in four women found a job within the first five years of being in Germany – primarily in small businesses, processing industries and the catering industry.

Some results provide grounds for hope: refugees had a better track record on school attendance and higher levels of education than other immigrants. The researchers were optimistic about the latest wave of refugees, a result of there being far more integration measures today than in the past: "The many measures and social initiatives give us hope that the most recent refugees will be integrated quickly," says Kroh. The researchers recommend that German authorities be quicker to recognize qualifications from abroad. They conclude that refugees need better information on how to obtain degrees, training certificates and work experience recognized in Germany – something only one in three has managed so far.

As for language – a vital criterion for integration – making work and training options available earlier may quickly improve refugees' German-language skills. Social contact plays a big role in success in the labor market, with half of the working refugees finding their first jobs in Germany via friends or relatives.

For children, early education is vital. Refugees seem to know this – their children are just as happy as other kids to participate in voluntary activities at school. Yet activities outside of school – for instance in sports clubs – are not so popular. It is comparatively rare for refugee children under the age of three to attend a kindergarten or parent-child group. Katharina Spiess of the DIW says that is a shame: "Early education holds especially great potential, which we should better utilize in the interests of successful integration." As a solution she recommends an intercultural approach and targeted recruiting of volunteers and integration workers who themselves have roots outside Germany.

PICTURE ALLIANCE / ZB
High potentials: Young refugee children, actually happy to be in school.

A-Z

LAUNCH PAD

J
Ja
[ja:]
Yes
Answer to the question: Another coffee?

Top startup cities are forming global networks, and Berlin is at the heart of it all | *By Stefan Franzke*

Berlin continues to shine bright at the heart of the European startup scene. In fact, over the past several years the German capital has become synonymous with the cutting-edge cooperation and exchange between established companies and up-and-coming entrepreneurs. Indeed, an increasing number of companies ranging from medium-sized enterprises to major industrial corporations are already working closely together with young and innovative founders in Berlin. And it is a perfect match: while startups bring their digital know-how to the table, established companies contribute their many years of market experience.

This special blend has become a proven recipe for success. Today, companies from all over Germany, including Bayer, Daimler, Lufthansa, Deutsche Bank and Würth Elektronik, are eager to establish strategic links to the startup scene in Berlin. Many of them set up innovation centers in the capital, which are designed to drive the process of digitization throughout their businesses.

Furthermore, Berlin is Germany's most international city, meaning that global networks play an essential role for the capital as well. This is why the Berlin Partner business development agency launched Start Alliance Berlin, a program designed to create sustainable links to all the major startup cities in the world. The program involves the most in-demand co-working hubs in the participating cities, including Tel Aviv, New York, Shanghai and Paris. It also includes an exchange program that enables young entrepreneurs to test these cities for up to six weeks. Participants are given free-of-charge access to spaces in co-working hubs and are encouraged to network with the ecosystems in each city. With the help of their newly found knowledge and insight, they can then decide whether or not entering those markets makes sense for them.

FOTOSTUDIO CHARLOTTENBURG
Stefan Franzke

Berlin-based founders can draw on the program to gain key access to exciting markets. Tel Aviv, for example, is especially attractive due to its many collaborations with tech companies. The large number of venture capitalists in the United States makes that country an attractive international location. The Chinese market scores points with its massive scalability. And Paris stands out for its exchange between fashion and creative startups.

In return, startups from these leading global cities are invited to Berlin and given the opportunity to make a decisive step into European markets via the German capital. Especially in light of the recent Brexit vote, Berlin has become the focus of an even greater level of interest. More and more people are noticing that it is possible, and fulfilling, to live and work here completely in English. More than half of today's venture capital in Germany flows into Berlin-based startups. Plus, German industrial companies continue to seek out new and exciting founders to work with them on cooperative activities in Berlin.

International startups are invited to apply at www.berlin-partner.de/sab.

Stefan Franzke is management spokesperson at Berlin Partner for Business and Technology.

A-Z

LIVING ROOM

K
Kindergarten
['kɪndɐˌgaʊtn]
Kindergarten
Dating venue for Berlin's numerous single parents

The city is booming. But so are real estate prices. Berlin's new urban planning idea comprises mixed social milieus, which create more than just new opportunities for homeowners and investors | *By Tong-Jin Smith*

© MIKET / FOTOLIA

Berlin is the place to be. Not only are Germans flocking to the city to live, study and work; international sojourners are also joining the growing ranks of new Berliners each year. Even retirees are discovering Berlin as a culturally and socially diverse haven in which to enjoy the autumn of their lives, preferably near their children and grandchildren.

Berlin has been growing since 2005. Since 2010 the population has increased by roughly 40,000 each year, and in 2015 by 48,000 – and that's not counting the influx of refugees. As a result, living space for the city's more than 3.5 million residents has become a sought-after commodity, especially in the affordable range. Finding a rental unit for less than €10 per sqm within the S-Bahn ring, which approximates the city center, has become nearly impossible. And real estate prices have soared, with annual increases of up to 17 percent depending on location and standard. Currently, according to the real estate platform immowelt.de, the city's average price per sqm has reached €3,778.

These days, by international standards a 90-sqm two bedroom apartment for €340,000 in the heart of the German capital may not sound like a lot, but for most Berliners, who have an average disposable income of roughly €17,600 per year, it's hard to finance, even with the current low interest rates.

Also, Berlin has traditionally been a rental city. Only 15 percent of the population owns the house or apartment they live in, compared to 43 percent nationally. And then there is the fact that the city is Europe's freelancer capital. In other words, lots and lots of singles and families have an irregular medium-to-low income earned in a tech startup, ad agency or one of the many companies in Berlin's creative industries. This creates the looming threat of a housing problem, with the elderly facing povertyonce all these freelancers hit retirement age.

"Regarding our current demographic development, we estimate the need for 15,000 to 20,000 new homes every year," says Andreas Geisel (SPD), Berlin's senator for urban development and the environment. The city has thus set aside a budget to support construction of new, affordable rental units, with numbers increasing from 197 subsidized units in 2014 to currently 2,500 and up to 3,000 units in 2017, with more to come. In addition, the city's public housing associations are investing in new homes. By 2026 the six state-supported associations are planning to build or acquire 54,000 new apartments, although not all of these new homes are intended for low-income families at affordable rents of €6.50 to €8.00 per sqm. The goal is to preserve the city's social mix in all its neighborhoods and prevent the development of ghettos.

"Having a healthy mix of people from all walks of life living together under the same roof has been one of Berlin's great attractors," explains architect Siegfried Hertfelder. In fact, the city has a long tradition of preserving its particular social mix. When in 1862 James Hobrecht was entrusted with planning Berlin's development into a proper metropolis, he not only brought in modern canalization, but also a system of large radial streets, which became the framework for the city as we know it today, along with its typical multi-courtyard tenements, many parks and public spaces.

> "Public-private partnerships are generally more agreeable for all stakeholders involved."

Thus, Hobrecht aimed to ensure Berlin's social balance. The rich should not be separated from the poor. "In tenements, the children from the basement dwellings attending charity school will pass through the same entrance hall as the children of academics and merchants on their way to secondary school," Hobrecht said in defense of his mixed quarters. Although his grand plan could prevent neither real estate and property speculation nor the emergence of low-income neighborhoods, Hobrecht's idea of mixed social milieus remains a guiding principle in Berlin's urban planning of today.

It is perhaps best embodied in a scheme initiated by the city's current mayor, Michael Müller (SPD) during his term as Berlin's senator for urban development under Mayor Klaus Wowereit (SPD). Known as the Berlin Model for Cooperative Property Development, it requires all developers, whether public or private, to enter into a discourse with the city and district where they plan to develop their real estate. The goal is to create more than just new opportunities for homeowners and investors; a minimum of 25 percent of the new homes must be allocated as affordable rental units.

This is where many private developers have begun to turn to the public housing associations or one of the city's many housing cooperatives as partners. Although the development process may be slowed down by this form of public-private partnership, the results are generally more agreeable for all stakeholders involved.

One such project is the development of the so-called Freudenberg area, a former industrial tract in the middle of Friedrichshain, one of the city's popular districts in the eastern part of town. Initially, Bauwert, the developer in question, had planned to sell 40 percent of the apartments as condominiums.

But after three round tables with political decision-makers and local action groups, the plans were modified. Now only 90 of the 650 apartments currently under construction on the 26,000-sqm property will be condos. A large property management company has acquired over 10,000 sqm of retail and office space on the premises, along with 226 apartments expected to rent for about €13 per sqm.

One hundred and twenty-two units have been sold to the public housing association Howoge, which will be charging a subsidized rent of €6.50 per sqm. Howoge also acquired an additional building that will house a kindergarten for 90 to 100 children. Due to the lack of green areas in the neighborhood, the project encompasses a public park and gardens for its residents and their neighbors. Once completed in 2018, it is hoped that it will become a model for other such developments.

"As planners, architects and developers, we have to get involved with the people in whose neighborhood we are creating something new," says Hertfelder. "We have to listen to the people and the administration. What does a particular neighborhood need? Affordable housing? Family apartments? A new kindergarten? Urban gardens? There is so much more that goes into city development than just adding another building."

Most developers are beginning to understand that. But in Berlin, where about 12 percent of developable land is owned by the city, finding the right plot at an acceptable price is becoming difficult. "We would love to develop a plot in Stralau that belongs to the BSR, the municipal garbage collection authority, but three years ago the city government stopped the sale of public land to private developers so it could potentially offer these plots to public housing associations," explains Julian Streletzki, a developer in Berlin. "Since then, nothing has happened. It's sad."

Streletzki is currently building 165 family apartments in Karlshorst, about 40 minutes by public transport from Friedrichstraße in the city center. "It's maybe a bit off the beaten track, but it's a good neighborhood with healthy infrastructure that will become more attractive as the cities continues to grow," he explains. He expects the development of many outer districts to follow on the heels of the more sought-after central districts like Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg and Kreuzberg. "Berlin is polycentric. That's our great advantage. And many of these small centers are growing both economically as well as in terms of population." Maintaining social balance while increasing the number of homeowners is a challenge facing today's Berlin.

"We need new construction to meet the demand for new and affordable homes. To achieve that, we have to increase the number of developable plots and ensure that property speculation is curtailed," says Andreas Geisel. "One of the steps we have taken is to map out 12 new neighborhoods with potential for 50,000 new apartments." These are ambitious plans that will need many partners and diverse concepts if Berlin is to internationalize and expand while maintaining its unique social and cultural balance.

A–Z

L
Luftschloss
['lʊftˌʃlɔs]
Castle in the sky
What most Berliners wish the Humboldt Forum had remained

We can be heroes, just for one like

For two years he was a Berliner. David Bowie's apartment building in Schöneberg has become a memorial site

PICTURE ALLIANCE/CHRIS HOFFMANN

Berlin calling. 60,000 attended David Bowie's concert in front of the Reichstag (below) in June 1987.

PICTURE ALLIANCE/DPA

It is a perfectly normal apartment building at Hauptstraße 155 in the Berlin district of Schöneberg. At the end of August it was given a simple, white memorial plaque. And sure enough, it is now the hippest selfie location in the city, a pilgrimage site for those seeking traces of Berlin's recent and not-so-recent past. 40 years ago, in 1976, pop star David Bowie moved into the building where he would then spend two years, formative ones both musically and personally. The artist overcame his drug addiction, visited the city's museums and did some painting himself.

