

Penguin  
Random House  
Verlagsgruppe

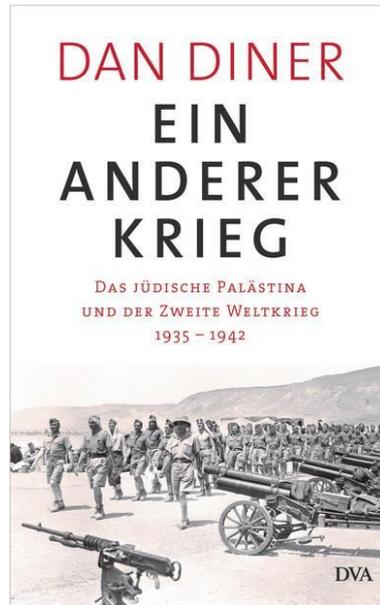
Best of  
Penguin Random House  
Verlagsgruppe

**Non-Fiction  
Spring 2021**

## A wholly new perspective on the Second World War

English sample translation available

**Dan Diner** was born in 1946. He teaches modern history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and was the director of the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at the University of Leipzig. He is one of the world's most acclaimed international historians.



Dan Diner  
**The Other War**  
[Ein anderer Krieg]  
Jewish Palestine and WWII  
1935–1942

Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt  
352 pages  
March 2021

*The Other War* is an anatomy of the Second World War, approached from a different perspective: at the centre of events stands Jewish Palestine, situated at the crossroads of European and extra-European colonial perspectives, during the period starting in 1935 with the Abyssinian War, and ending with the battles of El Alamein and Stalingrad in 1942.

The interlacing of two very different conflicts – the Second World War and the fight for Palestine – forms the heart of this dramatic story, and threads itself through the whole book. The result is a densely woven, multi-faceted tapestry of events that links up the European main event of the Second World War with the history of the Middle East.

- **Dan Diner is one of the most acclaimed contemporary historians**

## The fascinating life of the most famous magician of the post-war period

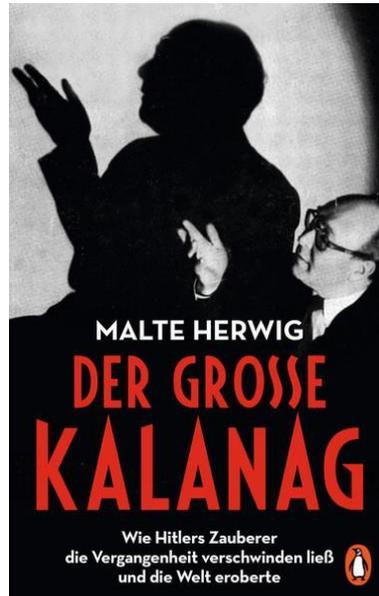
*Spiegel*  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR

English sample translation  
available

[English video pitch](#) available

**Malte Herwig** is an award-winning writer, broadcaster and reporter working for German and English media (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Spiegel*, *Guardian*, *New York Times*, *BBC*). He is the author of bestsellers *Post-War Lies: Germany and Hitler's Long Shadow* and *The Woman Who Says No*, and wrote a critical biography of Nobel laureate Peter Handke. He created and hosted the no. 1 Apple podcast *Faking Hitler* on the forged Hitler diaries scandal. He received his doctorate from the University of Oxford and held Visiting Research Fellowships at Harvard University and the University of London.

@malteherwig  
[www.publicorum.com](http://www.publicorum.com)



Malte Herwig  
**The Great Kalanag**  
[Der große Kalanag]  
How Hitler's magician made  
the past disappear and won  
over the world

Penguin  
480 pages  
With 16-page colour image inset  
March 2021

He was the biggest star of the young German republic: Helmut Schreiber, a.k.a. Kalanag, was famous for his complex, brilliant, exotic and breath-taking shows. But his biggest trick was to make his shady past during the Nazi dictatorship vanish into thin air. As a film producer and president of the Magic Circle, he enjoyed a close relationship with some of the biggest names in Nazi Germany, from Hitler to Goebbels, serviced the Nazi cause, produced the only anti-Semitic musical of the time, and secured the collaboration of German magicians.

Using extensive archive research and interviews, Malte Herwig tells the story of the torturous life of a man who embodied the contradictions of wartime and post-war Germany like no other.

