

From the Editors

We are delighted to present a somewhat unorthodox line up in this issue of *German Politics and Society*.

In our lead article, “A Nation in White: Germany’s Hygienic Consensus and the Ambiguities of Modernist Architecture,” William Rollins offers a fascinating analysis of modernist architecture in the Weimar Republic through the lens of the bourgeois hygienic reform movement. In particular, the article features an innovative discussion of the centrality of the color white to this esthetic debate.

In our second article, “Environmentalists, Nuclear Waste, and the Politics of Passive Exclusion in Germany,” Christian Hunold examines in detail the dispute between the Green Party and some of Germany’s environmentally engaged nongovernmental organizations pertaining to the controversial renewal of rail shipments in 2001 of highly radioactive waste to Gorleben. Hunold’s article addresses issues pertaining to democratic theory and the predicaments of liberal democratic polities that have implications well beyond the particular empirical case at hand.

Ingeborg Majer O’Sickey offers a thought-provoking discussion on Berlin’s Potsdamer Platz in her Forum article, “Cinematic Ciphers: Potsdamer Platz, Berlin.” In a piece that takes the reader from the platz’s days as the home of Café Josty to its current reincarnation as “Daimler-City,” O’Sickey presents the famous Berlin site as a “test tube for the reconstruction of German national and cultural identity.”

We then feature four review essays in which such permanently controversial topics as history and memory; the East German revolution and its consequences; and German women writers’ confrontations of the Weimar Republic, National Socialism, the Federal Republic, and the German Democratic Republic are discussed.

In lieu of our usual bevy of book reviews, we could only accommodate one this time, which concludes this issue of *German Politics and Society*.