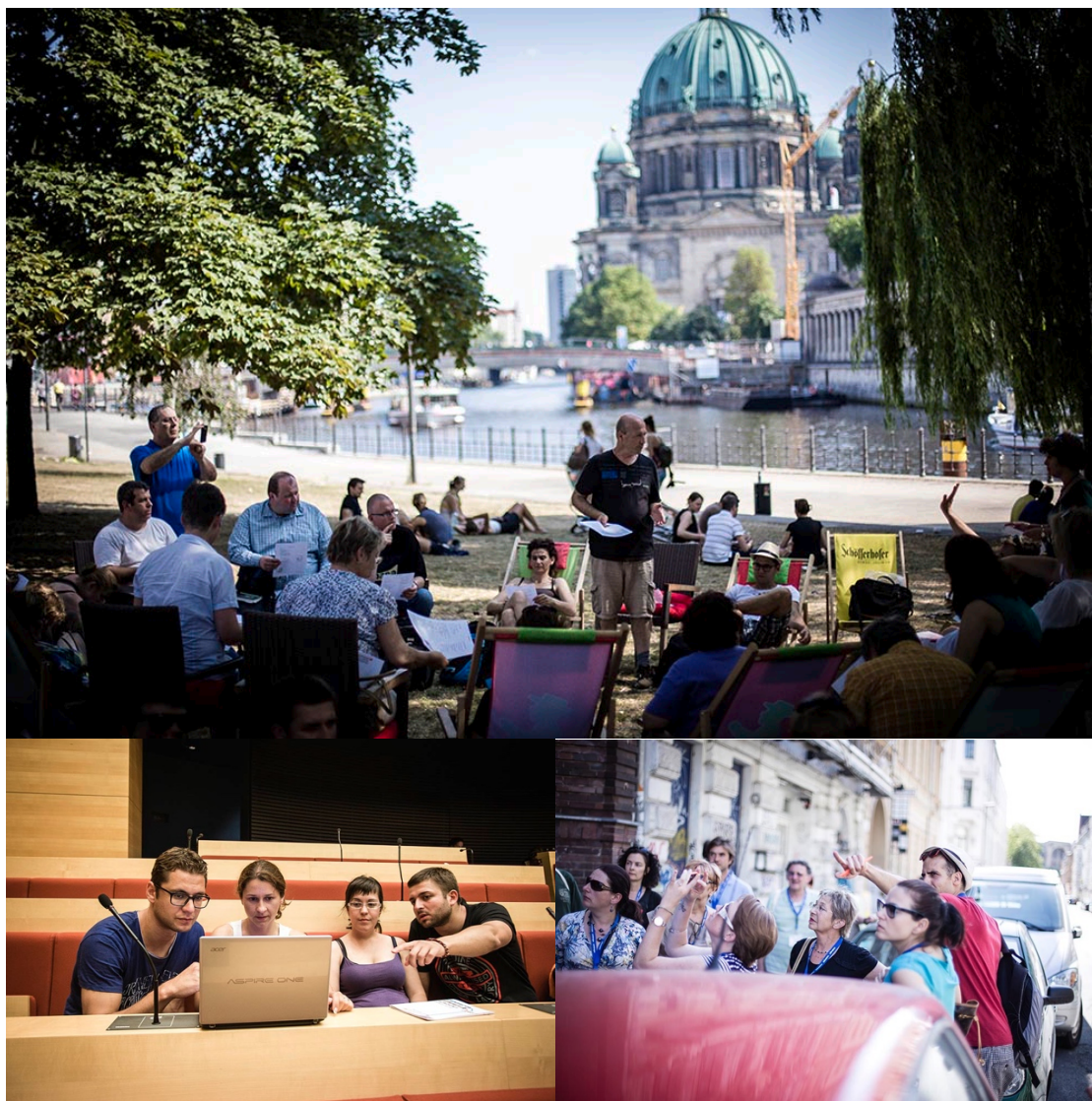


The 13th International Centropa Summer Academy  
Berlin, July 8-15, 2019



The city is our classroom/our teachers learn from each other.  
Teaching 20th Century European Jewish History and the Holocaust in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
65 educators, 17 countries, 8 days

Working draft as of 28.05.2019

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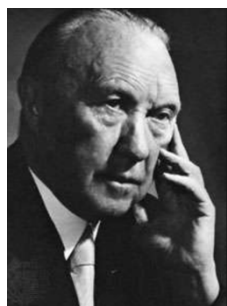
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## Our major supporters this year



### **The Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Stiftung)**

Konrad Adenauer (1876-1967) served as mayor of Cologne before the Nazis came to power, then became West Germany's first postwar Chancellor. He served from 1949 until 1963. Adenauer stressed the importance of NATO and improved relations with France, all while West Germany developed into a prosperous and stable democracy. Adenauer was determined to make reparation payments, and well before Israel and West Germany had diplomatic relations (which began in 1965) he sent a delegation in 1951 to negotiate with representatives of Israel and Jewish organizations.

The Foundation that bears his name is a political think tank and an international institution that promotes democracy throughout the world and has 78 offices in 100 countries. KAS is a long-time supporter of Centropa and has hosted us in Berlin and helped make our seminars possible in Hungary, the Balkans, Czech Republic and other countries.



### **The Friedrich Ebert Foundation**

Named for Weimar Germany's first democratically elected president, Friedrich Ebert (1871-1925) served from 1919 until his death in office in 1925. It fell to Ebert and his government to accept the ruinous conditions of the Treaty of Versailles and Ebert served during Germany's most tumultuous years, surviving the Kapp putsch, workers' uprisings and Adolf Hitler's aborted putsch in 1923.

The foundation bearing his name was established in 1925, making it the oldest of the German party-affiliated foundations. With headquarters in Bonn and Berlin, FES has offices and projects in over a hundred countries. The Ebert Foundation has been supporting and working closely with Centropa since our founding, and we cooperate closely in Germany, Poland, Hungary, Greece, the Balkans, the United States and Romania.



### **The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany**

Founded in 1951 as the official negotiating partner with the Konrad Adenauer's government in West Germany in regards to reparation payments, the Claims Conference has continued to negotiate with all successive German governments and has secured billions of dollars to date for Holocaust survivors and organizations that care for them.

The Claims Conference supports research, documentation and education on the Holocaust and is Centropa's largest donor, first playing a critical role when we were interviewing elderly Jews in Central and Eastern Europe, and since 2007, as a supporter of our Holocaust educational programs in the Balkans and throughout Central and Eastern Europe.



### **The German Foreign Office**

Established as the Auswärtiges Amt in Berlin in 1871 after Germany unified, the Foreign Office served the Empire and the Weimar Republic before being taken over by Nazi loyalists in 1933. While some German diplomats joined the resistance and paid with their lives, others went along with the mass murder of Europe's Jews. Re-established in Bonn in 1951, the Foreign Office became an integral part of European foreign and public policy, and has become an even stronger voice since the

Auswärtiges Amt returned to Berlin in 1999. Centropa has received support for programs in Poland, Hungary, Austria, Israel, in the Balkans and in the US. Our largest Foreign Office grants are for projects in Ukraine and Moldova. In 2019, the German Foreign office agreed to help sponsor Centropa's new permanent exhibition in the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow.