Above all, however, his time in Berlin inspired three albums, *Low, Heroes* and *Lodger,* which are hailed in the annals of music as the Berlin Trilogy. His song "Heroes," with its serene, melancholic sound, has become the unofficial anthem of the city. After Bowie's death on Jan. 10 of this year, thousands of people gathered outside Bowie's apartment building, transforming the sidewalk into a sea of candles and flowers. Thousands of fans showed up again for the unveiling of the plaque, including Berlin Mayor Michael Müller. What David Bowie found here, Müller said, was a city that inspired his creativity, "and that is still why creative and extraordinary people from all over the world come to Berlin."

A–Z

GARDENS OF THE WORLD

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The cubicles in the eastern Berlin banlieue of Marzahn-Hellersdorf are getting a bigger yard. And a gondola lift to boot, so that people may soon hover above "Ein MEHR aus Farben" – a play on the German phrase for "a sea of colors" and also the motto of IGA Berlin 2017, the international garden show opening on Apr. 13 of next year. Until Oct. 16, 2017, visitors will be able to marvel at how landscape architects conceive of the future of city and landscape, of urban space and nature. The urban development concept of the IGA grounds combines the existing Gardens of the World with the adjoining Kienberg and rambling Wuhletal. The three areas are connected to one another by Berlin's first gondola lift. From the air and from several different spots on the 100-hectare grounds visitors can catch an astounding view of the colossal housing estates erected by the GDR. Renewable energies, natural habitats within the city and visonary urban landscapes: these are the three most important themes the IGA is seeking to augment and explore. All this in addition to myriad flower gardens and cultural offerings are planned to draw visitors from all over the world.

On Oct. 16 of this year, an autumn festival will be held in the Gardens of the World – the last opportunity to admire them before they are transformed to make way for the future.

www.iga-berlin-2017.de

LIGHT AND DARK

Berlin became whole again on Oct. 3, 1990, a rare joyful moment in the city's checkered past. A walk through its center reveals a testimony to world history at every turn

1 Cölln (1237)

Despite what most think, the Nikolaiviertel is not the oldest part of Berlin. Across the Spree from where a village called Berlin would later arise, Cölln was founded in 1237. In 1280 the two villages united to form a city. What does that have to do with world history? Without the founding of Berlin, history would look very different today.

2 Brandenburg Gate (1806/1814)

Atop the gate stood the Quadriga, a winged goddess of peace molded by sculptor Johann G. Schadow, until Napoleon lugged it back to Paris after his victory at Jena and his march through the Brandenburg Gate on Oct. 27, 1806. Eight years later, after the Allies took Paris, Prussian troops returned the Quadriga to its original resting place, and Schadow proceeded to transform the figure on the chariot into a goddess of victory.

3 Breite Straße (1848)

The French Revolution reached as far as Berlin. After more than 200 insurgents and dozens of soldiers had died on Mar. 18, 1848, the King of Prussia Friedrich Wilhelm IV promised: "Prussia will henceforth be merged into Germany." The people lay down their arms, but German unification and a liberal constitution would have to wait. The restoration struck back.

4 Reichstag (1918)

On Nov. 9, 1918, after the lost war and the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II, the Social Democrat Philipp Scheidemann proclaimed the republic from the west balcony of the Reichstag dining hall. He wanted to beat the marxist Karl Liebknecht to the punch, who would declare a "free socialist republic" a few hours later. Scheidemann proclaimed: "The old and the brittle, the monarchy has collapsed! Long live the new! Long live the German Republic."

5 Lichtenstein Bridge (1919)

After the Socialist Spartacus uprising, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were murdered by members of the Rifle Division of the Cavalry Guards. On Jan. 15, 1919, her corpse was thrown into the Landwehr Canal and not found until four months later, just next to the Lichtenstein Bridge. Liebknecht's body was found in the Tiergarten. The culprits were acquitted and the judgment signed by SPD Reichswehr Minister Gustav Noske, who is alleged to have sanctioned the killings before the fact.

6 Niederkirchner Straße (1933/45)

The Nazi seat of power. The grounds of today's Topography of Terror, on what was then called Prinz-Albrecht-Straße, were home to the National Socialist headquarters of terror from 1933 to 1945: the Gestapo, which had its own "house prison," the SS, the SD and, during the World War II, the Reich Main Security Office. In 1985 citizens began to excavate the site's buried history, which eventually led to today's museum.

7 Pallasstraße 3 (1943)

Here stood the famed Sportpalast, normally a venue for ice hockey and boxing. But World War II gave occasion for another spectacle on the site: Goebbels' speech after the Wehrmacht's defeat at Stalingrad on Feb. 18, 1943. "Do you want total war?" screamed the Reich propaganda minister. The deluded Berliners cheered him on enthusiastically. The Pallasseum, built on the grounds in 1977, is a social housing complex.

8 Stauffenbergstraße 18 (1944)

"Long live sacred Germany" – the last words of Claus Graf Schenk von Stauffenberg, spoken on the night of July 20, 1944, just before his summary execution in the inner courtyard of the Bendlerblock, headquarters of the Wehrmacht. Earlier in the day, in the rooms of the General Army Office, the attempt by Hitler opponents had failed to bring down the regime. Ringleader Stauffenberg had carried out a bomb attack that Hitler managed to survive. Nevertheless, the colonel had hoped to be able to complete the coup in Berlin. A museum in the building commemorates the failed attempt.

9 Anhalter Bahnhof (1942/45)

But the for portico, the train station was completely destroyed by bombing raids in February 1945. Between 1942 and 1945 almost 10,000 Jews were transported from the station to Theresienstadt concentration camp. The site bears a commemorative plaque in memoriam.

10 Tempelhof Airport (1948/49)

Beginning on June 28, 1948, two million West Berliners had to be supplied by aircraft, as the Soviets had severed all land connections between the Western occupation zones and Berlin. The Western Powers – the US and the UK – organized a Luftbrücke, or air bridge. By May 12, 1949, 1.6 million tons of coal and 540,000 tons of food had been delivered.

11 Karl-Marx-Allee (1953)

East Germany's People's Uprising of June 17, 1953, actually began in Berlin on June 16. At a huge construction site on what was then Stalinallee, the first workers lay down their tools to form a protest march against increased work norms. The rest of the story is better known: large demonstrations on June 17; the East German army opens fires on East German citizens; martial law.

12 Humboldthafen (1961)

The first casualty of the Wall. On Aug. 24, 1961, a tailor named Günter Litfin tried to escape to the West over a train track. After a policeman fired warning shots, Litfin jumped into the water. As he had almost reached the far bank of the canal, a bullet struck his head. At least 100 more would-be escapees met the same fate. 500 meters to the north, at the Spandau Ship Canal, a memorial site was established in a former watchtower.

13 Rathaus Schöneberg (1963)

"All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and, therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words 'Ich bin ein Berliner!'" – perhaps no other sentence in Berlin or German history is more recitable than President John F. Kennedy's words of solidarity for West Berlin, spoken on June 26, 1963, from the balcony of Rathaus Schöneberg, at that time the seat of the Berlin parliament. 100,000 people were there to hear the speech live.

14 Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 8 (1964)

This visit was hardly official. With just a credit card as ID, Martin Luther King was allowed to cross through Checkpoint Charlie on Sep. 13, 1964. He headed straight to St. Mary's Church to give a sermon before 3,000 people, greeting the crowd as "My dear Christian friends in East Berlin." The choir then began to sing "Go down, Moses," with its refrain: "Let my people go!"

15 Krumme Straße (1967)

On June 2, 1967, student demonstrators gathered in front of the Deutsche Oper to protest the visit of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the Shah of Iran. The police dispersed the students. In an inner courtyard on Krumme Straße, a policeman shot the 26-year-old Benno Ohnesorg. The deed became a beacon, a turning point of sorts. One portion of the protestors became radicalized, culminating in the founding of the Red Army Faction (RAF), an organization that would later carry out numerous deadly attacks and terrorize Germany for 10 years.

16 Platz-des-18.-März (1987/89)

Where Straße-des-17.-Juni meets the curved Ebertstraße is where Ronald Reagan, with his back to the Reichstag, beckoned the ruling powers of the East on June 12, 1987: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" No one could expect that just over two years later, on Nov. 9, 1989, people would be dancing on the Wall just in front of Reagan's podium.

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Courage
Crossing the street on a red light when there's no traffic to be seen

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Nebenbuhler
['neːbn̩ˌbuːlɐ]
Rival
Munich, but it's not nearly as poor, or sexy

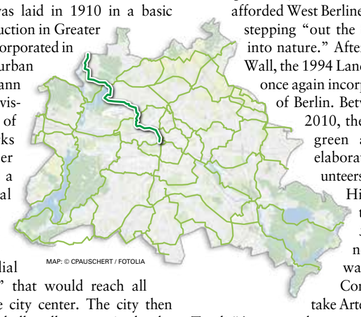
Ambulatory cure

Hiking in Berlin? Lace up your boots! Thanks to prescient urban planning the city of stone also offers "20 green arteries," whose 565 kilometers connect parks and waterfronts | *By Benjamin Walter*

Author Theodor Fontane, who lived in Berlin most of his life, was as famous for his long hikes as for his dry wit. Even in 1873, before any automobiles drove the streets, but countless chimneys belched coal smoke, he admitted: "Berlin air – could be better." Yet nothing could deter his daily walks through the city and beyond its gates. As bad as it might be, Berlin air "is simple, uncomplicated, straight from the source, one might say."

However, witticisms like these no longer carry much weight. The city is packed and it stinks; why would anyone in their right mind cross it on foot? Because there's so much to explore in so few kilometers. Anyone for whom the beaten path has become a bore – the Brandenburg Gate, Sony Center, Checkpoint Charlie, Hackescher Markt, the TV Tower and Friedrichstraße – and who is ready for destinations farther afield will find an immense infrastructure waiting to welcome them. Between Berlin's urban canyons lurks a network of walking paths unique for a city its size. "20 Green Arteries" (20 grüne Hauptwege; see illustration), the name of a public program and term trademarked by Berlin's Ministry for Urban Development and the Environment, links together the city's parks and waterside paths.

The foundation for this network of urban hiking trails was laid in 1910 in a basic plan for construction in Greater Berlin (itself incorporated in 1920) by the urban planner Hermann Jansen. He envisaged a system of connected parks with a smaller inner ring and a larger external belt of woods, parks and gardens, connected by radial green "spokes" that would reach all the way to the city center. The city then purchased – and allegedly even seized – the required territory. In 1915 Berlin took control of 10,200 hectares of state forest along the city outskirts (Tegel, Lake Müggelssee and Grunewald forests) where construction was banned. In 1922 a new law secured 119 kilometers of lakeshore and riverbanks from development.


MAP: © CPAUSCHERT / FOTOLIA

Berlin's post-1945 reconstruction kept to this plan and, inside their walled-in city, afforded West Berliners the option of stepping "out the front door and into nature." After the fall of the Wall, the 1994 Landscape Program once again incorporated the east of Berlin. Between 2004 and 2010, the details of "20 green arteries" were elaborated. Today, volunteers from the Berlin Hiking Association tend the 565-kilometer network of pathways.

