

From the Editors

In the lead article to this open issue of German Politics and Society, Michael Werz offers an insightful and ambitious sweep of the large questions confronting Germany and the European Union in the context of the twentieth century's legacies. Particularly welcome are Werz's criticisms of the increasingly crucial role that anti-Americanism has played in the establishment of a putatively multicultural identity in Europe. Werz demonstrates how the American experience has great relevance for Europe and how German and European intellectuals do their cause a great disservice by dismissing this experience as irrelevant, inferior—or worse.

In the second article, Jonathan Laurence offers a detailed, empirical account as to how the acculturation processes of Turks and Jews differ so starkly in contemporary Berlin. Laurence shows that neither postwar German respect for Jewish religious belonging nor the nationality status of community members explains the major policy discrepancies that the German authorities have constantly brought to bear with regard to these two groups. Instead, so Laurence argues, cultural stereotypes are the most decisive factors in explaining the Berlin government's interaction with these two religious and ethnic minorities.

In the concluding article, Earl Jeffrey Richards analyzes Erich Auerbach's very important (though little known) book *Mimesis, The Representation of Reality in Western Literature* as a meditation on the Shoah. Written between May 1942 and April 1945, Auerbach's work, as Richards demonstrates, offers a compelling example of a highly sublimated allegorical meditation on the murder of Europe's Jews.

Next, we present two book review essays. In the first, Steven Beller analyzes in fine detail the concluding volumes—numbers three and four—of *German-Jewish History in Modern Times*, thereby completing the work that Beller began with his summer 1999 review essay on the series' first two volumes. In the second essay, Kathleen James-

Chakraborty uses her review of recent works by James Young and Gavriel Rosenfeld as a vehicle to make her own statement about the important interaction between architecture and memory for the politics and public discourse in contemporary industrial democracies.

Eight book reviews complete this issue of *German Politics and Society*.