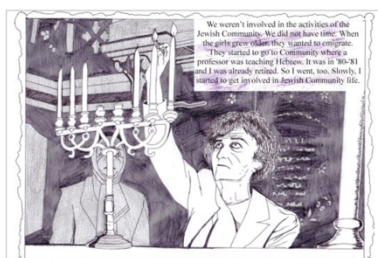


The Centropa teams in Vienna, Budapest, Hamburg and Washington says thanks to all those who helped make the 2019 Centropa Summer Academy possible

Dennis and Tracy Albers  
 Morton and Amy Friedkin  
 Harry and Carol Saal  
 Betsy and Richard Scheer  
 J. Ira and Nicki Harris  
 The South Carolina Council on the Holocaust  
 Sandra Brett and Richard Friedman  
 Donald and Ronne Hess  
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 The Central Council of Jews in Germany  
 European Jewish Fund  
 MAZAHIZS (the Hungarian Jewish Federation)  
 Black Sea Trust  
 The Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture  
 The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation  
  
 US Embassy Belgrade  
 US Embassy Skopje  
 Holocaust Memorial Fund, Skopje

**These are the electives our teachers will choose from this year  
(see appendix for recommended reading list)**

## **Teaching the Holocaust in the 21st century**



*How Centropa uses new technologies, multimedia films and our searchable online databases so students can carry out original document research and create their own high tech project. To be featured: how students in Romania and other*



*countries are going into the Centropa database, choosing an interview, and creating graphic novels from them.*

## **1989: the changes in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin Wall**



*We're now at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this monumental date. We'll discuss it, review the timeline of events,, show our new film and give you some ideas on fitting it into your contemporary European history classes.*

## **Civil Society / Righteous Among the Nations**

*We have never created a project as successful with teachers and students as the one we made about Sarajevo in the 1990s. This is when a small group of Holocaust survivors and their Muslim, Serbian and Croatian neighbors ran a non-sectarian humanitarian aid agency during the siege of Sarajevo*



## **Kindertransport**



*Between November, 1938 and June, 1940, around 10,000 Jewish children from Germany, Austria and Czech Republic—all unaccompanied—were brought to Great Britain, where they remained during the war. We will explore their stories and a website we have created so you can use this in class*



## Program

### Monday, July 8 - Introduction to the CSA in Berlin

*Location tba*

13:00-14:30 Registration, check-in. Participants receive a welcome bag with necessary materials for the CSA. Participants have time to check in before our program starts.

15:00 Welcome remarks by the Centropa Team, including:

- our goals for the CSA—and yours (teachers will write down their goals and then on the last day, you'll revisit what you wrote to see if you were able to meet them)
- introducing the electives for this year's CSA and their coordinators;
- explaining how the elective sessions will work, what teachers are expected to produce and how they will present their lessons on the last day;
- logistics: how to get in touch with us, emergency info, etc.

The screenshot shows the Centropa website homepage. At the top is the Centropa logo (a blue speech bubble with a white 'c') and the text 'centropa'. To the right, it says 'BROWSE THE WEBSITE IN' followed by 'ENGLISH', 'DEUTSCH', and 'MAGYAR'. Below this is a search bar with a 'SEARCH' button. The main heading reads 'Where Jewish history has a name, a face, a story'. A navigation bar contains links: 'ABOUT US', 'CENTROPA INTERVIEWS', 'FILMS', 'EXHIBITIONS', 'EDUCATION', 'MAGAZINE', 'NEWS & EVENTS', 'BOOKS & PODCASTS', and 'DONATE'. The page features three main sections: 1. 'SEARCH OUR PHOTO DATABASE' with a photo of a group of people, text stating 'We digitized more than 22,000 photos, searchable by family name, city or country.', and search fields for 'FAMILY NAME', 'CITY', and 'COUNTRY' with a 'SUBMIT' button. 2. 'SEARCH OUR INTERVIEW DATABASE' with a photo of three people, text stating 'We interviewed 1,200 elderly Jews. Search by family name or country.', and search fields for 'FAMILY NAME' and 'COUNTRY' with a 'SUBMIT' button. 3. 'EXPLORE BY COUNTRY' with a map of Europe, text stating 'Centropa conducted interviews in 15 countries.', a 'COUNTRY' dropdown menu, an 'EXPLORE' button, and text 'Learn more about our work in each country.' Below this is an 'Advanced Search' section with a 'SUBMIT' button and text 'Search our unique database by'.

15:30 Icebreaker activity. Introduction to Centropa website and its resources. Using the *Centropa German Jewish Source Book*: Explanation of everything in the source book and time for teachers to familiarize themselves with the contents so they know what they can use for their elective lessons. At the end: teachers have time to ask questions based on the online scavenger hunt they did of the Centropa website, and discuss with those sitting near them.

16:15 Screening of *Living with History*, the story of Rosa Rosenstein, who grew up in Berlin (7 min). One teacher briefly presents lesson demonstrating innovative uses of Centropa resources.

16:30 Coffee break. Elective groups meet for the first time, introduce themselves, decide on small group facilitators, and make plan for the week's work.



17:30 Walking tour of Berlin's Jewish quarter reading personal stories from Centropa's Berlin interviews along the way. Tour guides and participants must bring Centropa source books. Three groups with guides.

*It is difficult for the visitor to come to terms, visually, with what had once been a bustling Jewish quarter where 50,000 Jews lived yet today, there are so few traces of them and the lives they led.*

*Whereas a Jewish walking tour of Prague weaves itself between ancient synagogues, an enormous, medieval cemetery and several museums, and Budapest's Jewish quarter still teams with Jewish life and culture, that is not Berlin Mitte.*

*The Nazis drove out, or murdered, the entire Jewish population here, and then for forty years, Berlin Mitte stood neglected and decaying in Communist East Berlin. Only after 1989 did Berlin Mitte begin to blossom again. Now it is filled with artisanal bakeries, designer shoe shops, hipster cafes and Asian restaurants. But no Jews, to speak of. One restored synagogue stands here, a cemetery with one gravestone there, and in between, a plaque, a sign, and dozens of glimmering brass plaques embedded into the sidewalk.*

*We plan to create a walking tour app of Berlin Mitte and our version 1.0 is simply an app you'll download on your smartphone. We'll follow along a route that begins at the grave of Moses Mendelssohn (who died 1786) and ends in 1943 at the spot where hundreds of non-Jewish women faced down the Nazis outside a jail and demanded their Jewish husbands back.*

*We also excerpt interviews we made with two Jews who lived here—Rosa Rosenstein and Hillel Kempner—who paint for us a picture of what it was like to live in Jewish Berlin.*

19:30 Welcome dinner at the James Simon Bar.

21:00 Return to hotel

**Tuesday, July 9 –**



***Location: Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS)***

08:30 Participants leave for conference venue.

09:00 Welcome remarks by KAS representative (tbc).

09:15 Screening of Centropa film [Return to Rivne](#). Shelly and Raya now live in Greensboro, North Carolina, but they began life in the Polish city of Rovno, now Rivne in Ukraine. When the Germans invaded in 1941, their mothers took their daughters and made their way through the forest to a farmer they knew. While the farmers—the Paluschuk family—hid the four of them, some 17,500 Jews were taken to a pit and shot. In 2013 Centropa returned to Rivne with Shelly and Raya, who narrate this film—and tell their story through the eyes, and the emotions, of two young girls hiding from the Nazis.

09:40 Presentation by Ukrainian teacher who used the film in class. Followed by Q&A.

10:00 Coffee break

10:30 Elective groups meet to work on their lessons and projects.

12:30 We will screen the Centropa film, [The Jewish Soldier's Red Star](#), based on our interview with Arnold Fabrikant from Odessa, who fought for the Red Army in World War II. Keynote remarks by [Mischa Gabowitsch](#) of the Einstein Forum Potsdam.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Bus departs to Soviet War Memorial.