### Praise

"Malte Herwig has managed to pull back the curtain and reveal the long-hidden secrets of the great Kalanag, whose career took him from the corridors of power in the Third Reich to post-war public acclaim on stages around the world. A true story that reads like fiction!"

*Richard Hatch, Corporate Magician and Deceptionist*



## A unique story of money, greed and megalomania

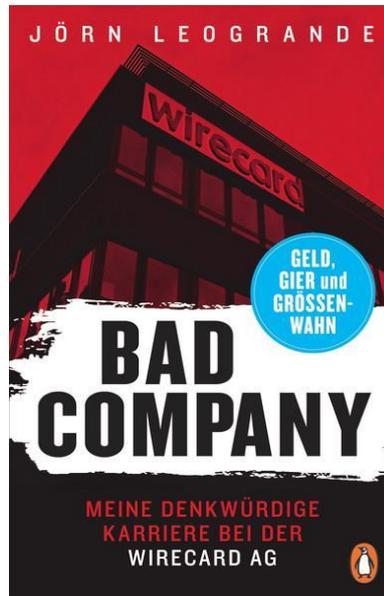
*Spiegel*  
BESTSELLER

English sample translation  
available

English video pitch available

Rights sold to:  
Czech Republic (Grow Books)

**Jörn Leogrande**, born in 1963, studied German language and literature at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich. In 2005, Leogrande took up a position in marketing at Wirecard AG and soon became Head of Marketing before being promoted to head of Wirecard's global innovation department in 2017. In the course of his career, he reports directly to CEO Markus Braun and works closely with COO Jan Marsalek for many years. He worked at Wirecard AG until August 2020. Today, he heads a leading innovation initiative in the Fintech sector.



Jörn Leogrande  
**Bad Company**  
[Bad Company]  
My memorable career at  
Wirecard AG

Penguin  
288 pages  
February 2021

It is the stock market scandal of the decade: In the summer of 2020, the former DAX company and Fintech prodigy Wirecard collapses after billions of euros have disappeared and remain untraceable. Members of the Board of Management and senior managers are arrested. Layer by layer, the story of a gigantic criminal case is revealed. How did the company manage to blind politicians, the stock exchange and the public over so many years?

*Bad Company* provides a spectacular inside view of Wirecard AG. Jörn Leogrande reports on the company's structures, working methods and dazzling personalities tracing Wirecard's path from a technological showpiece company to an insolvent suspected fraud case.

- **Spiegel bestseller – 14,000 copies sold**

### Press

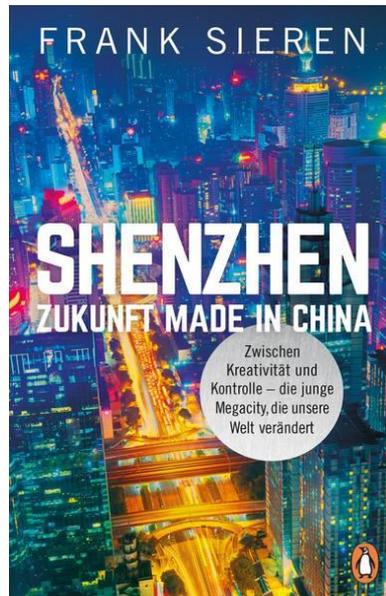
"[L]ike the exaggerated but rather exciting plot of a Netflix series. Billions of euros, secret agents, champagne from beer mugs, crazy cliffhangers. [...] The stuff great cinema is made of."

*Süddeutsche Zeitung*

"A fast-paced ride through 15 years of Wirecard history. Anyone who has read it can now understand better why many believed the growth story of the most successful German start-up in recent history for so long." *Handelsblatt*

## The metropolis of the future, caught between creativity and constraint

*Spiegel*  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR



Frank Sieren  
**Shenzhen –  
Future Made in China**  
[Shenzhen – Zukunft Made in  
China]  
Between creativity and control  
– The young megacity that's  
changing our world

