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Best of Random House Germany

Non-Fiction
Autumn 2017

The varied faces of the major 20th century wars, outlined by the renowned historian



Gregor Schöllgen

War

[Krieg]

A hundred years of world history

DVA

368 pages

With 14 b/w illustrations

October 2017

Gregor Schöllgen, born in 1952, is a professor of modern history at Erlangen University and has also taught in New York, Oxford and London. He plans and advises on historical exhibitions and documentations, writes for press, radio and television, is co-editing the records of the Foreign Office in Berlin and Willy Brandt's papers and has written numerous non-fiction books and biographies.

If one wants to understand the complex and conflict-fraught present day one has to understand the past. The history of the last 100 years is the history of worldwide wars that are linked with each other.

Gregor Schöllgen gives a vivid account of the most important conflicts and political divides that have been dominating global events up until now. Taking as a starting point the Russian revolution of 1917, which laid the foundation for the global disputes of the following decades, he describes the many varied faces of war: revisions and interventions, robbery and annexations, cleansing and destruction, flight and displacement right up into the present day.

- **Unique access: developments, events, and significant strategies are outlined according to theme**

Press on German Foreign Policy. From 1815 until 1945:

"With his balanced and sophisticatedly evaluative view of the history of German foreign policy, Gregor Schöllgen has proven again that he is not only a recognised master of the subject, but also a great writer who understands how to make the material accessible to a broad public." *H-Soz-Kult*

Engrossing, vivid, entertaining: 4.6 billion years on 400 pages



Loel Zwecker
From the Beginning to Now

[Vom Anfang bis heute]
A brief history of the world

Penguin Verlag
400 pages
December 2017

Loel Zwecker, born in 1968, is an author and translator. He did his PhD on art and politics and has been a lecturer in art history at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich. He contributes to various newspapers, including the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Le Monde* and the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. His previous book, *What Has Happened So Far*, has been translated into several languages.

Once upon a time there was ... a journey that started with the Big Bang and is by no means over yet. From the first cell of life to the Roaring Twenties and from the ancient Egyptians to apps – sometimes no more than a short hop.

Loel Zwecker tells his tale vividly and realistically, with an eye for surprising details and hidden correlations: how spectacles were invented in the Middle Ages; how meditation became a real power in India; and how the washing machine has changed our lives.

- **For young readers and adults alike**

Press on *What Has Happened So Far*:

"It is rewarding to read this well-researched and dynamically narrated history that is a storybook as well." *buchwelt.de*

The first comprehensive book about the illustrious colony of dropouts



Stefan Bollmann
Monte Verità
[Monte Verità]
1900. The beginning of the dream of an alternative life

DVA
300 pages
Illustrated
October 2017

Stefan Bollmann, born in 1958, studied literature, history and philosophy and wrote his PhD thesis on Thomas Mann. In 1998 he gave up his job as a university lecturer to become a publisher's reader. He has published several books. With his bestselling *Women Who Read Are Dangerous* and *Women Who Read Are Dangerous and Clever* he looked into how the culture of reading has changed. His books have been translated into 16 languages and sold almost half a million copies.

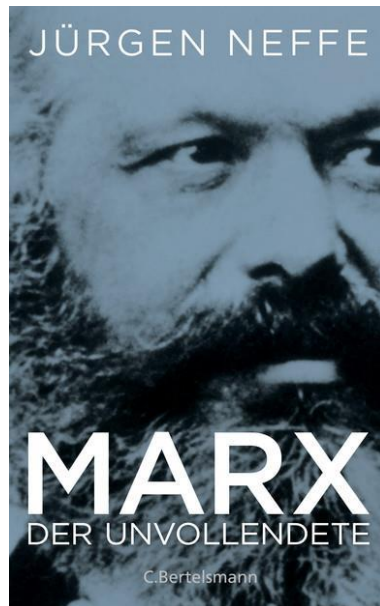
The 20th century was less than a year old when a group of young dropouts went to live in Ascona on Lake Maggiore. They were dreaming the dream of a true life, of nature and being at one with what is natural. They revered the light of the south, adhered to a vegan diet, did yoga and free dance; and the women discarded their corsets.

They gave the hill they settled on the name Monte Verità, Mountain of Truth. Ever more people were attracted to the colony, including Erich Mühsam, Hermann Hesse, Mary Wigman, Franziska zu Reventlow and Max Weber. News of their unconventional way of life spread like wildfire as far as America, where in the 1960s it became the foundation of the hippie movement. Even today we are still influenced by ideas that were born in those days.