14:30 Tour of Soviet War Memorial. Our guide will be Mischa Gabowitsch.

*Over 2 million Soviet soldiers attacked Berlin on two fronts starting on 16 April, 1945. Defending the city were 760,000 German soldiers. 81,000 Soviet soldiers fell, more than 90,000-100,000 Germans died.*

*The Russians, under Generals Konev and Zhukov, fought their way to the very center of the city, taking it on 2 May. This memorial in Treptow is dedicated to the Soviet soldiers who fell; around 5,000 are buried in this monumental, Stalinist-style memorial park.*

16:00 Bus transfer to German-Russian Museum Karlshorst, and we will visit the building where the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany took place, with Field Marshall Keitel surrendering to Field Marshall Georgy Zhukov.



*This museum stood in East Berlin until 1990 and was called The Museum of Unconditional Surrender. It has now been wholly redesigned by the German Historical Museum, which worked side by side with Russian curators to tell the entire story.*

16:30 Visiting the museum. We will be divided into tour groups, each starting in a different part of the museum, due to its size, but there will be no tour guide. Group A starts with the historical rooms (the Zhukov office) Group B starts with chapter 1 on the upper floor; Group C begins at the end.

*Recommended reading: The Fall of Berlin, by Antony Beevor. Surely the best history available. Translated into several languages.*

18:00 Bus transfer to hotel

## Wednesday July 10

Location: Headquarters of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Hiroshimastr. , Haus 1



09:00 We begin the day with a scavenger hunt of Berlin Mitte including the Book Burning Memorial at Bebelplatz, Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate, the Third Reich's Luftwaffe Air Ministry, and other historic sites. The idea is to familiarize you with the sweep of history that blew through Berlin during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



11:00 We meet at Anhalter Bahnhof. What is now a ruin was once Berlin's main train station.

*This is where hundreds of parents brought their children in 1938-1940 to send them away—alone, to a strange country where they did not speak the language—all in the hopes of keeping them safe.*

*We will read Kindertransport stories of Jewish children sent to England between 1938 and 1939 from this train station.*

12:00 Lunch at FES. Centropa Jewish Network teachers, as well as TransHistory (Ukraine and Moldova) teachers meet in separate rooms.

13:15 Brief reflection discussion on the sites we visited this morning and how best to use them in class.

14:15 Welcome remarks by FES representative.



14:30 the Kindertransport: 70 years later. Please see appendix for biographies of Eli Abt, Kurt Marx, Alice Alexander, and Ruth Barnett.



*There are but a few of them left: those Jewish children whose parents sent them, between 1938 and 1940, by train from their homes in Germany, Austria and today's Czech Republic to Great Britain. Most would never see their parents again.*

*In November, 2018, the Claims Conference was able to secure special fund from the German government so that all living Kindertransport evacuees could receive a one time payment. Centropa was asked to shoot video and interview for Claims in London, in partnership with the Association of Jewish Refugees.*

*We will hold a special event for our participants and four Kindertransport evacuees, who are being brought to Berlin by the German Embassy in London and the Visistor's Service of the Goethe Institute.*

*We will screen a Kindertransport film that Centropa produced for Claims. Our participants will split up in two groups to meet with the two Kindertransport survivors, who will share their stories with us.*

15:30 Coffee and cake with Kindertransport survivors.



16:30 Marketplace of Ideas, where six teachers (2 from the US, 1 from Israel, and 3 from Europe) give presentations how they used Centropa in class. This is surely one of our most popular sessions, and our Israeli teachers often take the role and are glad to create mentoring roles and partnerships between Israeli schools and schools in Eastern Europe (and elsewhere).

18:00 Bus returns to hotel



## Thursday, July 11

*Location: Headquarters of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Hiroshimastr., Haus 1*

08:20 Buses depart from hotel.

08:40 Arrive at FES. Ed Serotta introduces our speakers

09:00 Journalists' panel. *Our subject: Immigration in Germany, immigration elsewhere. Does it work? Has it worked? Why has it become the hot button issue today?*

*We have invited Kate Brady, Deutsche Welle editor and reporter, Luisa Beck of the Washington Post, and two others soon to be announced.*

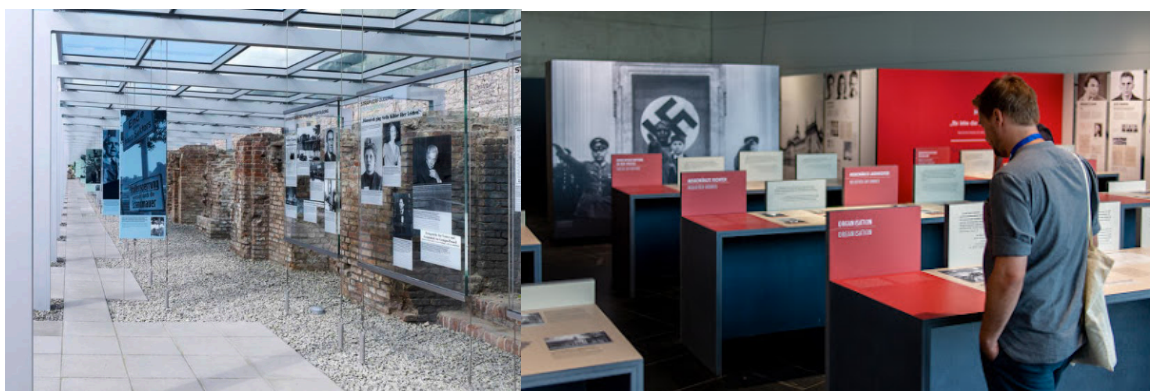
10:00 Coffee break followed by discussions of immigration: how we teach it, how it's presented in our schools, our communities

11:15 Q&A

11:30 Elective group work

13:00 Lunch at FES. Participants will pick up snack bags for their afternoon tour.

14:00 Buses depart

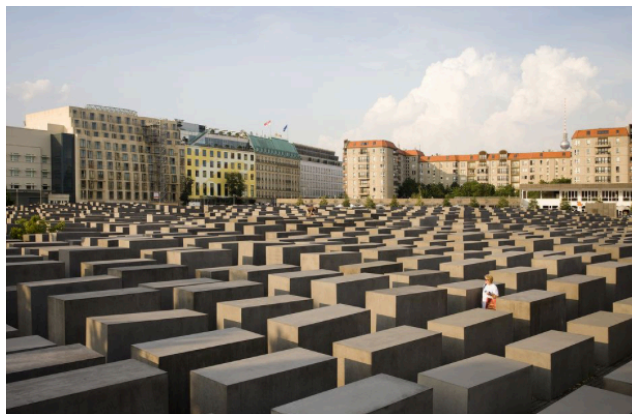


14:15 Arrival at Topography of Terror Exhibition. Participants explore the Topography of Terror exhibition on their own.

*An exhibition that is built into the ruins of the former headquarters of the Gestapo SS, here is a comprehensive set of exhibits that will walk you through the history of the horrors Heinrich Himmler's Gestapo inflicted upon Germany, Europe, and the entire civilized world.*

15:45 Participants walk to Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe  
*This enormous Holocaust memorial, designed by Peter Eisenmann, stands in the center of Berlin and was opened to the public in 2005, and consists of 2,711 concrete slabs, or "stelae."*

*A conceptual art installation of 19,000 square meters (200,000 square feet), our focus is on what is known as The Information Center below ground. In five rooms, the curators of the Holocaust Memorial have created what we feel is one of the most effective Holocaust exhibitions we have seen, anywhere.*



16:00 Arrive at Holocaust Memorial. Participants will have 20 minutes to explore the Memorial on their own.

