



History that envelops us like snow

Dear readers,

winter is here, and while we hope that the streets of Berlin will slowly be covered with a gentle layer of snow, we would like to invite you to join us on a journey through the stories and memories that envelop us like a warm coat - layer by layer, like the annual rings of an old tree or the fine layers of a tree cake at the Bohemian Christmas market.

A Reflection on History: Layers of the Past

Berlin tells history at every corner. It is a place where Prussian oddities meet the eras of the Weimar Republic, where the dark chapter of National Socialism and the years of the Wall up until 1989 still leave their mark. Each layer is not always straight, like marble cake on jelly. The iron crosses on the Kreuzberg - the gymnastics father Jahn on the Hasenheide and yet it is also the city that embodies the courage for democracy and freedom. Now, when 75 years of the constitution of our then shaky and young republic are approaching.

In the **museum DIE MAUER THE WALL** we are highlighting an excerpt from our stories in our new exhibition "On the phone you say nothing". The artist group ÜB3R - Pascal and Felix Wiedenmann - have created an impressive installation that makes the everyday life of surveillance in the GDR acoustically tangible. Six telephone receivers filled with original recordings make us shudder at what people are capable of and remind us of people's resilience.

Visit us at the museum from December 9, 2024 to see this special installation. Special conditions apply for teachers and educators. Ask at the museum <https://diemauerthewall.de/>



Photo: Carl Raabe/ Berlin

In the midst of these challenges, we are celebrating a special event: 35 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. A historic moment that reminds us how valuable freedom and unity are. This November, we cordially invite you to visit the museum at Leipziger Platz and embark on a journey into the past and its interrelationships with our present. History comes to life when we experience and reflect on it.

GUTEN MORGEN BERLIN



MAUERSTÜCKCHEN 3

Pascal Wiedenmann, Ueb3r

35 Jahre Mauerfall

Ingo Fried und Nadja Raabe im Gespräch mit
Zeitzeugen im Museum am Leipziger Platz
DIE MAUER | THE WALL

Podcast "Pieces of the Wall" - Personal stories in your ear

Parallel to the exhibition, we continue the stories in our podcast "Pieces of the Wall". With moving conversations between Nadja Raabe, Ingo Fried and contemporary witnesses such as Sigurd Dittrich, Prof. Dr. Ruslan Grinberg, Pascal and Paul (Felix) Wiedenmann, we bring the complexity of German history to life. Art and memory merge here into an experience that shows that art not only reflects, but can also bring about change.

DER ADENAUER from the Center for Political Beauty is a great example of this. For our part, we continue to support democracy-friendly institutions and are happy to make our library and podcast series available for educational purposes.

Photo 1: Aditya Vyas Cover Guten Morgen Berlin: Design Nadja Raabe

Berlin as a history book:

Walks Through Time

Hasenheide and Kreuzberg:

From the meeting point of Turnvater Jahn to the Viktoriapark and the monument: The Cross of Prussian Generals, in between and around many places full of modern and postmodern history (s).

Around the Spree:

Along the former Lehrter Bahnhof and the Hamburger Bahnhof, streets and buildings tell of imperial splendor and contemporary art and the center of political power: between the Chancellery, the Press and Visitor Center and the Palace of Tears.

House of World Cultures:

Also known as the "Pregnant Oyster", a symbol of post-war modernism and a meeting place, just like the Academy of Arts on Hanseatenweg.

A stroke of luck – a happy turn of events

Christmas 1918 was a troubled and dark moment in Berlin's history - Georg Grosz had hidden in his mother-in-law's apartment and drawn a famous sketch in April 1919 that dramatically showed the unfortunate recourse to Prussian militarism and captured the March riots, even then a military dictatorship could have nipped the young democracy in the bud - but fourteen years of the Weimar Republic followed.

This and other moments teach us that we can also be involved: happiness and misfortune are close together.

On February 25, 1947, representatives of the Allies signed a law in Berlin dissolving the Prussian state. From that day on, Prussia belonged to history. The state, which had always been the bearer of militarism and reaction in Germany, had to be abolished, so the Allies believed. In order to shape and secure the democratic process, the Allies endeavored to put this into law. (Guided by the desire, For the security of the peoples). Article 1) The State of Prussia, all central organs and all authorities held by it are hereby dissolved. Law 46 of the Allied Administrative Council was much more than an administrative act. The Allies thereby also passed their judgment on this country. It was not a country like any other... "Origin of the German disease". It was a symbolic necessity, that is how the British, French and Americans decided about us at the time. It was a stroke of luck in history: a turning point. A new beginning for a young democracy.