Using new source material, Stefan Bollmann tells the story behind the legends that quickly began to shroud Monte Verità. This is a compelling panorama of a counterculture, a feast of life and a wonderful account.

- For readers of Oliver Hilmes' *Berlin 1936*
- From the bestselling author of the international success *Women Who Read Are Dangerous*

A comprehensive portrait of the revolutionary eccentric and futuristic thinker Karl Marx



Jürgen Neffe
Marx.
The Unfinished One
[Marx. Der Unvollendete]

C. Bertelsmann
656 pages
With two 4c image section
September 2017

Jürgen Neffe, a degreed philosopher and post-doctoral scientist, has received much praise for his work as a journalist and author. His biographies on Einstein and Darwin were international bestsellers.

For the bicentennial of Marx's birthday, Jürgen Neffe explores the renaissance of Marx's ideas – in his writings and in his life story. He portrays the life of a refugee who had become stateless and who was willing to make any sacrifice for his convictions. Neither illness nor poverty, nor marriage troubles nor family tragedies kept him from his committed work. With his analysis of capitalism, Marx anticipated the globalised world of our day and even the recent financial crises.

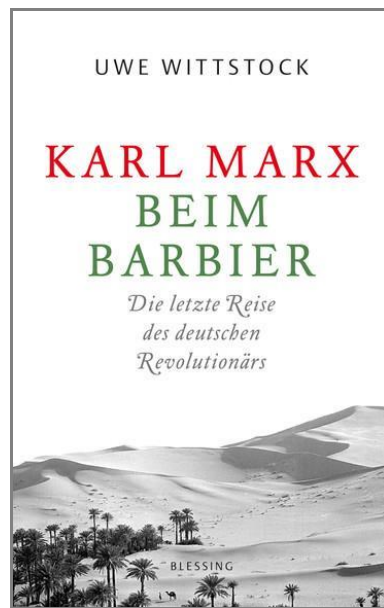
Neffe presents here the developments of the Marxian world of thought, from the ideas of alienation and exploitation in the early writings to the matured crisis theory in *Das Kapital*. Making scholarly topics accessible to a broad readership, Neffe explains the theory in a clear and comprehensible form, and confronts it with the reality of the 21st century.

- English sample translation available
- *Spiegel* bestseller

Press:

"Marx is again on people's minds. And this, we discover in Jürgen Neffe's readable biography, is exactly what he wanted all along: to affect people's consciousness, and history itself."
MDR artour

A journey that tells the story of a whole life



Uwe Wittstock
Karl Marx at the Barber's
[Karl Marx beim Barbier]
The German revolutionary's
last journey

Blessing
224 pages
March 2018

Uwe Wittstock, born in 1955, was literature editor of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* from 1980 until 1989 under the aegis of Marcel Reich-Ranicki and was awarded the Theodor Wolff Prize in 1989 for his work as a journalist. He was then an editor at S. Fischer Verlag and cultural correspondent for *Die Welt*. Since 2010 he has been literature editor of *Focus*, the weekly news magazine. His most recent publication was a volume of essays, *After Modernism*, about present-day German literature.

In February 1982, Karl Marx boards the steamer "Said" in Marseille and leaves Europe for the first time in his life. He is welcomed at the quay in Algiers by Albert Fermé, who had been involved in the Paris Commune. While taking in his impressions of a culture that is completely new for him, he looks back on his life and work: his liberally minded father of Jewish stock, his wild university days in Bonn and Berlin, his early poetic ambitions, the strange way he held back in the revolutionary year of 1848, then his never-ending exile and the inflictions of poverty.

In Algiers, Karl Marx has his photograph taken one last time before sacrificing his magnificent head of hair and beard at the barber's – an act that he himself almost sees as symbolic. Uwe Wittstock recounts a hitherto little known episode late in Karl Marx's life and uses it to examine the life and work of this great mind, one that is at the same time deeply contradictory.

- **Incisive, original, and as critical as it is justified – a non-fiction book with a narrative style, for all readers who have enjoyed Florian Illies's *1913* or Volker Weidermann's *Ostende***

What makes people happy? The latest facts from the field of neuroscience



Christof Kessler
Feelings of Happiness
[Glücksgefühle]
How happiness develops in the brain and other amazing findings of brain research

C. Bertelsmann
320 pages
October 2017

Christof Kessler, born in 1950, is a neurologist in his own practice. He used to be professor of neurology and the director of the Neurological Clinic at the University Clinic in Greifswald. Part of his research concerns neuroplasticity. He is the author of *Delirium* and *Men Sitting in Cupboards*.