16:30 We will meet outside the entrance of the Information Center and will enter as a group (to avoid the lines). Participants explore the exhibition on their own.

17:30 Reflection session

18:30 Free evening. (No buses / participants return on their own).

## Friday, July 12

08:15 Participants divided into Groups A, B and C. Each group visits one site.



- A) Tour of Bavarian Quarter, with its outdoor “Places of Remembrance”, commemorating the discrimination of Jews starting in 1933.

*Renata Stih and Frieder Schnock, two conceptual artists, had the idea in 1993 to create a memorial quite like any other: on eighty street lamps throughout this upper middle class neighborhood, they used brightly painted icons of things like a loaf of bread, a baby's pacifier, neatly folded shirts, and on the reverse side of each sign, wrote out the law forbidding Jews to buy, own or use those items during the 1930s.*

*Recommended reading: Hannah's Dress, by French journalist Pascale Hugues, in which the author describes almost all the residents of one street in this quarter.*

Our two guides will be local teachers (Three hours including coffee break, plus one hour transfer by public transport)

- B) 7x Jung, an interactive learning place that teaches students how to combat antisemitism and discrimination, promoting tolerance. (Three hour workshop incl coffee break plus one hour transfer by public transport)

- C) Jewish Museum Berlin. Two and a half hours self-guided time in the museum, plus transfer by public transport.

*The Jewish Museum Berlin opened in 2001 and is the largest Jewish museum in Europe. Please note that the permanent exhibition of the museum is currently under construction, so that the two upper levels will not be accessible. You can still visit the architectural highlights of this dramatic building, designed by Daniel Libeskind– the Axis of Exile, the Axis of Destruction, the Garden of Exile, and the Voids (which some visitors find impressive) – as well as its temporary exhibitions and art installations.*

13:00 Free afternoon



19:00 Participants arrange transport to Shabbat service at Pestalozzi Str. Synagogue at Pestalozzi Strasse 14.

*Please be punctual—18:15--and wait outside the entrance so we can enter as a group. Need to allow for security check. Please bring your passports and dress appropriately.*

*Before the flight and then the destruction of German Jewry, the majority of the country's Jews were no longer orthodox, but liberal, or as North Americans would call them, reform or conservative. Germany was, indeed, where reform Jewry was born in the mid 1800s (as was modern orthodoxy), and in what is now western Poland, all of Germany, and much of Austria, synagogue services were conducted with an organ accompanying a choir, something orthodox Jews could not abide. Rabbis spoke to their congregations in German, not in Hebrew or Yiddish.*

*The Holocaust saw the end to that. In all of Germany today, the only liberal synagogue service conducted as in pre-Holocaust times is here, at the Pestalozzi Strasse synagogue, making it something of a museum-piece. The Friday evening service is short (just under an hour) and we will be welcomed by Rabbi Jonah Sievers, who will speak with our group.*

*Note: to our knowledge, the only other service similar to this one is conducted in the Belsize Square synagogue in London, which was founded by German Jews.*

20:15 Shabbat dinner at Filmbühne Am Steinplatz. Shabbat candle lighting and blessing over shabbat candles and challah.

21:45 Buses return to hotel



**Saturday, July 13**

**Location: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Academy, Tiergartenstr. 35**

09:00 Buses depart from hotel



09:45 Buses arrive at House of the Wannsee Conference.

*In this house – a former industrialist’s villa built in 1915 and used from 1941 to 1945 by the SS as a conference centre – on 20th January 1942, fifteen high-ranking representatives of the SS, the NSDAP and various ministries (eight of whom had doctorate degrees) met to discuss their cooperation in the planned deportation and murder of the European Jews.*

*The Centre was re-opened as a museum on 20 January, 1992 and its exhibitions have gone through several changes. Through original documents and audiovisual presentations, the Memorial Site’s exhibit documents the history of the National Socialist persecution of Jews, the deportations to ghettos and the murder of the European Jews in German-controlled territories.*

*Recommended viewing: there are several films made on the Wannsee Conference, but we have found the 90 minute HBO/BBC production, Conspiracy, to be the most gripping. Stanley Tucci as Eichmann, Kenneth Branagh as Heydrich.*

Participants view permanent exhibition, followed by reflection discussion in small groups

12:30 Buses depart

13:00 Arrive at KAS Academy for lunch. We will start taking group photos

14:00 Welcome remarks by representative of KAS

14:15 Participants will meet in small groups to discuss the assigned book “The Holocaust - A German historian examines the genocide” by Wolfgang Benz

15:00 Elective session, Part 1 – finalize elective lessons and send to coordinators. Tomorrow each teacher should be ready to present the lesson he or she worked on.

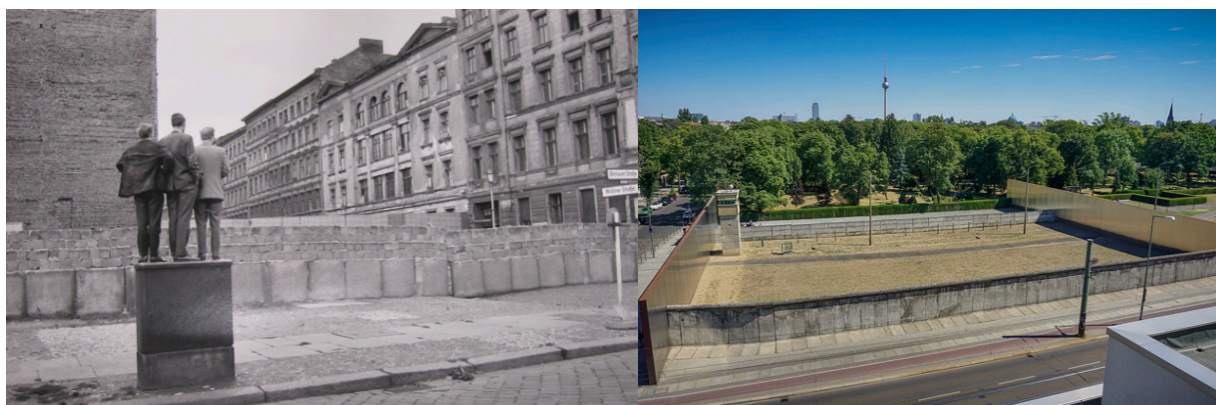
15:45 Coffee break

16:15 Final elective session, Part 2

18:15 Free Evening.

## Sunday, July 14 - Final conference day - Presentations

Location: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Academy, Tiergartenstr. 35



08:45 Buses depart. The Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

*We will visit the memorial site at Bernauer Strasse, pictured above, right. We will also see Palace of Tears at Friedrichstrasse, so named because this was the station where families said goodbye during the Communist decades.*

12:00 Arrive at KAS. Lunch. We will continue taking group photos



13:00. Screening of the new 1989 Centropa film

*In 1989, with their economies collapsing and no offer of support coming from Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow, the communist governments in the Soviet satellite states began collapsing like dominoes. Were these revolutions? Was this the work of Ronald Reagan? Pope John Paul II? Success, as we know, has many fathers. And mothers. We will screen our new film and then ask some of our participants—from the countries most affected—to speak about 1989 and what it meant.*

*We will also speak about Jewish life in the wake of Communism's collapse. While most of the Jewish communities in the satellite states are but fractions of what they had been before the Holocaust, they have thrown themselves into rebuilding Jewish life with remarkable energy and dedication. As the Soviet Union collapsed, well over 100,000 Jews emigrated to Germany, giving this community something it did not have for many years: a future.*

13:20 Cold war / Berlin 1989 online quiz, a project we'll show you how to use with your students.