Come along! Let's take Artery Number 3 to Tegel! "Anyone who can trust his feet," recommended Fontane, who often walked to Tegel, "does well to do the whole tour on foot, using Berlin as the starting point." In what was then the Oranienburg Vorstadt – a suburb north and east of today's Hauptbahnhof, between the Spandau Ship Canal, North Port, Humboldthain Park and Rosenthaler Platz – Fontane found train stations and army barracks, cemeteries and ironworks. He watched "funeral processions and battalions pass by with songs and music," listened to the whistle of locomotives, saw smokestacks and chimneys at work and marveled at the "fine taste that, in its sense for the beautiful, has not neglected to serve a practical purpose."

The stations and barracks are long gone, along with the ironworks. Nature now unfurls itself in the inner city. Right at the tour's outset, at Invalidenstraße along the Spandau Ship Canal, swallows tend to their young in the springtime under the roof of the Charité hospital's medical history museum. A few hundred meters farther, at the Nordufer embankment, an egret stands perched in the water.

On the opposite bank, pedestrians in the coming years will be able to gawk at how the metropolis devours undeveloped land. That's where so-called Europacity will soon emerge. Its first building, the Tour Total, built by an Austrian developer, received the

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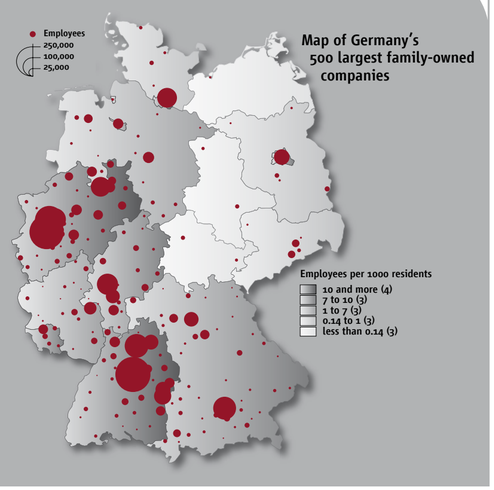

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2014 Concrete Architecture Prize. A second office complex has popped up next door; its architects call it a "green building." When finished, the new quarter will encompass office space for 10,000 people and housing for 2,000 prosperous individuals.

They will gaze from windows and balconies across the canal at Invaliden Cemetery, where half of an air squadron is buried: Manfred von Richthofen, Werner Mölders, Ernst Udet, Wolff von Stutterheim. East German border guards fatally shot several people here as they tried to escape to the West. A plaque in the cemetery recalls the former border fortifications; a former guard tower nearby houses a memorial to Günter Litfin, the first person killed trying to flee East Berlin.

The district of Wedding, which we reach at the Nordhafen river port, was not to Fontane's liking: "An alarming lack of the picturesque pervades." Everywhere he saw "a spirit of mediocre order, mediocre cleanliness, everywhere the striving to reach for the ceiling and get along through hard work and thriftiness, but nowhere the need to see beauty – that which uplifts and delights – other than in a fresh paint job or the straightness of a fence."

To be sure, the smell of oil exhaust now wafts above Westhafen; at the northern end of the district it's kerosene that prevails upon the senses. Where Fontane once trod through pine woods, the airport and autobahn today impede the way. But from Westhafen on, Artery 3 leads almost exclusively through nature. It proceeds past Lake Plötzensee, Rehberge Park and an allotment garden colony. At the edge of Jungfernheide, a pack of wild boars roams and roots through the woodland soil. Finally, along the shore of Lake Tegel, we head for the parking lot, the Tegel boat docks or our chosen destination, the U-Bahn.

Fontane would have despised such means of transport, and the people who use them as well. In his day, the Lustgarten Omnibus to Buch, northeast of Berlin, carted passengers from Pankow and Schönhausen to the edge of Französisch-Buchholz, that is, over half the distance. He never took it. "But we, with that proud feeling of the itinerant, longing for exertion, ever scorned the omnibus."

A–Z

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Obrigkeit
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Authority
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PUBLIC ENEMY #1

Communist poet Wolf Biermann is set to publish his autobiography in October, one month before his 80th birthday. He once believed that democracy and communism could work together in harmony. Now he knows he was wrong | *By Stefan Aust*

Wolf Biermann was an unrivaled pain in the neck for the GDR and contributed happily to that country's demise. He was a communist, which is precisely what made him so threatening to the East German establishment. In that socialist state of workers and peasants east of the River Elbe, he was a newcomer from the West. He came on his own accord, only to be forcibly expatriated in the end. While thousands sought to escape the country closed in by the Wall, he stayed. That is, until they tossed him out. His poems and Sprechgesang – a guitar-based form of musical expression halfway between speech and song – leapfrogged over the Wall. His work was banned in East Germany and venerated in the West. Biermann was the poet of a divided Germany. His oeuvre reflects a relentless critical assessment of real existing communism and German history, including class struggle, the persecution of the Jews, nighttime Allied bombings, the end of World War II, post-war division, reunification and coming to terms with the GDR dictatorship.

Biermann is about to turn 80 and has written his memoirs. He has reconstructed his life out of countless verses and memories, with additional help from two suitcases full of diaries he once passed on to a friend for safe keeping while the Berlin Wall was still standing. When the GDR collapsed, Biermann found out that this "friend" had been an "unofficial employee" (IM) of the Stasi, the East German Ministry for State Security (MfS). The man had nevertheless kept safe the written treasures entrusted to him. While reading through his Stasi file, Biermann found one line about the IM he thought had been his friend: "Under Biermann's corrosive influence, the IM has begun behaving untruthfully to the MfS and is no longer of any use to our further work."

Biermann carried the tragedies of the century within himself and translated them into great works of literature in the form of small verses. Between Bertolt Brecht and Heinrich Heine, he toiled away on Germany's dark fairytales in a manner that was filled with bitter irony and even occasional diversions into kitsch; it was an approach that was wise and soft, yet loud and clear.

He was brave to the point of audacity, sometimes sentimental and then suddenly dry as a bone. What did he have to lose, other than his life? As his memoir makes clear, his courage was the smokestack of Auschwitz. "My father was ripped away from me when I was four months old," is the first line of his book. "This terrible wound stayed open all my life, as I can never escape this early death. The sorrow about my father – the communist, the worker, the Jew – is my fateful influence, my good spirit, my bad spirit." And this sorrow remained alive: "My grief made me a cheeky doubter, then a pious heretic and a brave renegade of communism; an extremely sad child of good fortune in Germany, a time-worn child of the world."

Biermann did not fit into any specific ideology, and it took him decades to notice this and free himself from his father's legacy, which he still carried with him.

He was born at five minutes past midnight on Nov. 15, 1936, in Hamburg, after only eight months in the womb. His parents were staunch communists and resistance fighters. When his father, Dagobert Biermann, stood before the court, having been charged with "conspiracy to commit high treason," the judge rattled off the personal details of the accused, including a firm "none" with regard to any religious affiliation, at which point the father interrupted him, yelling: "I. Am. A. Jew!"

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THE SMART ALTERNATIVE.

Her whole life long, Biermann's mother Emma asked herself how her life might have been "if he hadn't said those words." His father was his soul, his mother Emma was his backbone, in turn inherited from his Oma Meume. They outlived Hitler and the bombings that set a firestorm upon Hamburg; and they clung firmly to communism, which quickly mutated into the real existing socialism of the GDR.

The young Wolf failed out of Heinrich Hertz School in Hamburg. After receiving a bad grade in math, he was subjected to one particular accusation from his mother: "Your father didn't die in Auschwitz so you could get a bad grade in math!" He hated himself, and just to make sure it didn't hurt so much, he hated her, too.

PICTURE-ALLIANCE/ZB

Wolf Biermann, 1989

In the spring of 1953 he set off for East Germany: "I wanted to live in the GDR and learn the right stuff from the right people." Only one week after arriving, he experienced what that meant in terms of tangible social reality: in a makeshift school auditorium housed in a restaurant called "Fortschritt" ("Progress"), the pupils were invited by the FdJ youth organization to ceremoniously renounce the protestant church. When a small, pale girl said in a soft voice, "I refuse to leave the church," the FdJ secretary stood up and "screeched like a machine gun." Biermann found this "sickeningly amusing," put up his hand and stammered, "I am a communist... I'm against the church ... Religion is opium for the masses ... But what's going on here is not communism ... My father did not die so that this girl could be oppressed." In other words, as he says himself in his book, he picked up and swung "Emma's Auschwitz cudgel." He expressed a sentiment that would reappear like a refrain throughout his poetic, political work: "The fact that my father and so many of his comrades were sent to jail or a concentration camp for their communist convictions, and most of the time paid for it with their lives, made religion untouchable for me. What person can beat to death a father who has already been murdered! Our martyrs held me firmly in check."

This deep-rooted conviction also gave him the strength to do battle with those who would turn a humanitarian idea into an inhuman practice. Indeed, he never fought with comrades in the GDR about the "communist idea itself, but rather only about its totalitarian implementation in practice." On the second-to-last page of his book, he acknowledges having had a belated insight. He truly believed democracy and communism could work together in harmony. In conclusion he admits: "I was wrong."

On this journey through the chaos of East-West German history, there is nonetheless one bitter chapter of real-life satire in which Wolf Biermann played the undisputed leading role: the communist composer of texts and melodies that regularly wiped the smiles off the faces of the GDR power elite. His songs made him public enemy number one. And yet, the helpless rage of those in power ran like water off a duck's back and left the intrepid artist unfazed, never allowing himself to be stigmatized as an enemy of the people.

Biermann was under surveillance all day, every day. When the Wall fell and the GDR came to an end, he visited the former Stasi headquarters to read the files they had compiled on him; there were 50 binders containing roughly 20,000 pages. He read the names of the informants sent to spy on him; some of them he had long since suspected, while others were devastating surprises. Yet still, even amid the dirty work of surveillance, he found some true administrative poetry. For example, the protocol from a night spent with a female guest:

"Biermann has sexual intercourse with a lady.
It is Eva-Maria Hagen.
Afterwards, he asks her if she would like something to drink.
But the lady is hungry.
Afterwards, all is quiet."

Today, Biermann – that poetic and divided bon vivant – lives in Hamburg, the hometown of his father and mother. At 80 years old, he is a sprightly legend. A man who loved life, and women – as evidenced by his ten children. A chronicler of love, hate and the insanity of the past century. A poet, a thinker, a master of mockery.

P
Pissoir
[pɪˈsoaːɐ̯]
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Passing the baton

The Berlin Philharmonic ushers out Sir Simon Rattle and greets Kirill Petrenko, with hopes for a return to what matters most: interpretation

By Peter Uehling

In June 2015 the musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic gathered in Dahlem, not far from Jesus Christ Church, their longstanding venue, to choose a new conductor. At stake at this fateful meeting was perhaps the future of classical music, for not only is the Berlin Philharmonic – along with the Vienna Philharmonic and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam – one of the best orchestras in the world, it also sets new directions in terms of art, music policy and organization for orchestras the world over.

That made the choice a rather tense affair. Plenty of conductors had thrown their hats into the ring – Christian Thielemann, Andris Nelsons, Gustavo Dudamel, Riccardo Chailly, Daniel Barenboim – but none seemed predestined to succeed Sir Simon Rattle.