Happiness is the big issue at the heart of advertising, literature and films. Everybody wants to be happy, and an increasing number of people try to create short moments of happiness by using ever stronger stimuli or drugs. But what goes on in the brain when we are happy? How do neurones and hormones interact to make us experience happiness, and how are happiness and feelings of contentment linked to the depths of melancholy and depression?

Christof Kessler takes his readers with him into the world of the 80 billion nerve cells in the head. Modern brain research has deciphered how the brain manages to make us feel happy and how motivation and frustration emerge. Kessler describes the fascinating new results of research in the fields of happiness, motivation, love, depression and addiction, while consulting his rich experience in the treatment of brain disease.

Press on *Men Sitting in Cupboards*:

"This book from Kessler is entertaining and informative."
Buchkultur

"Here are mysterious, shocking, sad, but also humorous stories by Christof Kessler." *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

The latest book by the internationally bestselling author



Peter Wohlleben **The Secret Network of Nature**

[Das geheime Netzwerk der Natur]
How trees make clouds and earthworms control wild boar

Ludwig
224 pages
September 2017

Peter Wohlleben, born in 1964, studied forestry and spent over twenty years as a civil servant in the forestry commission. He gave up his job because he wanted to put his ideas of ecology into practice, and he now runs an environmentally friendly private piece of woodland. He holds lectures and seminars and has written books on subjects pertaining to woodlands and nature protection. His books *The Hidden Life of Trees* and *The Spiritual Life of Animals* have been translated into over 35 languages and are bestsellers in numerous countries.

Nature is full of surprises: deciduous trees influence the rotation of the earth, a bird – the crane – sabotages the production of ham in Spain, and coniferous forests can make rain. What is behind all this? The enthusiastic forester and bestselling writer Peter Wohlleben invites us to delve down into a barely known world and describes the fascinating interaction between plants and animals: How does the one influence the other? And what happens when this finely balanced system goes out of joint?

With the results of the latest scientific research and his own decades-long observations, Germany's best-known forester gives us plenty to marvel at. And we will see the world around us with completely different eyes ...

- **Internationally bestselling author**
- **Spiegel bestseller: 70,000 copies sold**
- **Translation rights sold to: China (Beijing Zito Books), Czech Republic (Kazda), Finland (Gummerus), France (Les Arènes), Italy (Garzanti), Korea (The Forest Book Publ.), The Netherlands (Bruna), Poland (Otwarte), Slovakia (Tatran), Spain (Obelisco), Sweden (Norstedts), UK/CW (PRH/The Bodley Head), US/CAN (Greystone)**

"One of the most intelligent and perceptive books about nature that I know – in my next life I'd like to be a wolf!"

Peter Wohlleben



Elli H. Radinger
The Wisdom of the Wolves

[Die Weisheit der Wölfe]
How they think, plan, take care of each other – amazing facts about the animal most similar to humans

Ludwig
240 pages
With 7 b/w illustrations and 14 colour illustrations
October 2017

Elli H. Radinger, born in 1951, gave up her profession as a lawyer to devote herself entirely to writing and wolves, her passion. She is now Germany's best-known expert on wolves and in books, seminars and lectures shares her knowledge. For 25 years she has spent a large part of every year observing wild wolves in the Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

Love your family, care for those entrusted to you, never give up and never stop playing – these are the golden rules of wolves. Wolves take empathetic care of their old and injured, lovingly bring up their young and are able to forget everything when playing. They think, dream, make plans, communicate intelligently with one another – and have more similarities with us humans than any other animal.

Elli H. Radinger, the best-known German wolf expert, tells fascinating stories that are exemplary of values like sense of family, trust, patience, leadership qualities, mindfulness, coping with failure or death. She tells readers of astonishing and hitherto unknown facts about the lives of wolves and demonstrates one thing: wolves would probably be the better human beings.

- English sample translation available
- Translation rights sold prior publication to: Czech Republic (Mlada Fronta), Estonia (Tänapäev), France (Trédaniel), Greece (Psichogios), The Netherlands (Bruna), Italy (Sperling & Kupfer), Poland (Czarna Owca), Slovakia (Ikar), Spain (Urano), UK/World English (PRH/Michael Joseph Books)

Highlights Spring 2017



Pantheon, 224 pages
November 2016

Peter Longerich: *Wannsee Conference*

On January 20, 1942, fifteen high-ranking representatives of the NS state met in a luxurious villa on the Wannsee to discuss the "final solution" of the "Jewish question". Peter Longerich, one of the most eminent researchers into NS history, reveals how the precise and clear-cut murder programme was developed and how hugely significant the Wannsee Conference was within the context of the Holocaust. The book contains the complete minutes of the Wannsee Conference (annotated).