13:50 Group photos (continued)

14:20 Regional groups meet to discuss Centropa programming specific to their countries/areas.

- **US:** Milton Wolf, Bullying and Those Who Helped stories, other US-based projects

- **Germany, Moldova, Poland, Ukraine:** Trans.History program
- **Israel & European Jewish schools:** CJNI programs
- **Austria, Hungary and the Balkans:** Survival in Sarajevo Civil Society Program

15:20 Coffee break

15:50 Final presentations

17:30 Final verbal feedback session together

18:00 Watching the video elective films

18:30 Screening a selection of CSA photos

18:45 Final dinner at KAS

19:45 End of official program. Bus returns to hotel

## **Monday, July 15**

Until 10:00 Participants check out. Departure



## Our special Kindertransport guests from London



**Mrs Alice Alexander**, born 1925 in Honnef, Germany, grew up in a Jewish family. Her father had a well-run business which was appropriated by the regime. In 1939 Alice was sent on a Kindertransport to flee Nazi Germany and lived with her aunt in London. She was able to continue to attend Synagogue. After one year Alice had to move to a hostel via the Refugee Children's Movement, as her aunt's husband had never been in favour of her fleeing to the UK to reside with them. Nevertheless, Alice is very grateful to them as she knows that she would not have survived otherwise.

During the war she volunteered as an air raid warden and was awarded a ribbon for her efforts. At the age of 16 Alice started working in a hat-making business. During the war she tried to keep in touch with her family and managed to get mail to and from them via Switzerland. Her parents and sister were deported and suffered two years in French concentration camps. Both parents were later murdered in Auschwitz/Birkenau. Luckily, her sister managed to escape.

Alice studied foreign languages and held a number of senior positions across various fields, with her longest job being a marketing and export executive for an international metal manufacturing company. She is blessed with one daughter and four grandsons. Sadly, her wonderful husband died in 2003.

**Mr Eli Abt**, born May 1929 in Berlin into a traditional Jewish family, witnessed Kristallnacht in Breslau where his parents had moved in 1936. His sister aged 8 reached Palestine on her own in March 1939 with just a placard of instructions around her neck. Eli reached England on a Kindertransport in May and spent 6 traumatic months in a boys' refugee hostel in Hove.

His father escaped in August, followed by his mother with 4 year old brother on the day Hitler attacked Poland, resulting in a dramatic reunion.

They spent almost two months at sea attempting fruitlessly to land in South Africa, before community representations persuaded the Smuts government to allow them ashore (a story in itself).

After being involved in Israel's War of Independence Eli graduated in Architecture in Johannesburg, has run a successful London architectural and planning practice and played a prominent part in those professions. Having also studied singing at Guildhall School of Music Eli appeared for many years as soloist both in London and abroad.

Eli now writes and speaks extensively on his lifelong interest in Medieval Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts. He has two sons and five grandchildren. Eli has not hitherto shared his experiences except in a filmed interview for the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation.

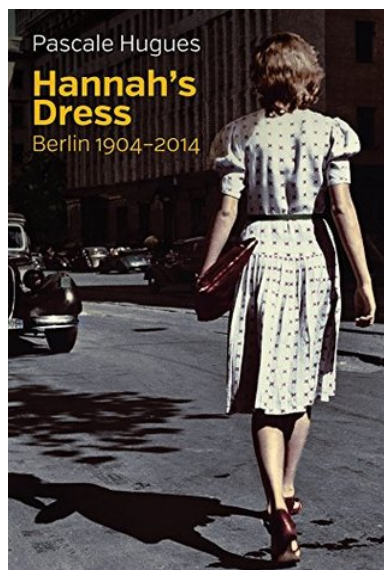
**Kurt Marx**, born 1925 in Cologne into a Jewish liberal home, had to leave his home country at the age of 13 by Kindertransport, organised by Erich Klibansky, headmaster of the Jawne school he attended, never to be reunited with his parents again. Klibansky brought Kinder to England, returned to Cologne and later perished with his family. After his train arrived in 1939 he lived in a refugee hotel for 7 months in London. He was able to maintain his religious observance and his welfare was taken care of there. In August 1939 Kurt was evacuated to Bedford. He continued to go to school until the age of 15 and started to work as a diamond polisher and in a music shop. In 1948 he married and is blessed with one child and two grandchildren. Kurt shares his story in schools and is a member of refugee groups.

**Ruth Barnett**, born in Berlin in 1939, was sent on a Kindertransport to the UK together with her seven-year-old brother. Her Jewish father managed to flee to Shanghai and her non-Jewish mother stayed in Berlin living in hiding. Ruth had to live with three foster families and a hostel for a period of 10 years. In the aftermath of the war, her parents were reunited in Germany hence Ruth was forced to go there. She couldn't cope with returning to Germany due to her experience in the country so she instead went back to the UK. Ruth started her career as a secondary school teacher and later worked as a psychotherapist. She is blessed with three children and two grandchildren. Ruth visits schools regularly to talk about her story.

## Recommended reading

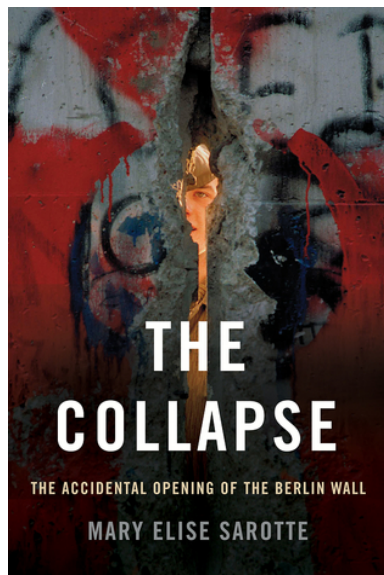
Every year, we recommend books, films and podcasts to our Summer Academy participants, and these are the books we recommend for Berlin. As you can imagine, new titles are published every year and this list is highly subjective.

### HISTORY



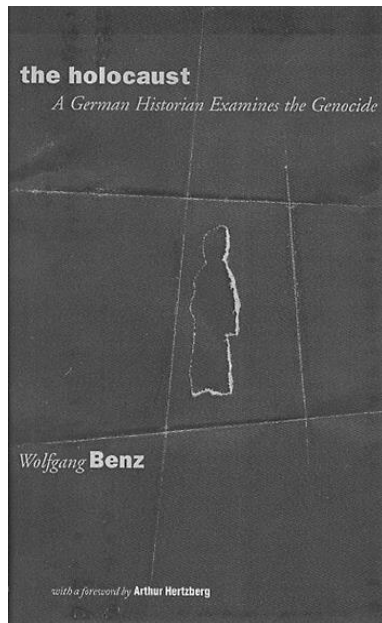
#### **“Hannah’s Dress” by Pascale Hugues**

Winner of the 2014 European Book Prize when it was published in French, journalist Pascale Hugues (Liberation, Le Point) tells the story of a single street in Berlin (the book is now available in German and English and translated into English by Nick Somers and C. Jon Delogu). From the day the street was completed in 1904 until much of it was bombed during the Second World War, from its rebuilding in the post-war years until the 2000s, Hugues introduces us to individuals who color in what history did to them and their families. It’s all here, from neighbors donning brown shirts and marching through the street in 1933 to Russian soldiers raping housewives in doorways in 1945. Two young Jewish friends, Susanne and Hannah, tried desperately to get away from their street, and from Germany, in 1939. Only Susanne survived and she kept forever the dress Hannah had made for her. It was all that was left of her friend.