Penguin  
400 pages  
With illustrations  
May 2021

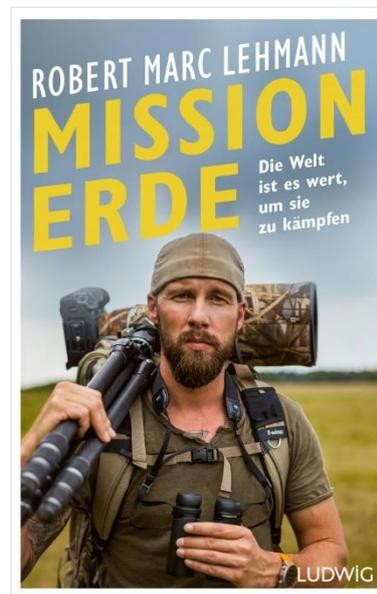
**Frank Sieren** is one of Germany's leading experts on China. The journalist, book author and documentary filmmaker has been living in Beijing since 1994 and writes about the developments of the new world power. He was a long-standing contributor to *Wirtschaftswoche* and *Die Zeit* and is now a *Handelsblatt* correspondent. He has published several bestselling books on China.

If you want to know what our – and especially our children's – lives will soon be like, and the kind of technology that will dominate them, take a stroll through Shenzhen: The southern Chinese megacity (population: 12 million) sprang up as if from nowhere, and is now one of the most innovative cities on Earth. Sustainability and a high quality of life are considered standard, but so are facial recognition and the 'transparent human' – in Shenzhen, the cloud knows everything. The city's techies are outperforming Silicon Valley, their start-ups are among the most highly valued in the world, and Shenzhen is attracting more and more talented young people from all over the globe who can immerse themselves in an exuberant nocturnal subculture. It is in some ways a model city – yet full of incongruities. Frank Sieren tells us what it's like to live and work there, and how it will shape our future.

### Press

"Germany's definitive China expert." *London Times*

## It's time to act! On the road with one of the world's toughest environmentalists



Robert Marc Lehmann  
**Mission Earth –  
The World is  
Worth Fighting For**  
[Mission Erde – Die Welt ist es  
wert, um sie zu kämpfen]

Ludwig  
368 pages  
With 4c image inset  
April 2021

**Robert Marc Lehmann**, born in 1983, is a marine biologist and exploration diver, as well as a multiple-award-winning photographer and filmmaker. In 2015 he was named *National Geographic* Photographer of the Year, and was a 2018 'Person of the Year' for his environmental and nature conservation work. Under the motto 'The world is worth fighting for', Robert Marc Lehmann travels the world to save wildlife and battle against environmental crime.

[www.robertmarclehmann.com](http://www.robertmarclehmann.com)

Robert Marc Lehmann is on a mission to conserve our earth and its unique natural and animal world – 'Mission Earth'. The marine biologist, photographer and ecologist travels the world to save wildlife and fight against environmental crime; he takes us along on his deeply emotional whale rescues, on dangerous operations in the jungle to free tortoises, and on occasionally life-threatening missions to sabotage attempts to destroy our planet. He explains how serious the situation is, makes us witness the dramatic events that are unfolding on our planet, and explains what each of us can do to stop it. He also shows us that not all is lost yet, and that the world is worth fighting for.

- **Beautiful photobook to be published in November 2021**



## Nature as climate refuge – The largest global migration of species since the ice age

English sample translation  
available

**Benjamin von Brackel**, born in 1982, graduated from the German School for Journalism in Munich and studied politics in Erlangen and Berlin. Today, he is one of the most renowned environmental journalists in Germany. He works as freelance journalist for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Die Zeit* and *Natur* focussing on climate change. He co-founded the online magazine *klimareporter*° and was awarded the German Environmental Media Prize in 2016.



Benjamin von Brackel  
**Nature on the Run**  
[Die Natur auf der Flucht]  
Why our forests are disappearing and the brown bear is meeting the polar bear – How climate change is moving plants and animals

Heyne Paperback  
288 pages  
With 12 b/w illustrations  
April 2021

There is something afoot in the world of animals and plants, something which has so far caught too little attention. Wherever they can, animals and plants are moving towards the earth's poles to flee from rising temperatures and drought in their natural habitats. Tropical zones lose their inhabitants, beavers are settling in Alaska, gigantic shoals of fish disappear just to reappear in front of foreign coastlines. Sea creatures move an average of 72 kilometres a year, land creatures an average of 17 kilometres.

In this exciting and vivid book, Benjamin von Brackel describes a phenomenon which demonstrates nature's impressive adaptability as well as the dramatic consequences of climate change – not the least for humankind, for the migration of species won't leave us unaffected.