- *Spiegel* bestseller: 8,000 copies sold
- English sample translation available

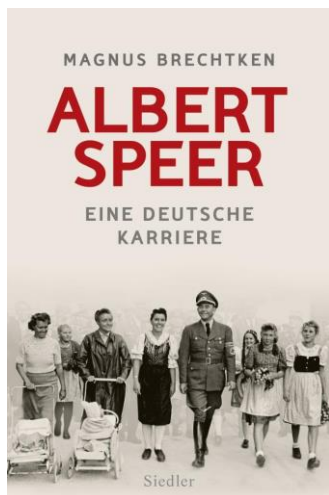
Press:

"Knowledgeably and rich in detail, Longerich leads readers through the dark world of a monstrous planning for murder during the middle of World War II." *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

"Not a comfortable book, but an important one." *Hellweger Anzeiger*

Rights sold to:

Italy (Einaudi), The Netherlands (Het Spectrum), Poland (Prószyński), Sweden (Natur och Kultur), UK/World Engl. (OUP)



Siedler, 912 pages
June 2017, illustrated

Magnus Brechtken: *Albert Speer*

NSDAP member since 1931 and soon one of Hitler's intimates, Albert Speer quickly became the architect of the racial state. As armaments minister during the war he was tirelessly on the go in support of the total state and extermination machinery. However, after the war he claimed never to have been a proper Nazi. Magnus Brechtken shows how Speer managed to spread this legend and how millions of Germans greedily sucked it up so as not to have to face their own guilt.

- *Spiegel* bestseller: 13,000 copies sold
- History brilliantly written using new source material

Press:

"This biography is easy to read and could well go down in historical literature as the late execution of Albert Speer." *FAZ*

"An unprecedented fullness of detail. The myth of the 'good Nazi' should thus soon belong to the past." *Luxemburger Wort*

"Sharp in tone, relentless in judgement, never careless with sources. [...] As scholarly as it is instructive" *NZZ am Sonntag*

Rights sold to:

The Netherlands (Thomas Rap/De Bezige Bij), UK/World Engl. (Polity Press)



GVH, 224 pages
May 2017

Robert Hofrichter: *The Mysterious Life of Funguses*

They are neither plant nor animal and live mainly hidden away. And yet: without funguses our woods, our climate and perhaps even life itself as we know them would not exist. They are the rulers of a world full of breathtaking superlatives, amazing facts, surprising partnerships and unsolved puzzles. The biologist and zoologist Robert Hofrichter opens our eyes to this invisible eco-universe.

- **Spiegel bestseller: 15,000 copies sold**
- **For all readers of Peter Wohlleben**

"An astonishing and vivid journey into the universe of the woods [...] Hofrichter is the mushroom whisperer par excellence." *Waldzeit*

Rights sold to:

China (The Commercial Press), Czech Republic (Albatros), France (Les Arènes), Poland (Prószyński), Slovakia (Ikar)



Ludwig, 256 pages
March 2017, illustrated

Michael Quetting: *Suddenly a Goose Father*

As part of a research project, Michael Quetting attempted to train seven greylag geese to follow him and his ultralight plane. Until then, however, Quetting first had to raise "his" goslings from fledgling to full-grown bird. In this book, he lets the reader, in on the adventure – how together they conquer the land, water and air – right up until the moment of the difficult farewell when the geese are let loose into freedom ...

- **Spiegel bestseller: 20,000 copies sold**
- **English sample translation available**

Rights sold to:

CAN/World Engl. (Greystone), Czech Republic (Kazda), Denmark (Lindhardt og Ringhof), Italy (Sperling & Kupfer), Korea (Chaek Sesang), Norway (Cappelen Damm), The Netherlands (Bruna)



GVH, 272 pages
April 2017, illustrated

Jürgen Tautz / Diedrich Steen: *The Honey Factory*

Internationally renowned biologist Jürgen Tautz and hobby bee keeper Diedrich Steen offer lay readers a tour through the bee hive, a "honey factory" with up to 50,000 females on staff and a few male seasonal workers, and vividly explain the complex yet fascinating structures and division of tasks within a bee colony.

- **Spiegel bestseller: 10,000 copies sold**
- **The magical world of bees – a works tour**

Rights sold to:

Australia/World English (Black Inc.), Korea (The Open Books), Czech Republic (Mlada Fronta)

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