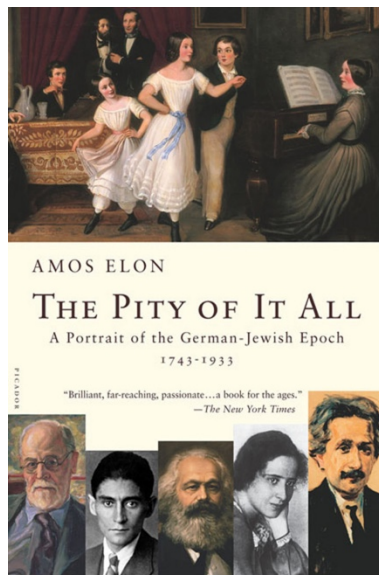
#### **“The Collapse: The Accidental Opening of the Berlin Wall” by Mary Elise Sarotte**

Still convinced that Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev brought down the Berlin Wall? Think again. The single best book (that we’ve read) written on the fall of Communism in 1989, Sarotte conducted more than 40 interviews and provides 50 pages of notes in this well-written study that takes us through Budapest, Prague, Leipzig and Berlin. Recent history at its best.



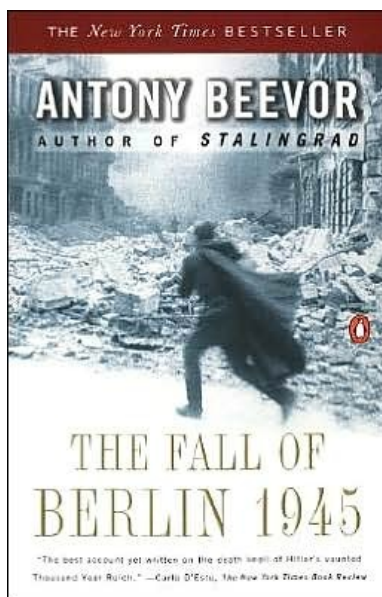
### **“The Holocaust: A German Historian Examines the Genocide” by Wolfgang Benz**

A history of the Holocaust that brings the German perspective into focus. One of the best short studies of the Holocaust that we’ve come across, this book, written by one of Germany’s leading scholars, is concise and to the point.



### **“The Pity of It All” by Amos Elon**

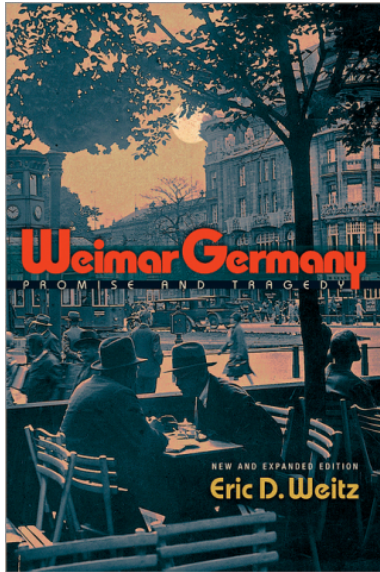
A portrait of the German-Jewish epoch written by a Vienna-born Israeli journalist, this is a fine work of history centering on the Enlightenment, on Europe, and on anti-Semitism. It traces Europe’s Jews from their humble origins as wanderers and cattle-herders to their intellectual apex in the 20th century, bringing 200 years of German-Jewish history to life in the process.



### **“The Fall of Berlin 1945” by Antony Beevor**

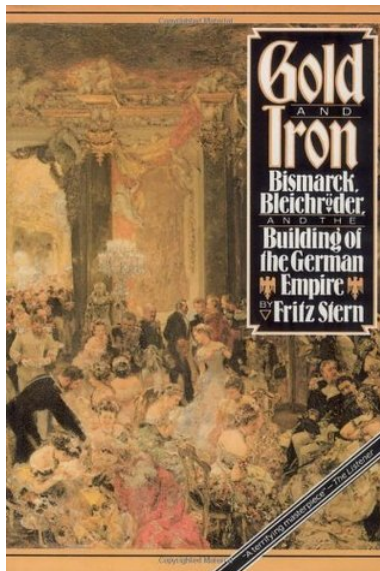
Antony Beevor is one of our favorite military historians. This work is a companion piece to his *Stalingrad*, but is a compelling read on its own. The book revisits the events of the Battle of Berlin in 1945, and narrates how the Red Army defeated the German Army and brought an end to Hitler’s Third Reich, as well as an end to the war in Europe.





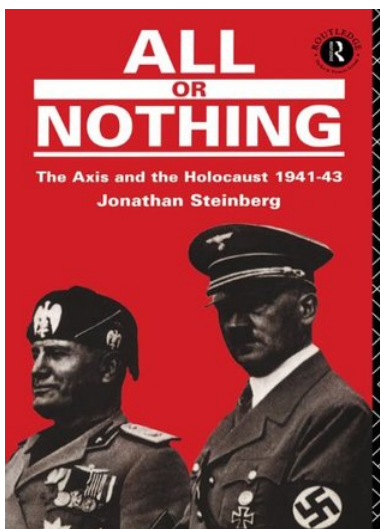
### **"Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy", by Eric D. Weitz**

It lasted only fourteen years, but in that time, the cultural output of Weimar Germany changed our world. From architecture to theatre, from painting to literature, from music to philosophy, we have not seen such an outpouring of talent, and by extension, it is hard to even discuss postwar American culture without all that German Jews, fleeing for their lives in the 1930s, brought to it. Eric Weitz is an historian at the University of Minnesota and this is certainly one of the best books written on Weimar's cultural flowering.



### **"Gold and Iron", by Fritz Stern**

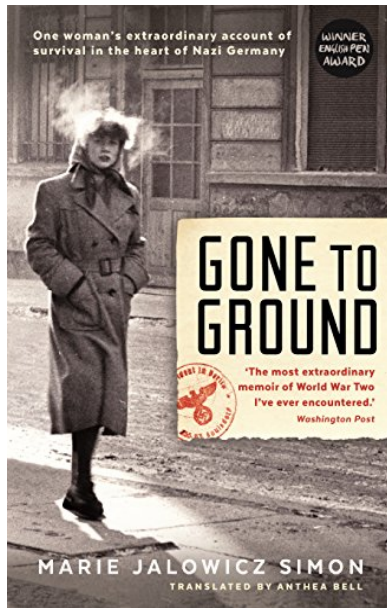
Published in 1977, this would be Stern's masterwork, and it tells the story of Otto von Bismarck, the monumentally ambitious Chancellor of the Second German Reich, and Gerson von Bleichröder, the Jewish banker who helped those ambitions come to life. Beautifully written in a style that reminds us of one of the great 19th century novels, this work of history covers their trajectory of Bismarck and Germany, as well as Bleichröder's upward path; he was, in fact, the first Jew in Germany to be ennobled.