The Berlin Philharmonic's principle conductor must not only be an outstanding musician and artist, he must also have a vision of the greater meaning of music in today's world. In the 1920s and 1930s, Wilhelm Furtwängler continued the 19th-century modus of conceiving music as a metaphysical art. His successor Herbert von Karajan saw music as a product to be distributed around the world via new technologies – from stereo recording, to video, to digital recordings – in ever-better quality. However, Claudio Abbado considered music the art of arts and sought productive ties between Berlin's cultural institutions. Simon Rattle was meant to give the Berlin Philharmonic a fortified foundation in society, with measures such as the Education Program for children and teenagers from disadvantaged backgrounds. Complementing this, the Digital Concert Hall was created as a platform for promoting the orchestra's work online as compensation for decreasing CD sales.

With every change of conductor came a change of direction. And, while other orchestras have a board, organizations and cultural officials tasked with finding a new conductor, at the Berlin Philharmonic it is the musicians themselves who make the choice. This democratic constitution was born early on in the orchestra's history. In 1882 members of the Bilseschen Kapelle rejected the poor pay and conditions dealt out by the orchestra's founder and conductor, Benjamin Bilse, and formed their own group. Even then there could not have been outright rebellion against autocratic orchestral directors, and certainly not against Hans von Bülow, the Berlin Philharmonic's first significant principal conductor and the most authoritarian of them all. Not until the final years of von Karajan were there frequent enough clashes with the musicians' aplomb; indeed, Abbado's defensive style was one reason he succeeded von Karajan as principal.

How the musicians assert power over their alleged superiors is exemplified by their handling of orchestra managers. When Franz Xaver Ohnesorg tried to implement some of his own ideas, he was shown the door; when Pamela Rosenberg tried the same, she was more or less neutralized. Even Simon Rattle seemed more like an enforcer of major organizational changes begun in 2002, the transformation of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra from a subordinate department in the city's administration of culture to the Berlin Philharmonic Foundation, or the essential co-financing of the orchestra by sponsors.

Only seldom did Rattle make a strong artistic impression; his hewing to the orchestra's basic German-Austrian repertoire produced only a scant few groundbreaking interpretations. Sparks of genius were more likely to fly when passing the baton to guest conductors such Abbado, Herbert Blomstedt, Nikolaus Harnoncourt – or Kirill Petrenko, Rattle's designated successor. That the Berlin Philharmonic is switching from an adeptly diplomatic, charismatic Briton to a brooding, withdrawn, workaholic Siberian shows that after such an extended period of reorganization, the orchestra now wants to return its focus to its core business – interpretation.

And if the Berlin Philharmonic aims to remain attractive to top young performers, that includes appropriate pay for the musicians. The members are paid well but, in an international comparison, not exceedingly so, and certainly not in light of their workload. They rehearse a new program every week and perform it in studio quality for the Digital Concert Hall. There is hope that a federal government takeover of the orchestra will mean better financing. However, even though Minister of Culture Monika Grütters supported such a move before she took office, she now calls it wishful thinking. It may well be that the new capital agreement between Berlin and the federal government – which includes a federal provision for Berlin's cultural institutions as of 2018 – will benefit the Philharmonic, even if in the official takeover falls through.

A–Z

Q

Quasselstrippe
['kvasəl ʃtrɪpə]

Blabbermouth

That schmuck walking down the street on his cell with an earpiece

PAOBSHA SCHULTMUSEUMMAJA HITU

GARBAGEMEN

No, it wasn't the Chinese Terracotta Warriors. It was the Trash People (right) built by Cologne artist HA Schult. There they stood at the beginning of August in the sand of a constuction pit at Schinkelplatz, where a luxury apartment building is set to be built. HA Schult's figures, transported around the world in 20 shipping containers, have already stood on Moscow's Red Square, before the Pyramids of Giza and on the Great Wall of China. The Trash People didn't last long in the Arctic. The wind blew them over.

The artist is using his figures – made of discarded packaging, soda cans and plastic – to increase awareness of environmental pollution. "My generation has made our world into a garbage planet," says Schult. "Garbage lives longer than we do."

R

Röntgen
['rœntgn]

X-ray

Bouncer at a club; can tell when there's not one cool bone in your body

WORLD STAGE

The Gorki is reaching a young, international audience with its "post-migrant theater" | *By Jan Kepp*

A big debate about integration is playing out in Germany's theaters. But Berlin's Maxim Gorki Theater has taken it one step further; the troupe is the very embodiment of integration. The ensemble and most of the artistic staff are "people with a migrant background," although many of the family stories are so complex that there is no simple answer to the typical "background" question. Is Germany, by definition, a land of immigration? No one at the Gorki asks that question any more. The interesting thing now is to examine how migration is changing the country and the people who live here.

One good example is *The Situation*, a sold-out hit of the past season. Israeli director Yael Ronen used actors of different backgrounds to develop a collage of scenes depicting what it would be like if the Arab-Israeli conflict came to play out in Berlin. The protagonists come from Israel, Palestine, Syria – and Berlin-Neukölln. Their life stories, the worlds they inhabit, their opinions and their hopes, as well as their prejudices and wounds, collide in the big city, where it is impossible to keep the others out behind walls and fences. This is where they meet, and this is where they must face one another, no matter how hard it is. On stage it is riotously funny, then terribly sad. And sometimes, it is simply sobering.

Who said integration was easy? Or a process that ever comes to an end? The Gorki management team, including co-directors Shermin Langhoff and Jens Hillje, know from their own experiences that integration requires openness on both sides, as well as a recognition of the further development they will share. They describe their work as "post-migrant theater," that is, theater in which someone's origin has no significance. Yet the Gorki is nevertheless a place where experience, perception and discourse – products of the complex bundle of issues surrounding migration – may be discussed and reflected upon. This manifests itself not as stories about "the others," but as something that emerges from the heart of society, from within ourselves. What audiences witness on the Gorki stage is what people are experiencing every day in Germany's cities and towns – and increasingly its countryside.

This is probably why, compared to other Berlin playhouses, so many young people choose to visit this theater, which sits just behind architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel's Neue Wache. The Gorki is reaching large numbers of teenagers and young adults who would otherwise only seldom see theater, if at all. Here they find reality as it happens each day in their schools and workplaces, sports clubs and on the streets – anywhere that language, cultural or religious differences clash and must be negotiated.

PICTURE ALLIANCE/DPA-ZENTRALBILD

What would it be like if the Arab-Israeli conflict came to play out in Berlin? Orit Nahmias (left) and Karim Daoud (right) get into it in Yael Ronen's award-winning The Situation *on the Gorki stage.*

But the audiences streaming into the Gorki are not just young, they're international. Sure, the plays have English subtitles, but the performances are so fascinating to people from London, Paris and Rome because they are not about exclusively German issues, but rather world-encompassing subjects almost anyone can relate to.

Berlin's regular theatergoers – and theater critics – know the Gorki well, of course. When in 2008 the Langhoff-Hillje collaboration, in a small, "off-off-Broadway" theater in Kreuzberg, began examining and staging migrant themes, the projects and performances were soon recommended by insiders, at a time when contemporary German drama had otherwise seemed to have lost its imagination.

In the 2013/14 season, the team was invited to give up grubby old Naunynstraße and assume the artistic direction of the relatively stylish Maxim Gorki Theater, just off Unter den Linden. Many feared that their switch from the creative chaos of the experimental scene to the limelight of a big theater would put an end to their progressive ideas. It turned out to be just the opposite – by the end of the first season,

> "Life stories collide in the big city, where it's impossible to keep the others out behind walls and fences."

the Gorki was named theater of the year by the renowned arts journal *Theater heute*. They repeated their success at the end of the 2015/16 season – and *The Situation* was chosen as play of the year.

Cynics were quick to say that the awards reflected little more than a compulsion to be politically correct, when in fact the Gorki had created a theater experience that was not intellectually far removed from social realities. Laughter and tears, joy and anger – the audience reactions provoked there can only rarely be achieved with Schiller, Goethe and Lessing, no matter how many relavent truths their work may offer.

It could be said that today's Gorki has achieved what the great playwright and director, Bertolt Brecht, attempted with his epic theater – to greet the spectators in their comfort zone and bombard them with their own questions, and ultimately seek answers to these questions. But that's something every person must do for themselves.

A–Z

S

Sankt-Nimmerleins-Tag
[zaŋkt'nɪmɐlaɪns,ta:k]

A day that never comes

The grand opening of Berlin's new airport

Bright lights, big city

A city reads: Two Berlin novels from the early 1930s are German bestsellers once more. The stories they tell could hardly be more relevant today | *By Lutz Lichtenberger*

When Hans Fallada's novel *Little Man, What Now?* was published in 1932, the book soon became a bestseller. It tells the story of Johannes Pinneberg and his wife Lämmchen. Pinneberg, a salesman in a clothing shop, loses his job amid a spiraling financial crisis and proceeds to navigate his social decline with all its attendant fears, hopes, humiliations and minor triumphs. The reader can already sense the looming disaster.

More than 80 years later, Berlin's Aufbau Verlag is combing through the archives and once again examining Fallada's entire oeuvre.

> "Uniting these books is the charm they lend Berlin, in each case depicted as a true city of the world."

The original version of Fallada's 1947 book *Every Man Dies Alone* was discovered just five years ago. It recounts the story of a Berlin couple whose son dies on the front, prompting them to engage in an exceedingly dangerous act of resistance against Hitler. The book enjoyed spectacular success in Israel, the US and Europe before being revisited with enthusiasm by readers in Germany.

And this second scouring of the archive is also bearing fruit. The archivists have found Fallada's original manuscript of *Little Man, What Now?*, which has survived all these years and is not only one-third longer, but the rediscovered portions pack a significant punch.

German literature professor Carsten Gansel, who took part in the reexamination of the archive, acted as editor for the new version. In his attempts to surmise why the publisher, one with indubitable anti-Nazi leanings, would choose to publish the book only in abbreviated form, Gansel ultimately credits the tense political climate of 1932.

With this is mind, both the literary and political history of the book holds even more interest. It begs the question: What back then was considered unfit to print?

For the first time today we can read scenes from the stimulating nightlife of Berlin. The Roaring Twenties are in their twilight, yet there are still all sorts of parties, opportunities for sexual debauchery and degeneration, esoterically infused nudism and, of course, prostitution.

While in retrospect this sort of selectiveness can be understood, even allegedly harmless episodes were scratched. Our hero, Herr Pinneberg, is a Charlie Chaplin fan and dreams of being stranded on an island as in *Robinson Crusoe.* These passages read as something ranging from illuminating to simply amusing, provoking wonder at why the original editors thought to remove them.

More charged, of course, are the political redactions. At one point Pinneberg muses to himself: "You must be somewhat daft if you switch to the Nazis and think that anything at all would change by killing off the Jews." Pinneberg also refers to his Jewish bosses as "swell guys," but without this characterization readers of the shortened version could easily think Pinneberg felt quite differently. His wife Lämmchen, initially docile yet progressively more purposeful, ultimately becomes a communist in the original manuscript, yet not in the 1932 version.

Fallada's *Little Man* was (and still is) well worth reading in the 1932 version, which provided the source for the, thus far, only English translation. Fallada, a thrilling storyteller, was highly adept at capturing in print the fullness of life, often creating a feeling of striking currency for today's readers.

That may also be one of the reasons why the book is selling so well again in 2016. At one point the author describes a visit to the dance hall where each table has a different illuminated sign that pops up when pressing a button. The lonely souls signal "Dancer wanted," while the contented flash "Do not disturb." And there are telephones allowing patrons to call any other table in the hall: "And if talking was not their thing, they can write a letter and send it on by pneumatic post." Mobile phones, texting, Tinder – it's hard to really call them new.

