

From the Editors

Following our special issue on culture, we are pleased to present an open issue of German Politics and Society. Our lead article by James Ryan Anderson investigates a woefully underresearched area of German politics and policy making: the Bundestag's role in shaping the country's foreign policy. While the bulk of Anderson's empirical data hail from the 1950s and 1960s, the article does an excellent job in looking at the German Bundestag's constitutional role as overseer of the executive and controlling the administration in foreign affairs by using what the author calls "formal instrumentalities."

Gilat Margalit follows with a fascinating piece on the television thriller "Armer Nanosh," written by Asta Scheib and the controversial German author Martin Walser. The play deals with the relations between Germans and Germany's Sinti population in the shadow of Auschwitz, a subject that has hardly been touched upon by postwar German writers and dramatists. In the course of the article, Margalit also addresses the recent, similar controversy ignited by the publication of Walser's latest novel, *The Death of a Critic*.

Our two forum articles also focus on recent German debates that—at their very core—involve Germany's Nazi past. In the first piece, Gerald Feldman offers a stinging criticism of a recently published anthology centered on the war crimes of the Deutsche Bank and the Dresdner Bank. And in the second forum piece, Elliot Neaman analyzes perceptively the German intellectuals' public reactions following the tragic events of 9/11.

We are pleased to present two excellent review essays in this issue, as well. Jeffrey Kopstein analyzes two recent books on the German Democratic Republic, offering compelling insights into the perennially complicated questions surrounding the former East Germany's existence and legacy. In the second review essay, Siobhan Kattago discusses the role of visual culture in the creation of memory and history pertaining to the Holocaust and World War II.

Six book reviews round out this issue of German Politics and Society.