In this issue

The cover photo of the present issue, an 'open' edition with no overarching theme, may at first glance seem unspectacular. Three men, equipped with cameras and maybe a pair of binoculars, gaze off into a hilly landscape. Yet the watchtower in the middle – which all three men are staring at and we, the present-day viewers, observe as well – signalizes that this is not just any old landscape, but a small town on the former East-West German border (to be more precise, Lindewerra, in the Eichsfeld region of Thuringia). The photo is indicative of the ambivalent normalcy of divided Germany. At the same time it begs the question of what motivated West German 'border tourists' to visit places like this before the fall of the Wall and German reunification. *Astrid M. Eckert* pursues this topic by investigating the tourist infrastructure along the inner-German border, shedding light on the interests of varied protagonists.

Claudia Weber illuminates other aspects of the Cold War, analyzing how the legacy of the Katyn massacre has been dealt with over the years. In 1940, the NKVD shot to death thousands of Polish prisoners of war – an act of violence that has been a recurrent historio-political bone of contention in Polish-Soviet and Polish-Russian relations ever since, the U.S.S.R. having consistently blamed the Germans for it up until 1990. Katyn again entered the international spotlight in April of 2010, when, curiously enough, the airplane carrying Polish President Lech Kaczyński and his entourage to the first joint Polish-Russian commemorative ceremony near Smolensk fatally crashed. Using this as her point of departure, the author puts the events of Katyn and their aftermath into a broader context, linking them to the history of World War II, the Cold War and the postcolonialist era, as well as to Soviet Russian, Polish and German history. Moreover, she takes a look at the Western powers' attempts or, rather, non-attempts to shed light on the crime.

The third essay in this issue is devoted to the history of family values, gender relations and gender discourses in the U.S.A. Taking the period from 1890 to 1970 as her frame of reference, *Isabel Heinemann* examines how the debates around female suffrage, divorce, domesticity, women's labor and reproduction included more general discussions and normative ideas about order and society. Popular self-helps books and women's magazines proved to be quite insightful resources. Seen from today's standpoint, their arguments for why women and mothers should be gainfully employed seem just as dated and questionable as the opposite point of view. A long-term historical perspective reveals the stubborn continuity of certain biologistic explanations – along with the conspicuous absence, in the American case, of other issues such as social inequality and educational opportunities for women.

Our 'Debate' column contains two new articles illuminating from different perspectives the National-Socialist *Volksgemeinschaft* – a fundamental concept

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in Nazi Germany, but one also used more recently in a critical-analytical way to describe and explain the mechanisms of rule in that era. The Berlin exhibition 'Hitler and the Germans. Nation and Crime' at the Deutsches Historisches Museum, running from October 2010 to February 2011, even used the word *Volksgemeinschaft* in the exhibition's German title. *Hans-Ulrich Thamer*, one of the key figures behind the exhibit, explains some of the considerations involved, especially in terms of content and design, and talks about how the exhibit was received.[1] *Michael Wildt* was part of its advisory committee and co-author of the catalog; more importantly, however, he has helped in recent years to revive the term *Volksgemeinschaft* in a constructive, scholarly context. In this issue he offers a reply to Ian Kershaw, who recently penned a rather critical assessment of the research conducted to date.[2]

Just as topical is *Anne Kwaschik's* article about the pamphlet of former French resistance fighter and diplomat Stéphane Hessel entitled *Time for Outrage!* In late 2010 the booklet became a bestseller, first in France, then in many other countries. The author looks at the pamphlet's wide echo and discusses, in particular, its context in France, where Hessel's call for outrage not least of all aims to counter the historio-political strategies of President Sarkozy. Kwaschik's essay also inaugurates our new section called 'Essay', which in future will offer a loose series of historically-based commentaries on current events.

Timely in a different sense – and of programmatic import for this journal – are questions and issues regarding the transmission of visual and audiovisual sources. *Christoph Classen*, *Thomas Grossmann* and *Leif Kramp* explain the aims and motivations behind an interdisciplinary initiative started in the fall of 2009 called 'Audiovisual Heritage', in which the Center for Contemporary History in Potsdam (ZZF), together with other institutions and associations, is endeavoring to improve the preservation, accessibility and scholarly usefulness of audiovisual materials. This will be a long and formidable task, but an essential one for a proper understanding of contemporary history beyond the written sources. Fortunately, the position is gaining ground, at least in the academic and scholarly community. This goes for radio and television history, as well as for photographic history. The Research Center for East European Studies at the University of Bremen, for instance, is targeting the expansion of its photographic collection. A prime example is the visual legacy of Czech photographer Ivan Kyncl, presented in this issue by *Heidrun Hamersky* with a characteristic selection of his photos from the 1970s.

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[1] This article indirectly picks up an earlier one: Hans-Ulrich Thamer, Sonderfall Zeitgeschichte? Die Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts in historischen Ausstellungen und Museen, in: *Zeithistorische Forschungen/Studies in Contemporary History* 4 (2007), pp. 167-176.

[2] Ian Kershaw, „Volksgemeinschaft". Potenzial und Grenzen eines neuen Forschungskonzepts, in: *Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte* 59 (2011), pp. 1-17.

Beyond the sphere of Europe, we take a look at Asia, where a key event of the 1970s was the genocidal crimes of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. *Volker Grabowsky* presents a 2009 film, now available on DVD, about Cambodia past and present. The film, thanks to its participatory approach, has been largely supported and co-created by Cambodian villagers of various generations.

Finally, the three essays in our 'Rediscovered Classics' column take us back to the Federal Republic – to be more precise, to the 1950s, through the history of ideas and science. Whereas *Andreas Wirsching* pays tribute to the seminal essay by Hans Rothfels that was instrumental in establishing contemporary West German history as a discipline, *Thomas Pegelow Kaplan* reflects on the *Wörterbuch des Unmenschen* (*Dictionary of Brutes*) published shortly thereafter and authored chiefly by Dolf Sternberger. Added to this is *Christian Schneider's* rereading of Theodor W. Adorno's often misunderstood essay from 1959 'What Does Coming to Terms with the Past Mean'. Adorno's text was based on a lecture, and since Adorno himself considered the spoken word to have a dignity of its own, we have included an excerpt of the original lecture on the magazine's website as a bonus audio clip. This likewise points the way to our next issue with its theme of 'History and Politics of Sound in the Twentieth Century' – in which one of the articles will discuss Adorno's radio lectures in more general terms.

Lastly, a little news of our own. Adelheid von Saldern has retired from her post on our advisory board. From 2003 until the end of 2010, she helped conduct the affairs of our journal with dedication and critical sympathy. The editors and publisher warmly thank her for her ever-inspiring, competent and reliable assistance, more valuable to the magazine's founding and profile than can possibly be expressed here.

The Editors

(translation: David Burnett)