There were already quite a few modern management techniques back in the early 1930s. Workflow in department stores was optimized, Pinneberg had sales quotas to meet while most all employees were forced to endure motivational clichés regurgitated by company personnel officers.

Even the blustering political climate can seem shockingly familiar. Herr Lauterberg, Pinneberg's colleague, is "German, trustworthy and an enemy of Jews, taxes, foreigners, reparations, pinkos and commies." He also has "a horror, a genuine fear of women."

The literature critic Ulrich Gutmair endeavored to translate this characterization into today's terms: "The right-wing populist is German, trustworthy and an enemy of Muslims, taxes, the EU, Brussels bureaucrats, socialists and filthy, lefty 68ers. And of course he's against all that gender nonsense."

©WILLINGER / DAROMIR RYSAN

Mobile phones, texting, Tinder – it's hard to really call them new. This photo was first published in Curt Moreck's Der Führer durch das lasterhafte Berlin (The guide to immoral Berlin) *from 1931. Taken from the book* Berlin 1920 – 1950. Sounds of an Era.

Even Gabriele Tergit's 1931 novel *Käsebier erobert den Kurfürstendamm* (Käsebier conquers the Kurfürstendamm), released by the same publisher as was Fallada's *Little Man*, tells of a vibrant Berlin in which Käsebier is hyped up as a pop singer for a season. Journalists, concert managers, real estate speculators – everyone is orchestrating their grand or small-time schemes to join the gold rush flooding the entertainment industry. And there are already tangible signs that it cannot last much longer.

Tergit was Jewish and as a court reporter in the 1920s covered the often arraigned Joseph Goebbels and his fellow Berlin Nazis. Her *Käsebier* was a big hit; not two years later, however, she was forced to flee Germany as Hitler took power. As is the case with Fallada's novels, the current republication of this book could not have come at a better time.

Tergit's Berlin, as opposed to Fallada's, is a city of stars and starlets, of high society and their expensive clubs, yet it tells no less about a city and its society in which the reader can recognize the German capital of 2016 on every page. Even Tergit shows people constantly on the phone and, when they do meet up, asserting that they had actually wanted to call for quite some time. Art scene denizens crave attention, businessmen troll for the quick buck and culture in general is marked by the triumph of superficiality over earnestness. Everything must move at breakneck speed; no party can be missed.

Uniting both books is the charm they lend Berlin, in each case depicted as a true city of the world. It is the short, historical moment of a metropolis that seems to have defied the consequences of World War I to become a city that has finally arrived, just before the Nazis destroy the German capital and the Cold War divides it for 40 years. Does the reading public's renewed enthusiasm for books from 1930s Berlin betray a city on the verge of once again becoming a pulsating cosmopolis?

A–Z

Hans Fallada's Little Man, what now?, *translated by Susan Bennett, is available from Melville House Books. It is the shorter, 1932 version, yet still highly recommended.*

The renowned publishing house New York Review of Books Classics has secured the rights to Gabriele Tergit's Käsebier erobert den Kurfürstendamm. *The English translation is due to appear between 2018 and 2020.*

Marko Paysan
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T

Tourismus
[tu'ʀɪsmʊs]

Tourism

When people from Kreuzberg eat out in Mitte

INFINITY POOL

Berliners could soon be swimming in the center of the city. Who could say 'no'? | *By Jonathan Lutes*

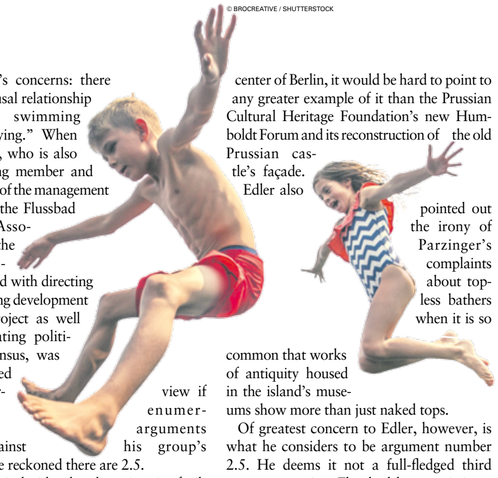
It would be a win-win-win for Berlin. If the initiative called Flussbad – which translates to "river bath" in English – clears its remaining bureaucratic hurdles, it would not only enhance the city's already flush tourism portfolio, it would also send an important environmental message, encourage Berliners to indulge in perhaps the healthiest sport there is, and provide recreation for all ages in literally the exact center of Berlin.

Flussbad Berlin is a project aiming to create an 800-meter swimming pool in the left arm of the Spree – known as the Spree Canal – as it flows around Museum Island. Although on most days the water in the river is plenty clean enough for healthy swimming, the Spree, like most of Germany's waterways, is the receptacle for sewage system overflow after the sort of heavy rain that happens 20 or 30 times a year. To ensure that the pool would be open regardless of wastewater flooding, around 300 meters of the canal upriver of the swimming area would be transformed into a natural filtration system using reeds and gravel.

The arguments in favor of Flussbad abound: the venture would renaturate and purify the Spree; pedestrians visiting some of the world's premier museums would have direct access to the water along two broad stretches of stone stairs; and the city would be set a fine example of an ecologically minded civic reclamation of a disused industrial landscape. This is just the sort of thing Germany has championed. Just have a look at the depleted mines of the Ruhr Valley and all of the heralded, smartly designed parks and recreational facilities that have replaced them.

But Flussbad has met some resistance, voiced most loudly in a 2015 opinion piece in the Berlin daily newspaper *Der Tagesspiegel* by Hermann Parzinger, president of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation. Parzinger's organization oversees most of Museum Island's renowned cultural institutions directly adjacent to the proposed pool, which he believes will be a magnet for loud, immodest revelers who will besmirch the august image of his foundation's sphere of influence.

Tim Edler, who along with his brother Jan is co-CEO of realities:united, the group of architects and artists behind the conception of Flussbad, had a succinct response to Parzinger's concerns: there is "no causal relationship between swimming and partying." When Jan Edler, who is also a founding member and chairman of the management board of the Flussbad Berlin Association, the organization tasked with directing the ongoing development of the project as well as generating political consensus, was later asked in an interview if he could enumerate the arguments posed against his group's project, he reckoned there are 2.5.



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The first is the idea that the swimming facility could endanger Museum Island's 17-year-old status as a Unesco Heritage Site. Parzinger considers the integrity of the river's current wall – which would be partially replaced by the broad stone stairs allowing bathers access to the swimming area – to be part of the island's masterplan conceived by Karl Friedrich Schinkel, the 19th-century Prussian architect and city planner who had a hand in designing quite a few of the buildings constituting the heritage site and who is more or less considered Berlin's god of architecture for his contributions to neoclassicism and gothic revival in the city. According to the Flussbad Association's research, however, the existing wall was built as recently as 1937, and would generally need to be reconstructed every 100 years. Another of Edler's rebuttals involves the countless incursions the stone bank has endured over the years to accommodate commercial boat traffic. The assertion that the current wall is somehow sacred seems hard to defend.

The second item on Edler's list harks back to Parzinger's disdain for the feared partying by the city's hoi polloi and a perceived notion that the swimming area would contribute to a process of disneyfication on the island. While such a process is indeed underway in the center of Berlin, it would be hard to point to any greater example of it than the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation's new Humboldt Forum and its reconstruction of the old Prussian castle's façade.

Edler also pointed out the irony of Parzinger's complaints about topless bathers when it is so common that works of antiquity housed in the island's museums show more than just naked tops.

Of greatest concern to Edler, however, is what he considers to be argument number 2.5. He deems it not a full-fledged third argument against Flussbad because it is an unspoken grievance: the "wrong" sort of people will frequent the bath. He detects unpronounced, perhaps subconscious elitism in certain people's desire to reserve Museum Island for money-toting tourists and those Berliners inclined to a very specific sort of culture. City coffers rely heavily on the wallets of tourists from all over the world, and no one is arguing that that should change. Yet it is hard to imagine how drawing even more people to the city center to swim in what is currently a disused canal, but would become a state-of-the-art nature reclamation site, would decrease tourist revenue and not have the exact opposite effect.

Despite all the points in favor of Flussbad, it is possible that its future could ultimately rest on one factor alone: The front door of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's apartment building (she chooses not to live in the housing allotted to the country's head of government) would lie not 10 meters from the west edge of the pool. She has yet to weigh in publicly on Flussbad, but her love of swimming, or lack thereof, could make all the difference.

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A–Z

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Is Berlin burning?

Unsinn *['unzɪn]*
Nonsense
Paying more than 500 euros rent

The Reichstag went up in flames in 1933. The Nazis portrayed the crime as the work of a single perpetrator. A new book reexamines the enduring controversy | *By Robert Normen*

It was the day that changed everything. On Feb. 28, 1933, the Reichstag burst into flames, rendering the building unusable. Later the same night Hitler, Göring and Goebbels all appeared at the scene of the crime, where the Communists were quickly determined to be the culprits. The next morning the same conclusion was reached by the *Völkische Beobachter,* a Nazi-party propaganda newspaper: "Communists Set Fire to Reichstag".

The perpetrator was quickly apprehended. Marinus van der Lubbe, a Dutch anarchist, was arrested at the scene and accused of the setting the blaze.

The consequences were devastating. The Nazi propaganda machine cleverly exploited the arson, inflating the act into an attempted Communist coup.

Hitler had only been in office for four weeks. His power had not yet bloated into the totalitarianism it would soon become. The arson could not have played into his hands any better than it did. For all intents and purposes, it was the true beginning of the Third Reich.

Just a few days later, on March 5, Reichstag elections were held – the final time that more than one party would appear on the ballot. Hitler's NSDAP increased its vote total by more than 10 percentage points over the previous election, gaining a plurality of 43.9 percent. One day after the arson the Reichstag Fire Decree had been issued for the "protection of the people and the state." Basic rights were suspended; dissidents and the left were seized by Hitler's henchmen with no fear of interference from the police.

Not three weeks later, and still riding the wave of dismay over the attack, the Reichstag approved the notorious Enabling Act, officially giving Hitler nearly unlimited power.

In the decades following the war the heated debate over the Reichstag fire was waged not only among historians, but by the public at large as well. Indeed, the 1933 whodunit still captivates to this day. Wolfram Pyta, the author of a 1000-page biography of Hitler published in 2015, calls it history's million-dollar question.

Van der Lubbe as the lone culprit? It couldn't be true and most did not want it to be true. There have been countless efforts to confirm that the National Socialists were indeed the true arsonists, yet in the first few decades after

PICTURE ALLIANCE/AKG-IMAGES

PICTURE ALLIANCE/AP IMAGES

Night and day. After the arson the Nazis suspended basic rights and rode the wave of dismay over the attack.

war, the thesis that van der Lubbe acted alone became widely accepted among historians disinclined to publicly entertain bold theories. In 1964 the left-leaning news magazine *Der Spiegel* declared: "There is nothing left to dispute about the Reichstag fire."

But now a book has been published that reexamines all aspects of the case, and puts forward some ideas highly worthy of consideration. With *Burning the Reichstag. An Investigation into the Third Reich's Mystery* (Oxford University Press, 2014), Benjamin Carter Hett, a Canadian historian with German roots, has embarked on a "reopening of the proceedings," a phrase that serves as the subtitle for the book's German translation (*Der Reichstagsbrand. Wiederaufnahme eines Verfahrens,* Rowohlt, 2016), which is actually more expansive than the English original.