### **"All or Nothing: The Axis and the Holocaust", by Jonathan Steinberg**

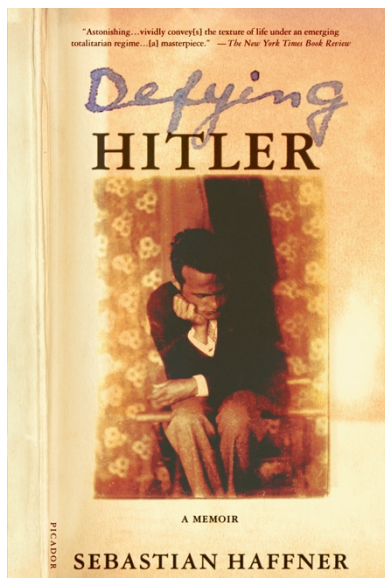
First published in 1990, this unique study is well worth your time. Steinberg compares how the German and Italian armies (and the SS) behaved in the theaters of war that they both shared—Yugoslavia, Greece and France—and how they reacted toward the Jews they found there. His findings make for harrowing reading and he poses this question: "Why did the Nazi regime murder millions of Jews?" and "...why did some Italian diplomats and soldiers save Jews at a certain time and place while their German colleagues helped to murder them?" True, more Italians could have done more; not all Germans in uniform acted despicably. But in these 244 pages (plus another hundreds of notes), Steinberg presents a damning verdict and a fascinating read.

## MEMOIRS & BIOGRAPHY



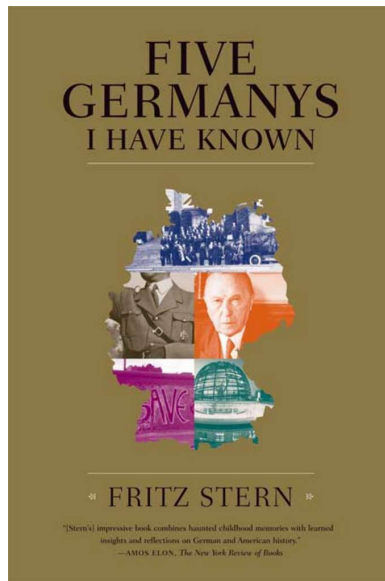
### **“Gone to Ground: One woman’s extraordinary account of survival in the heart of Nazi Germany” by Marie Jalowicz Simon**

On the 26th of December, 1997, the historian Hermann Simon sat down at the table in his mother’s apartment, showed her a cassette recorder, and said, “You’ve always been meaning to tell your story—go ahead.” And thus, Marie Jalowicz Simon, a 76-year old retired professor of classical antiquity, began to record her wartime story. Neither mother nor son knew it then, but Marie was in a race with time, a race she would lose ten months later. Hermann had the tapes transcribed—900 pages of them, and then began editing what would become the award winning *Untergetaucht* in German, and *Gone to Ground* in English, which was very well translated by Anthea Bell. “... a memorably good book, and Jalowicz’s voice – perceptive, humane, determined – comes across on every page,” wrote the historian Caroline Moorehead in *The Guardian*.



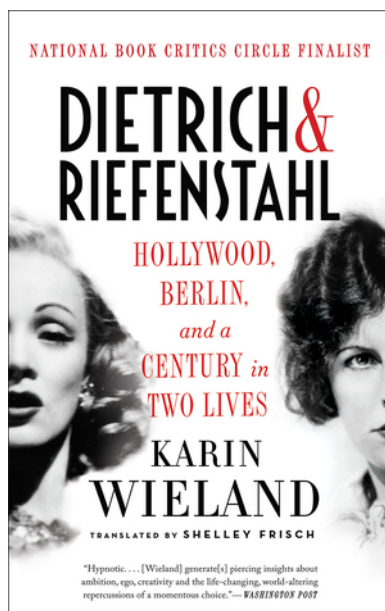
### **“Defying Hitler” by Sebastian Haffner**

Written in 1939 but not published until after Haffner’s death, this book spent 42 weeks at the top of the best-seller list. Haffner turns his gaze to German society right in the eye of the storm and explains how so many of his fellow citizens “went along to get along”. He was so prescient that many Germans insisted he must have written it after the war rather than in the era itself. In fact, his son agreed to have the original manuscript time-dated just to make sure he had written it before the war. Elegant, short, well-written, and well-translated.



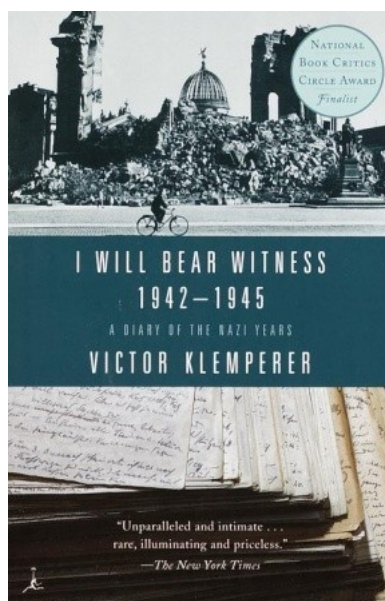
### **"Five Germanys I Have Known" by Fritz Stern**

In this mixture of history and memoir, Fritz Stern examines Germany throughout its various 20th century incarnations by the medium of his personal experience. He demonstrates that the history of modern Germany offers lessons of political responsibility to citizens everywhere. A highly acclaimed work from a well-known German-Jewish scholar.



### **"Dietrich and Riefenstahl" by Karin Wieland**

Two of the great cultural icons of the first half of the 20th century. Marlene Dietrich cast her spell on Weimar Germany in the early 1930s, then became even more popular when she moved to Hollywood, where she savaged Hitler's Germany relentlessly. Leni Riefenstahl also made her name on the silver screen—by making some of the most artistic propaganda films ever produced—for the Nazis. After the war, Riefenstahl's name was ruined; Dietrich could not comfortably return home. At 600 pages, it's a door stopper, but has been brilliantly translated into English by Shelley Frisch and we highly recommend it.



### **"I Shall Bear Witness", The Diaries of Victor Klemperer, Volumes One and Two**

In 1995, Aufbau Publishers, which had been an East German house that was now struggling to survive, brought out the diaries of a Jewish academic who had survived the Second World War in Dresden. They had no idea that Klemperer's diaries would become a publishing phenomenon and a best seller, so much so that all over the country, people gathered in bookshops to hold all night readings. Caring mostly about his cats, afraid to get a driver's license (which is then taken away from him by the Nazis) and a hypochondriac (who lived to the age of 79), Klemperer also lets it be known that he is a true German; the Nazis simply aren't. In clear, concise prose (ably translated by Martin Chalmers) Klemperer records the loss of his rights, the insults, the fear, but also how some neighbors did not turn away. Klemperer never wrote these diaries to be read by anyone else, yet they are well worth spending your time with.

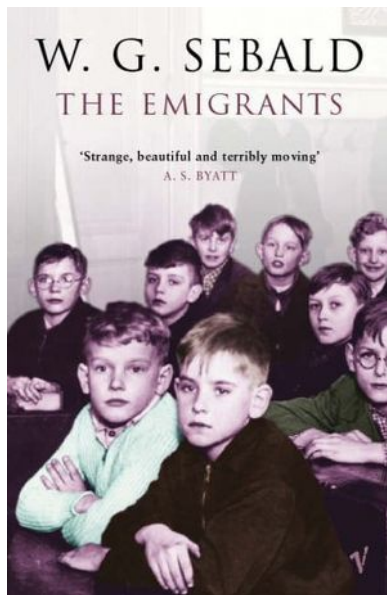


## FICTION



### **"The Wall Jumper" by Peter Schneider**

Written in 1983, this novel is still very much in print. Schneider correctly predicted that "the wall in the head" of each German would take longer to tear down than the concrete one that divided the city. This book chronicles two young Berliners who physically defy the wall by jumping over it, contrasted with those who can no longer transcend the wall in their own heads to see commonality with other Germans.