A new generation grew up striving to uphold this freedom.

Now the town of BELLEVUE has been overwritten with new history, and we were embarrassed by the resignation of the finance minister at Bellevue Palace: November in particular reminded us how fragile the achievements of democracy can be. A month that, with its historical low points - from Kristallnacht to the building of the Berlin Wall - is a warning, and currently reminds us how dangerous the excesses of buildings of lies (including pyramids of lies) in the highest political circles can be. The wrong game has been ended. Democracy has been damaged, and now others must clean up the pieces.

"That's history," says Angela Merkel.

"I would rather fall into action."

Let us not fall into lethargy in the face of growing hostility to democracy. Let us place our hands - in a triangle - in front of our laps rather than in our laps.

May this accompany us into the new year. The biography proves many of the journalists' prophecies of doom, which accuse Angela Merkel of not having admitted to any mistakes in her life, to be false. With a lot of self-reflection, including about her past in the GDR (what it was like to live in an unjust state) and with many admitted mistakes during her term in office, she describes all of this in compelling stories that also do away with the usual political jargon and allow someone in a different language to follow her and the political events in the Federal Republic of Germany over many decades. With a lot of information and a look behind the scenes, the biography "Freedom" is a great achievement, in my opinion. Reading this book should be part of general political education. Which doesn't mean that everything should remain unchallenged - this is not what this wise woman expects. On the contrary, it should serve as a basis for discussion.



Photography: Tom Barrett

On November 24th we were invited to geradegerueckt.de and were very happy to take part: We were taught about the history of democracy, were able to exchange ideas and gained many positive and courageous impressions. Transforming ANGER into COURAGE is one of the goals of the editorial team and society around geradegerueckt.de. Prof. Roland Czada was a guest and contributed a lot to political and administrative theory and the plurality of our democracy and instilled courage in us with a lot of background knowledge and humor.

Berlin:

A Mosaic of Epochs

Berlin - hardly any other city is so steeped in history. Every square is shaped by the dynamics of the times. These stories include not only German, but also Prussian, Western, Eastern and Allied perspectives. From the brief glory of the "golden twenties" to the 75 years that our Federal Republic has now under its belt - a remarkable evolution of democracy - which reminds us: democracy is never fully baked and must always be redefined and defended anew.

Marlene Dietrich stands lost next to the ruins of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church - also the beginning of the young Federal Republic, the first years of newly won freedom, also West Berlin - also a special moment in history. This photo: The lost impression that Marlene makes alone in front of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, all of this is a special Berlin moment. And reminds us of the greatest gift that she brought us (at the time from America) = decency.



Photo: James Whitmore

A jewel in Flemingstraße: History comes to life

Sometimes it is the small, everyday stories that shape our perception. One such stroke of luck is the new jewel at Flemingstrasse 9. This building is a symbol of change and continuity, lovingly furnished with furniture from the Wilhelminian era, the golden 20s and the sweeping 50s. It tells stories from times gone by, renovated to a high standard, with a modern bathroom and a kitchen that leaves nothing to be desired - proof of how history and contemporary comfort can be harmoniously combined.



Interior photography: Lidia Tirri



Fleming Nine is the star of this year's December newsletter.
A walk through the neighborhood confirms the impression: Berlin's
gastronomic highlights in the immediate vicinity:

- French-European cuisine in the Paris-Moscow restaurant.
- Crackling fire in the ship on the Spree in the PATIO.
- Cocktails and a view over the city in the Amano Rooftop Bar to round off the evening

Christmas - a poetic connection

The most famous story that we tell ourselves again and again every year: about Santa Claus and the baby Jesus...

What does Berlin's history have to do with Christmas? A lot. Just as the layers of dough wrap around the Baumkuchen, the layers of history wrap around us and our places.

One example of this is the Bohemian Christmas market in Potsdam-Babelsberg, a place where tradition and modernity meet.

"In the beginning there was Brandenburg," says Christopher Clark, the British historian who has traced the history of Prussia, Berlin and Potsdam and the rising and falling empire like no other.

Here, where UFA stars and later Hollywood stars like Marlene Dietrich - who was both - once mingled, visitors can be contemplative with mulled wine and handicrafts, and can reflect on the once so important connection between Brandenburg and Berlin during the Bohemian Christmas tradition or buy inexpensive things.

" And at the end the chocolate icing is put on. Then the Baumkuchen is ready."

Bohemia, you may ask? I asked myself that too, but that's another story...

We wish you a peaceful time between the years!
Time for walks, contemplation and happiness and a wonderful New Year 2025!



A newsletter of the Namola UG (limited liability)
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