The book's 600-plus pages go into extensive historical detail on all traces and clues, ultimately presenting two different verdicts, each supported by ample evidence.

Hett's pyrotechnical analyses lead him to the conclusion that, although it is undeniable that van der Lubbe started several small fires in the Reichstag, these could not have been adequate to ultimately cause such a powerful blaze. The lone-culprit theory is simply no longer tenable.

The second conjecture was that a cadre of men from the SA, the paramilitary wing of the Nazi party, committed the arson in consultation with Goebbels, yet without the knowledge or approval of Hitler. Hett presents not only pyrotechnical arguments to support this theory, but an historically plausible derivation as well. He is able to distinguish patterns of violent provocations in a series of SA actions from the time before the seizure of power: beatings on Kurfürstendamm at the 1931 Jewish New Year celebration, acts of arson and attacks by SA troops in Königsberg in 1932. And the motive: The SA felt that the National-Socialist revolution did not go far enough and its leaders surrounding Ernst Röhm did not want to work together with the Reich's President Paul von Hindenburg and the remaining bourgeois member of the government. They exhibited no self-restraint, with hopes that Hitler would make their troops into the new – official – army.

But a year later in June, 1934, Hitler killed off the SA leadership in the brutal "Night of the Long Knives," an event in which the extent of the violence shocked even those harboring sympathy for the National-Socialist movement. This more or less marked the end of any further semblance of domestic opposition to the Nazis.

Would the course of the history of the Third Reich have been any different had the Reichstag not gone up in smoke? In any event, Carter Hett's considerable dismantling of the theory of van der Lubbe as the lone culprit goes a long way towards dismissing the theory that Hitler's reign could have been founded on a fluke. The case has been reopened.

A▽Z

Licensed to grill

Can a barbeque course help outsiders warm to every Berliner's favorite rite of summer? *The Berlin Times* correspondent *Klaus Grimberg* found out

Vorfreude *['foːɐ̯fʁɔɪ̯də]*
Anticipation
"Welcome to Berlin. The local temperature is…"

© -MISHA / FOTOLIA

I'm not a big fan of barbeques. All that hot, sweaty work to get the charcoal glowing, just to nibble a few wrinkled sausages an hour later. I'd never seen the point of dragging myself over the coals like that. I tried to take it with a grain of salt, but my doubts were eating me up inside. Was I just a wet blanket? A barbeque course would be just the trick to see if I could take the heat.

The evening began as I had skeptically imagined. There were 25 participants but only a handful of them women. Barbeque is a man's world. But within ten minutes, my first fear went up in a puff of smoke: we wouldn't be talking turkey – or sausages, for that matter. The menu included sandwiches with camembert and smoked salmon, pasta and vegetables cooked in a wok, salt-crusted potatoes and apricot pudding with almonds. All cooked on the barbeque. Somewhere in between, there was meat – a pork roast in an herb marinade and beer-can chicken. It all sounded good enough to eat.

Fast forward another ten minutes and I was in a state of amazement at the blessings of modern barbeque technology. Those who refuse to use gas or electricity can have perfect, glowing coals within 20 minutes, thanks to a chimney-like funnel over the barbeque. No blowing or fanning, no methylated spirits! Use the time to prepare the ingredients! We sliced, chopped and ground. We even talked a bit. Grillmasters Marcus and Mano not only know how to wield the tongs, they're good with knives, too. In a few seconds they can dismember a bell pepper without scattering a single seed. I was amazed.

WWW.ISOKERN.DE

Awarding five stars: Klaus Grimberg

Then it was time to start cooking. Gas, electric, charcoal – different types of barbeque were gathered under a gigantic exhaust hood. It soon became clear that you can get a lot of things right with these modern-barbeque-age appliances. But you can also get a lot wrong. Too much or too little heat, browning too long or not long enough, taking the food off too soon or too late – there are a few basic rules and a whole lot of special tips. It's impossible to remember it all in one go, but everyone can take a recipe booklet home. The important thing now was to watch, and enjoy ourselves along the way.

Before eating, though, the grill-masters imparted one last – perhaps most important – lesson. If you do it wrong, you can ruin well-barbequed meat just when it's ready to serve. Something like an Argentine rump steak needs to rest to be cut properly; otherwise, all your effort will be for naught. Even the chicken can either be mauled with poultry scissors, or carved with a few deft strokes so that the meat almost falls from the bone – little tricks for a great result.

The feast that appeared on the buffet was enough to make anyone forget the charred old sausages and shoe-leather steaks of the past. It was delicious. And it was particularly enjoyable for the two chefs' love of their craft, and their subtlety – they didn't once mention the brand of equipment they use, although the barbeque academy just happens to be located in the Weber flagship store. To me, that's one more reason to award the full five stars. Will I now become a grandmaster of the grill? Maybe not. I realized in those four hours that good barbeque is a culinary art, not just a summer hobby.

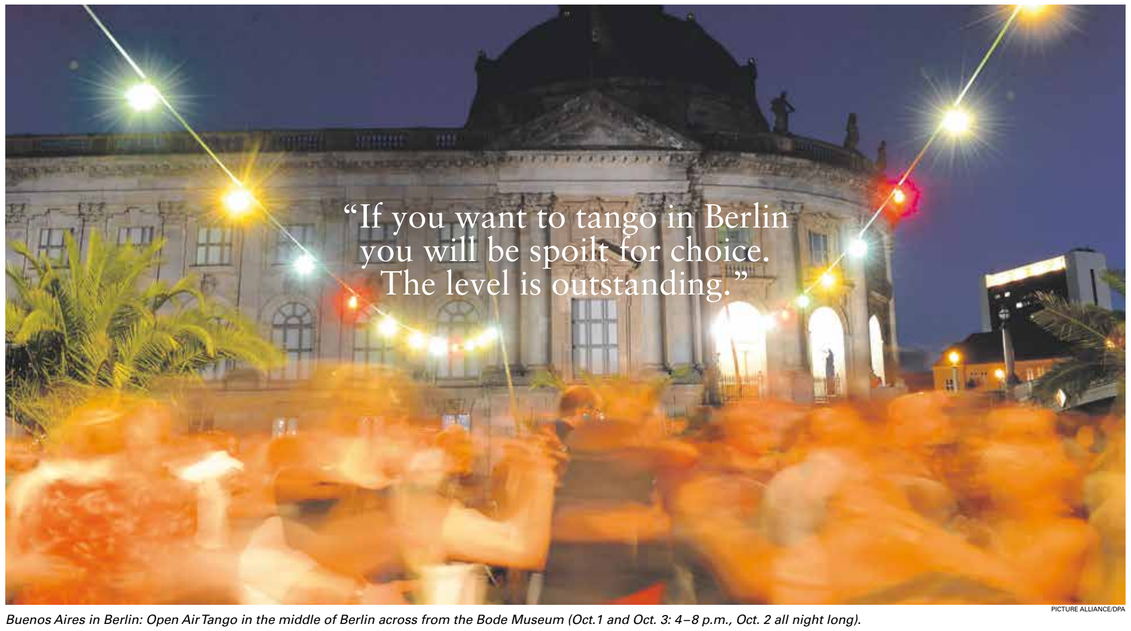
A▽Z

W
Wohltätigkeit
[voːlˈtɛːtɪçkaɪt]
Philanthropy
Leaving your returnables on the street

IT TAKES TWO

A language that needs no words, surmounting all barriers. Today's Berlin is the world tango capital after Buenos Aires | *By Ralf Sartori*

In a tight embrace and seemingly lost to the world, couples glide over the dance floor in graceful arabesques. All around them sit elegantly dressed men and women, lifting their glasses of red wine now and then to take a tiny sip. They then cast their gaze around the room, sometimes catching another's eye and nodding almost imperceptibly. Such is the assignation for proposing to dance.



PICTURE ALLIANCE/DPA

Buenos Aires in Berlin: Open Air Tango in the middle of Berlin across from the Bode Museum (Oct.1 and Oct. 3: 4–8 p.m., Oct. 2 all night long).

The tango is sensual, romantic – and no longer the preserve of the Argentines. We are not in Buenos Aires, after all, or Montevideo. This is the Roter Salon at Berlin's Volksbühne, where the scene's aficionados meet every Wednesday for a milonga in the German capital's most traditional and atmospheric tango spot. The classic theater salon, with its bar, small tables, sofas and red velvet curtains, recalls tango establishments of 1920s Berlin. It is first rate, as is the blend of patrons – the cream of Berlin's tango schools and studios.

The renaissance of Berlin tango is thanks to immigrants who fled military dictatorships in Uruguay and Argentina, as well as to a handful of Berlin enthusiasts. It all began with Horizonte Festival 1982, celebrating Latin American literature and music. Among the many top-notch tango musicians from the Rio de la Plata was Astor Piazzolla, the tango's great reviver. There was no dancing as yet, but with the rediscovery of the music, a small but colorful, non-commercial subculture was born.

After the fall of the Wall, the tango took all of Berlin by storm. In 1993 Michael Rühl, for many years the tango DJ and organizer of the Berlin tango festival, and Jessica Serrano-Buch greeted visitors to the first milonga at the Roter Salon. "This location is the most impressive to me," says Rühl, who noticed that more and more theater people began showing up. And as for those who hailed from the motherland of the tango? "Argentine professionals like Juan Carlos Copes and his daughter, Pepito Avellaneda, Raúl Bravo, Gustavo Naveira, Roberto Herrera and Vanina Bilous – they all danced at the Roter Salon," Rühl reminisces. Even the esteemed conductor Horacio Salgán, who died in August 2016, visited the Roter Salon.

Today's Berlin is the world tango capital after Buenos Aires, not least because the two cities are connected by a close twinning partnership, providing a framework for the Argentine embassy to support a wealth of tango cultural events.

If you want to tango in Berlin, you will be spoilt for choice, and the level is outstanding. In Kreuzberg's Max und Moritz the dancers fly over the 60 square meters of finely aged oak parquet, matching the ambience of a time-honored back room; this venue – which also has a bar – bears witness to many decades and epochs in the city's lively history. Here, too, there are tables bordering the dance floor, from which you can watch the action from close quarters. The front room offers a bar, replete with food for hungry dancers and their spectators.

The Tango Loft provides a tasteful and poetic tango parlor with fin de siècle flair, as well as inviting armchairs and sofas for aficionados who come to watch, gossip, dance and put in some practice. It is also a location for visitors to the city to meet people on the weekend – in a relaxed but stimulating tango marathon. It is also a great venue for beginners and intermediate tangueros to find new dance partners for the evening.

Not to be missed is Clärchens Ballhaus, a magnificent, elegant ballroom dating back to the 19th century. It has the era's high ceilings, stucco, patchy old mirrors, chandeliers and traces of shrapnel damage from World War II.

Today's Berlin tango scene is so big that you can hardly speak of just one tango community. Every musical and dance taste is catered to. Compared to other European cities, Berlin can make justifiable claim to having the highest standard of dancing. There are reportedly tens of thousands of active tangoists in Berlin, although they have never been officially counted. And throughout the year tango enthusiasts the world over come here to speak the language that needs no words, the deeply sensitive, physical dialogue that surmounts all language barriers – the tango.

Ralf Sartori is an editor and publisher of the Tango Global series of books; the first three volumes go into detail on the historical and contemporary life of the tango in Berlin.