### **"The Emigrants", by W.G. Sebald**

You have never read anything quite like this, and Sebald is now considered one of the greatest novelists to have been published since the Second World War. Born in Bavaria in 1944, Sebald moved to England and was a professor of literature at the University of East Anglia. *The Emigrants* was first published in German in 1992, then in English in 1996. He was to write only a handful of other novels and books of poetry by the time of his untimely death six years later. As Andre Aciman wrote, "In Sebald's tales the Holocaust doesn't just continue to haunt its survivors, it does something worse: it hunts them down, the way World War II, or World War I, for that matter, is always just behind those who survived it."

Also recommended: his novel "Austerlitz," in which an art historian eventually realizes that he is not from Wales, but came to England as a Kindertransport in 1939.

# The Reader

Translated by Carol Brown Janeway



Bernhard Schlink

Author of *Flights of Love*

'For generations to come, people will be  
reading and marvelling over Bernhard Schlink's *The Reader*'  
*Evening Standard*

## "The Reader" by Bernhard Schlink

Bernhard Schlink's *The Reader* met with much success in the US and in Germany. Serious literary reviewers ripped it apart as a thinly veiled attempt to paper over the sins of the past. We did not see that. This is a compelling read that delves deeply into the nuances of Germany's coming to terms with the past.



## "Alone in Berlin", by Hans Fallada

Surely one of the most memorable novels you'll ever read. Fallada (real name: Rudolf Ditzgen) was a writer, drug addict, inmate in insane asylums, sometimes petty criminal. At the close of World War Two, a policeman in Berlin told him the story of a married couple who had left postcards around Berlin condemning the Nazis. Around this conversation Fallada constructed his own world of neighbors, policemen, bystanders and thugs and in eight weeks, he had his novel finished. The result is a harrowing, brilliant read. The book became an instant best seller in Germany, but Fallada, like one of his luckless characters, had died just before it was released.

### Centropa Summer Academy 2019 participants

Name	Country	City	Subject
Maja Lukić	Croatia	Karlovac	History / Social Studies / Geography
Andrea Sertić		Slavonski Brod	English and German as foreign languages
Danijela Zekušić		Slavonski Brod	History / Social Studies / Geography
Lilly Rozen	Columbia	Barranquilla	History / Social Studies / Geography
Fredi Ahlgren	Finland	Helsinki	Jewish / religious studies
Markus Freundorfer	Germany	Miesbach	History / Social Studies / Geography, Civics
Alex King		Barmbek	History / Social Studies / Geography
Lena Soltendieck		Hannover	History / Social Studies / Geography, English Language Arts /Literature, Foreign Language
Evangelia Mitsopoulou	Greece	Thessaloniki	Art / film / photography, music
Olga Gkouma		Kavala	History / Social Studies / Geography Civics, Religious Studies
Stefani Charikleia		Thessaloniki	History / Social Studies / Geography English Language Arts /Literature, Civics
Efsevia Chalvatzi		Thessaloniki	History / Social Studies / Geography Contemporary Greek Literature
Ferenc Szekeres	Hungary	Budapest	math, music, chess, homeroom teacher
Eszter Minich		Budapest	ESL
Imre Salga		Budapest	English Language Arts /Literature
Michal Pozin-Gabai	Israel	Nes Ziona	History / Social Studies / Geography Jewish / religious studies, IT, Hebrew
Ettie Abraham		Kfar Saba	History / Social Studies / Geography English Language Arts /Literature, Jewish / religious studies
Amikam Peled		Tzur HaDasa	History / Social Studies / Geography
Leandro Kierszenbaum		Rehovot	History / Social Studies / Geography, Civics
Tamar Gur		Petah Tikva	Civics
Adi Vayngarten		Rishon Lezion	History / Social Studies / Geography
Anastasiia Shevtcova		Kfar Saba	English Language Arts /Literature
Roni Baron		Tel Aviv	History / Social Studies / Geography, Ethics Art / film / photography, Language and literature
Nirit Neeman		Hod Hasharon	History / Social Studies / Geography Jewish / religious studies
Ron Weitman		Kiryat Motzkin	History / Social Studies / Geography, civics
Magdalena Sajkova	North Macedonia	Bitola	Macedonian Language and Literature
Magdalena Płoszaj	Poland	Rybnik	History / Social Studies / Geography Jewish / religious studies
Monika Anuszkiewicz		Leszno	Polish Language/Literature
Jelena Krucicanin	Serbia	Belgrade	media, culture, English Language Arts /Literature
Dragana Benic		Novi Sad	History / Social Studies / Geography
Jovana Pavlovic		Krusevac	History / Social Studies / Geography
Azdejkovic		Krusevac	Psychology
Marta Miskovic		Belgrade	History / Social Studies / Geography
Siniša Vukadinović	Spain	Barcelona	History / Social Studies / Geography/ Math English Language, Arts /Literature
Anna Janssen Cases		Barcelona	History / Social Studies / Geography/ Math English Language, Arts /Literature
Kimber van Valkenburg	The Netherlands	Amsterdam	History / Social Studies / Geography



Dayla Jazmine Rogers	Turkey	Istanbul	English Language Arts /Literature
Dmytro Bekas	Ukraine	Khmelnitsky	History / Social Studies / Geography, Civics
Anastasiia Belyaeva		Zaporizhzhya	English Language Arts /Literature
Inna Kurochka		Chernihiv	Jewish / religious studies, ESL, Foreign Language
Marina Konstantinova		Odessa	NGO representative
Talli Dipold	USA	Charlotte, NC	Holocaust, Human Rights Commemoration and Preservation (Public History)
Brittany Brownfield Moore		Jamestown, NC	English Language Arts
Alana Marshall		Rosman, NC	History, Language Arts
Laura Allen		Sylva, NC	English Language Arts
Taci Allen		Prosperity, SC	English Language Arts /Literature
Melissa Yarborough		Charleston, SC	Social Studies
Angelica McDonald		Columbia, SC	English Language Arts teaching student at USC
Daniel Boyce		Lugoff, South Carolina	History / Social Studies / Geography
Julie Drake		Los Angeles, CA	Video/technology/Centropa Coordinator
Julie Kennedy		Los Angeles, CA	Foreign Language
Laura Smith		Los Angeles, CA	Support and digital integration across all subjects and grade levels
Felicia Godinez		Los Angeles, CA	History / Social Studies / Geography
David Castillo		Los Angeles, CA	English Language Arts /Literature
Amy Leserman		Los Angeles, CA	English Language Arts /Literature
Taylor Stern		Los Angeles, CA	Humanities (Integrated English and History)
Khytt Lawrey		Houston, TX	
LaPrecious Polk		Houston, TX	English Language Arts /Literature
Megan Kelly		Houston, TX	English Language Arts /Literature
Jamie Carus		Newark, NJ	
Caryn Weingast		Newark, NJ	English Language Arts /Literature
Andy Schuh		Newark, NJ	English Language Arts /Literature
Miles Ehrenkranz		Elizabeth, NJ	History / Social Studies / U.S Civics & English
Mark Hoffman		Mountain Lakes, NJ	History / Social Studies / Geography
Jorge Gomez		Lake Worth, FL	History / Social Studies / Geography
Ellen Davis		Broward County, FL	history, social studies, literature and science
Maria Eugenia Zelaya		Gainesville, FL	Foreign Language
Gili Sherman		Chicago, IL	Integrated art lessons, 8th Grade Advisor
Rachel Silton		Houston, TX	Jewish / religious studies