A–Z

X
Xenokratie
[ksenokʁaˈtiː]
Xenocracy, rule by a foreign power
Multi-culturalism

Daydream believers

STUDIOCANAL GMBH

National treasure – Wolfgang Herrndorf's bestselling novel *Tschick* debuts on the big screen. Two boys set out for the journey of a lifetime

By Jonas Jacoby

Maik sits lost in thought in a classroom in Berlin's eastern district of Marzahn. The shy 14-year-old, who identifies as a boring coward, fails to notice that the teacher has called on him. He's daydreaming of Tatjana Cosic, the "most beautiful girl in the world" who sits two rows behind him but doesn't even know he exists.

He would probably carry on in his own little world if not for the new student that showed up in his class that day: Andrej Tschichatschow, a.k.a. Tschick, a "Jewish gypsy" received by the other kids with a mixture of suspicion and hostility. When asked to introduce himself to his classmates, Tschick delivers his speech in a slow and peculiar German, wearing tattered shoes and carrying a plastic bag in lieu of a satchel. But Tschick has a way of being untouchable, even for the class bullies who try to provoke him. And on his first math test he's the only one to get an A.

No spoiler alert: The two outsiders, the quiet Maik and audacious Tschick, are

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Wolfgang Herrndorf

the only classmates not to be invited to Tatjana's birthday party. Nonetheless, together they set off to join the festivities.

The story's point of departure is all too familiar: A girl and two very different boys, an adventure into the unknown, the coming of age, first love and deep, inviolable friendship. But what comes next is told with the fluid freshness and color found only in great works of art. No reader, age 14, 44 or 84, is spared from its charm.

Wolfgang Herrndorf's book *Tschick* appeared in 2010, found only a few friendly critics in German newspapers, won not a single literary prize, yet gained enough media attention to become an absolute darling of the public. The book has since sold over one million copies and been translated into 24 languages. (*Tschick* was published in English under the title *Why we took the car*, while the French and Italian versions took the apt title *Goodbye Berlin.*)

At the end of September the long-awaited film hit German cinemas and went straight to the top of the charts. Director Fatih Akin and his superb cast transfer this story to the silver screen with indubitable success. The film is becoming an instant classic.

After showing up at Tatjana Cosic's birthday, Maik and Tschik steal an old Lada and drive out of Berlin for points south. They've packed frozen pizzas that they try to thaw using a cigarette lighter, and some canned food, but no opener. Tschick behind the wheel is a disaster waiting to happen, so it's only a matter of time before the boys, who look and are far too young to drive, are spotted by other travelers and reported to the cops. To elude the police, Maik and Tschik go off road, at one point crossing a cornfield in broad daylight. All the while they have the car's only cassette playing on repeat, the horribly kitschy, yet heartbreakingly beautiful piano piece called "Ballade pour Adeline," by Richard Clayderman.

It is a journey through an unknown country, the sparsely populated East Germany, famous now as much for its declining infrastructure as for its "flourishing landscapes" – a turn of phrase coined just after the fall of the Wall by Helmut Kohl, in a politically charged speech to inspire the vote for reunification.

The two runaways encounter unusual and lovable characters along the way. They are

STUDIOCANAL GMBH/KIRSTIN BAUD

Modern family – Maik, Isa and Tschick

invited to lunch by a eco-hippie woman and her five kids, and to earn your dessert you have to correctly answer a quiz question ask by the mother, like: Who was the first federal president of Germany? Maik and Tschik are given a melon as a parting gift.

Around the end of their trip, Maik, whose mother is an alcoholic and father is having an affair with his secretary, ponders aloud: "The world is bad, and people are bad. Trust nobody, don't go with strangers, and so on, and so on. That's what my parents said. That's what my teachers said. And that's what the television says, too. When you watch the news? People are bad. When you watch Spiegel TV? People are bad. And it seems like they're not wrong; people are about 99 percent bad. But the funny thing is: on our trip Tschick and I almost only came across the 1 percent that weren't bad."

The spirit of tender human kindness that permeates the book is also conveyed through the film, whose depiction of life is bound to provoke both laugher and tears. And these feelings become all the more intense, and explicable, upon learning Wolfgang Herrndorf's own story. When *Tschick* was finally published, Herrndorf had been suffering from a malignant brain tumor for some time. He was literally writing for his life, which he put an end to in August 2013 when he was just 48 years old.

As a remedy for this grief, read the book again, and see the film as well. At a junkyard Maik and Tschik make friends with a fellow traveler, a young woman, Isa, a mythical creature who becomes Maik's new love. The three teenagers decide to meet again in 50 years. Only those equipped with a supernatural store of conventionality can withstand be taken in by this masterpiece. All others will be mesmerized by this journey, and long to climb in the car alongside Maik and Tschick and Isa and experience friendship and the world, today, tomorrow and again in 50 years.

A–Z

MARC DARCHINGER

THE SPIRIT OF LOU GEHRIG LIVES ON

The sixth gala for the initiative Hilfe für ALS-kranke Menschen (aid for sufferers of ALS) took place in Berlin on Sept. 19 and brought in €393,800 for the Charité hospital's outpatient clinic and research facility focusing on the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehring's disease). Works were donated by renowned artists such as Markus Lüpertz, Candida Höfer and Udo Lindenberg. 120 guests from the worlds of politics, finance and culture opened their purse to bid at the auction or to donate to specific projects, such as the preliminary stages of research initiatives, innovative technologies for ALS care or clinic appointments for international patients.

Prof. Dr. Karl Max Einhäupl (left), chairman of the board of directors of Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, thanked Dr. Martin Herrenknecht (right), founder and CEO of Herrenknecht AG, for an extraordinary donation that has enabled the establishment of a five-year fellowship for fundamental ALS research at the Charité. The position is occupied by the doctor and research scientist Christopher Secker, who presented his research project to the guests. Guests in attendance included patron Gerhard Schröder (Ex-German chancellor), Dr. Jürgen Großmann and Detlef Prinz (founder of the ALS initiative).

SOCIAL CLIMBING

Y
Yogamatte
[ˈjoːgaˌmatə]
Yoga mat
Fashion accessory

War remnants become a climber's paradise | *By Sarah Burmester*

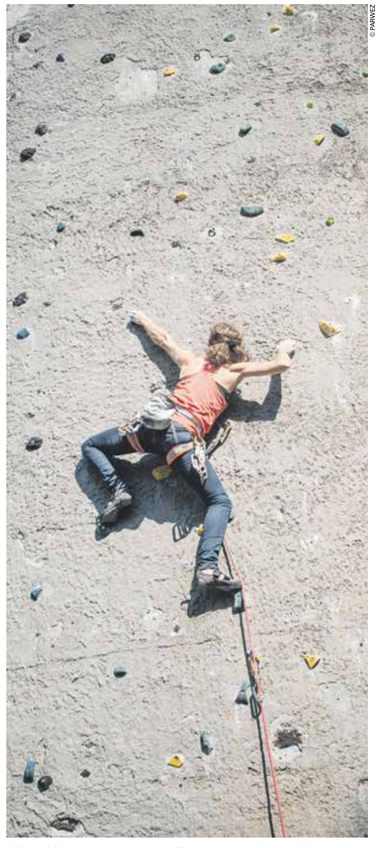
When people often ask the height of my highest climb, I usually try to smile, for the sport of rock climbing does not necessarily involve mountains. It's about rock or other climbable features, of which today's Berlin boasts quite a few. I've been climbing now for over 20 years, but never have I actually scaled a proper mountain. The length or height of my climbs is of rather little interest to me.

Berlin offers climbing, but not for mountaineers. Rock climbers in the city have many places to cavort: in small industrial outlets, public parks, and sometimes on ruins of old World War II bunkers right in the heart of Berlin – a reminder of the city's turbulent past.

In the discipline we call sport climbing today, it is the specific moves that dictate the lure and difficulty of a route, not the scale of the rock. The smaller and further apart the holds for hands and feet, the more we're challenged. We use bolts, but only to clip in the rope that saves us from hitting the ground were we to fall. This particular game of anti-gravity needs no real rock, just any wall with holds or features large enough for gripping. Climbers sometimes hang from just a few fingers and perform gymnastic feats to reach the next hold, occasionally with room only for the very tips of their fingers, and with toes fixed on edges as slim as a credit card. Just like gymnasts, climbers use chalk (magnesia, actually) to dry their sweaty hands and prevent slipping from angled handholds.

Thus, even though Berlin does not offer amazing rock faces, climbers – as well as mountaineers in search of training and leisure – soon found places to play in the city, such as The Bunker, a World War II Flakturm in Humboldthain Park that was developed for climbing after 1989, and Der Kegel, a cone-shaped bunker at RAW Area on Revaler Straße in Friedrichshain. The latter, formerly used to protect railway workers from allied bombs, was discovered in 2004 by the climber and wall artist, Lake. He and a group of like-minded climbing friends would later use drills and hammers to create structures in the heavy concrete. In addition to these drilled pockets, there are now plastic climbing holds along the faces of the bunker, allowing enthusiasts to scale its walls and turn these war ruins into a sort of climbing zoo.

Ten years ago Der Kegel was one of Berlin's funky installations that popped up to fill urban wasteland with the vibrant, offbeat life that now makes this city so special. While the past ten years have seen a good number of new, designated indoor climbing walls, which are still growing in popularity, Der Kegel's offering of climbs on all sides of the bunker, rain-protected outdoor bouldering as well as indoor bouldering have enabled it to remain one of the places an eclectic mix of people hang out to climb, including hipsters, students and those living on the fringes of society.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Like a kid on a playground, like a competitive athlete in an arena: Sarah Burmester

Situated between the skateboarding hall and the Cassiopeia club, Der Kegel is a fixed address for climbers. Since 2006 bouldering gyms have appeared all over Berlin. Bouldering entails climbing at low heights without a rope, but with large cushioned mats beneath to preventing injuries after a fall. This discipline uses a minimal number of moves to distill rock climbing down to its bare essence: spanning your arms between holds, testing the limits of what you are able to grip, figuring out how to move your body into the next position. All at once you feel like a kid on a playground and a competitive athlete in a professional arena.

Before moving to Berlin, I had studied at the University of Sheffield in northern England, where rock climbing is rather prevalent due to the area's ample amount of natural rock.

> "We distill rock climbing down to its bare essence."

Climbers were everywhere to be found. Upon arriving in Berlin I found myself among a small group of freaks hankering to climb. The city's lack of much natural rock meant that Berlin's climbing scene was rather small, and grew much slower than in places where outdoor rock climbing had a tradition. The capital of Germany now sports about eight proper indoor climbing walls (with more underway), while ten years ago there were but two.

Having left Berlin, I sometimes return to the city to work as a route-setter, that is, putting up routes or "problems" – boulderers' terms for climbs – on artificial climbing walls. Looking at the city now, I marvel at how it has blossomed as a climbing destination. And its climbing scene is indeed unique; with all its gyms, open-air towers, bunkers and the scads of scalers that now live here, the city's climbers are far from grim mountain men, but rather a playful bunch of people using the free spirit of mountain climbers to create a vibrant urban culture that embraces freedom of movement and creativity to define their personal limits. I am both proud and grateful to have been summoned back to Berlin, a city that offers no mountains, yet with a burgeoning climbing scene that rises higher with every passing year.

A–Z

INFO / SERVICE

Curious to try some rock climbing?
Give it shot. Visit one of the many indoor gyms, take an introductory course, climb as far as you like and as high as you can. It will soon become obvious why climbing is such a hit; apart from the reward you feel upon performing a very basic human movement while battling your mind as it tells you to step down and give up, the sight of you dancing on the wall and executing all the peculiar moves climbing requires will entertain onlookers. Arriving at the top, never mind the safety rope, is always a gratifying experience – one that leaves your arms empty and your heart pounding. With all its different levels of physical and mental fitness, climbing in Berlin has a challenge in store for everyone.

MY RECOMMENDATIONS

Der Kegel
Der Kegel, a unique location with outdoor climbing on a bunker as well as indoor and outdoor bouldering. Experience the alternative energy and hipster scene of the RAW Area on Revaler Straße in Friedrichshain.
www.derkegel.de

Boulderklub Kreuzberg
One of the latest and best additions to the Berlin bouldering landscape. Beginners and advanced climbers join forces to celebrate vertical movement in Kreuzberg.
www.boulderklub.de

Berta Block
Indoor bouldering gym with extensive training facilities, yoga classes and a friendly atmosphere in Pankow. The even serve tasty cake.
www.bertablock.de

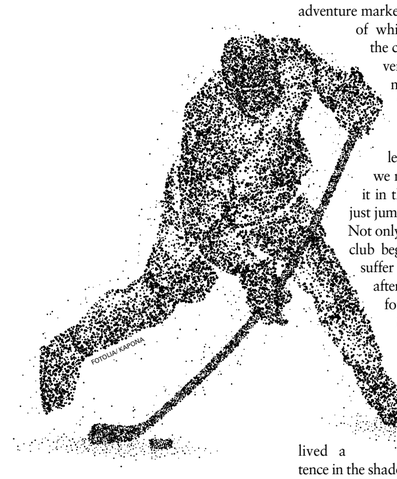
Bright Site
Indoor bouldering gym including a garden with outdoor walls: classes, tricky and playful bouldering, and a beer garden in Schöneberg.
www.boulder-project.de

DAV-Kletterzentrum Berlin
Rope climbing in Berlin-Mitte under the auspices of the German Alpine Association. Visiting more than three times requires membership.
www.kletterzentrum.dav-berlin.de

Final note
Berliner Unterwelten in Humboldthain Park offers guided tours inside Berlin's largest climbable bunker. If you're lucky, you'll see climbers scramble past the windows you're peering out!
www.berliner-unterwelten.de/

Miracle on ice

Berlin's Eisbären once enjoyed the support of the East German secret police. The team has long since established itself as a major player in the hearts of Berliners on both sides of the former Wall | *By Michael Lachmann*


FOTOLIA KAPONA

Fairytales are quite rare in real life. In sports, however, they are not uncommon. One such fable was written over the past two decades by Eisbären Berlin, the premiere ice hockey club from the capital of Germany. While the Wall was still standing, the club led a niche existence as an East German team called SC Dynamo Berlin. Truth be told, the only reason it survived back then was thanks to backing from the Ministry for State Security (Stasi) under Erich Mielke plus additional support from the local police. Together with Dynamo Weißwasser, the team played in the smallest league in the world. When the Wall came down, and just before German reunification on October 3, 1990, Dynamo made its debut in West Germany's federal league. For this ice hockey team from the district of Hohenschönhausen on the east side of Berlin, it was the beginning of an adventure marked by many adversities, most of which were financial. Indeed, the club often found itself on the verge of collapse. As one staff member from that era recalls: "We had no idea what we were getting into. If we'd known what kind of problems we were about to face, we never would have attempted it in the first place. As it was, we just jumped right in."

Not only did Eisbären Berlin – as the club began calling itself in 1992 – suffer from a severe lack of funds after the fall of the Wall, they also found themselves in last place in Germany's professional hockey league known as the Bundesliga (as of 1994, the Deutsche Eishockey Liga, or DEL). In other words, the club lived a truly futile existence in the shadow of its cross-town rivals at BSC Preußen. It was rich against poor, West against East. However, that all changed after the 1995 Bosman Ruling, which freed up professional athletes in Europe to move to other clubs when their contracts were up. From that point on, the DEL allowed its hockey teams to take advantage of an unlimited number of players from other EU states. The Eisbären seized the opportunity and brought over players with European roots from Canada and the US, thus marking the beginning of the rise to fame of the Eisbären. In the 1996/97 season the team was able to beat the Berlin Capitals – the new name of the old West Berlin team BSC Preußen – in the championship quarterfinals. In 1998 the one-time underdogs even made it as far as second place in the league. Lorenz Funk, Eisbären manager at the time, put it quite succinctly: "We went from the outhouse to the penthouse."

But the Eisbären didn't stop there; after surpassing their cross-city rivals in the standings, they outdid them financially as well. The turning point came in 1999 with a simple announcement issued by United Sports Management AG: "We bought the Eisbären today." USM was a 100-percent subsidiary of the Anschutz Group, and the deal to buy the team was linked to US billionaire Phil Anschutz's plans to build a multifunctional arena in Berlin. Anschutz needed the Eisbären, who were to play a key role in his plans for the arena, and he paid a total of 11 million Deutschmarks (roughly €5.5 million) to acquire the team. Soon after that, Anschutz also paid off all the club's debts, which amounted to roughly seven million Deutschmarks. Towards the end of the 1990s, the success of the team reflected this high-risk financial gamble, and Eisbären managing director Martin Müller came up with a new slogan, "SOS – Sieg oder Sibirien," loosely translated as "victory or bust." While the team had expensive stars on its roster – including NHL legend Thomas Steen from Sweden – they were still playing in a rundown arena that seated only 4,695 fans, the so-called Wellblechpalast, or "corrugated tin palace," in the outlying district of Hohenschönhausen. If the Eisbären were to become profitable, this situation would have to change. The Anschutz deal came just in time.

The deal to buy the Eisbären, in combination with the funds the club received from the City of Berlin for the arena at Ostbahnhof, indirectly sealed the fate of their city rivals, the Berlin Capitals. The management team at the Charlottenburg-based club had been planning to team up with Finnish investor Harry Harkimo to build an arena in Spandau in far-away southwest Berlin. But there simply wasn't justifiable demand for two large-scale arenas in Berlin. Harkimo soon left for Hamburg and in 2002 the Capitals disappeared from the German hockey landscape.

This meant there was nothing standing in the way of the Eisbären making a name for themselves next to Berlin's other major sports clubs, such as Hertha BSC (soccer) and ALBA Berlin (basketball). In 2005 the Eisbären climbed their way to the top of the German league, winning the first of what would become seven championship cups in the DEL. In 2008 they moved from the Wellblechpalast into the new arena at Ostbahnhof (known as O2 World until 2015 and Mercedes-Benz Arena ever since). From then on, the Eisbären began playing for audiences of around 14,000 per game. Today's club is no longer a small, local team; it has become one of the best teams in the country and taken up its spot as a major player in the hearts of Berliners. Slowly but surely, over the past several years the club has increasingly attracted not only fans from the East, but also from the West – and some former Berlin Capitals fans, to boot.

Although it has already been three years since their last championship, the Eisbären are still hip today. Among the spectators in the arena, you'll find an unemployed locksmith standing next to a middle-class business manager, along with suited-up lawyers cheering beside wide-eyed tourists. Sixty-two years after the team was founded, the Eisbären have become a Berlin-wide event. From small Stasi club to large-scale capitalist enterprise – sounds like a fairytale, but it isn't.

A–Z

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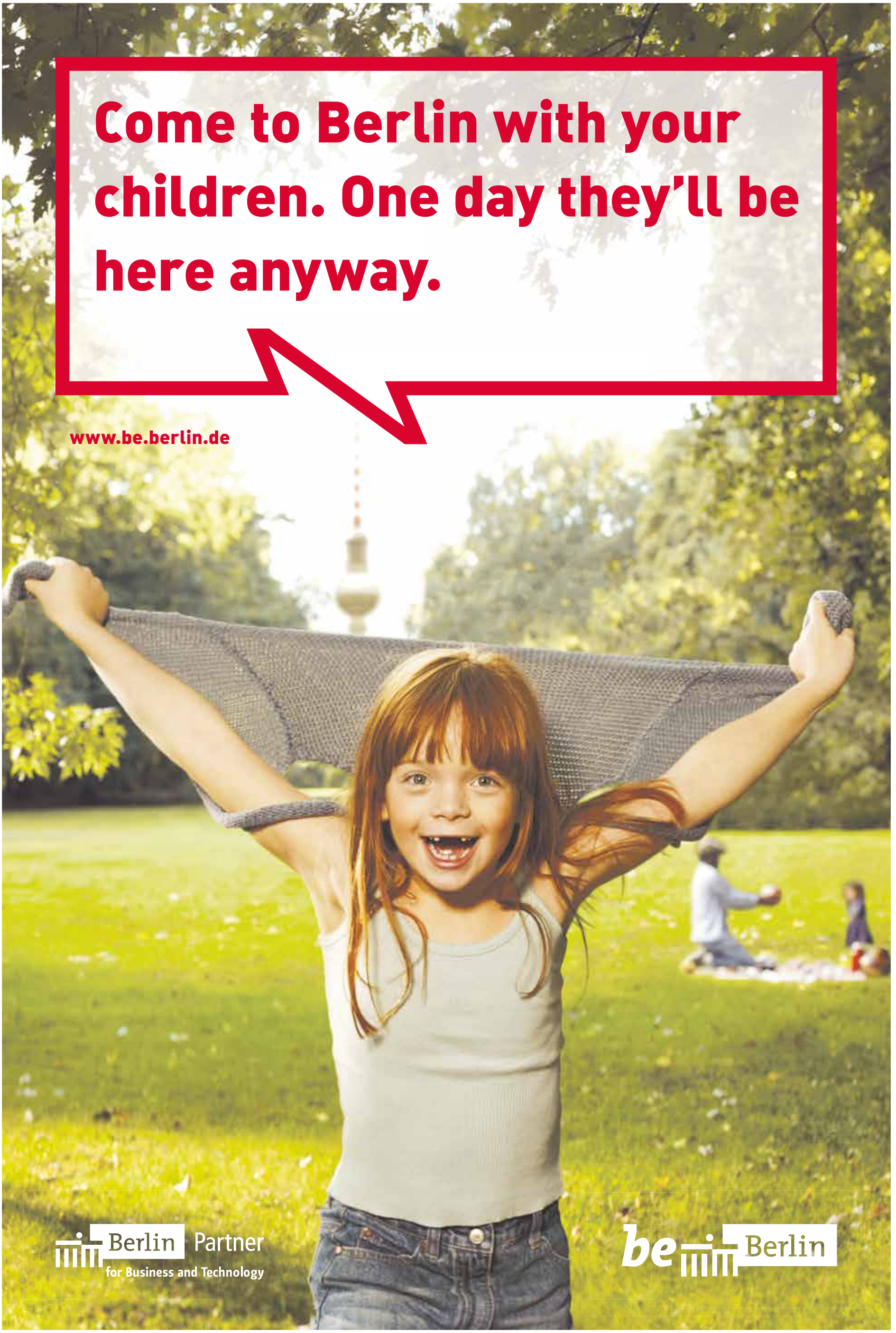
Zukunft
['tsuːˌkʊnft]
Future
Open borders, free day-care, world peace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