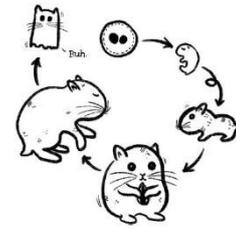
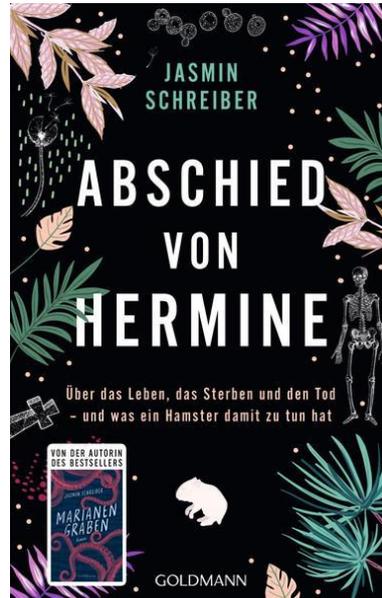
## What is life, and why is death inevitable?

Spiegel  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR



**Jasmin Schreiber**, born in 1988, studied biology and is now an author. In 2018, she won the Digital Female Leader Award and was named blogger of the year. Death and dying are the subject of her writing, while science is the focus of her biology podcast *Bugtales.fm*. She faces her internet insecurities via the handle @LaVieVagabonde. Her first novel, *Marianengraben*, was published by Eichborn in Spring 2020.

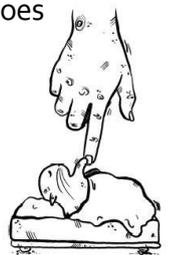
[www.jasmin-schreiber.de/](http://www.jasmin-schreiber.de/)



Jasmin Schreiber  
**Goodbye to Hermione**  
[Abschied von Hermine]  
On life, dying and death –  
and what a hamster has to  
do with it all

Goldmann  
288 pages  
With 52 b/w illustrations  
March 2021

Sooner or later, death takes us all: you, me, that plant on the office windowsill. When death enters our lives, it conjures up emotions such as anger and helplessness, we are in pain, feel unfairly treated and are in shock – and it just hurts so much. In this book, we'll take the edge off this big and serious subject, and find out what life is and why death exists (and has to exist) at all. We observe the small-scale dying that happens in our bodies every day, and then look outwards: we meet an immortal jellyfish deep underwater, and collect pine cones from ancient mountain trees. What does growing old actually mean? What really happens when we die? With the example of the author's late hamster Hermine, we also learn what happens when a body decomposes. And why this process brings with it opportunities, too – for others. We also investigate the emotional world of death: do animals grieve? How do trees react when one of them is felled? And what does any of it have to do with us? Precise, entertaining, and told with charming ease, Jasmin Schreiber's book is dedicated to all things death, from the tiniest cell to the big, existential 'Why?'



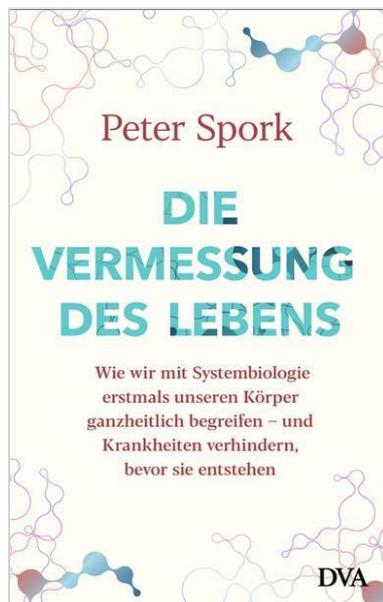
### Praise

"Jasmin Schreiber tells so humanly, so close, so directly about death, fear, loss, love, insecurity, unhappiness and loneliness, that in the end I wanted only one thing: live."

*Igor Levit about Marianengraben*

## The end of all illness? How the new science of systems biology can help us stay healthy

**SPIEGEL  
BESTSELLING  
AUTHOR**



Peter Spork  
**Surveying Life**  
[Die Vermessung des Lebens]  
How systems biology can help us fully understand our bodies for the first time – and prevent illnesses before they happen

Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt  
336 pages  
With 16 b/w illustrations  
March 2021

**Peter Spork**, born in 1965, studied biology and received his PhD for his work on neurobiology and biocybernetics. He is deemed one of the "leading science authors in Germany" (*DLF*). Since 1991 he has been freelancing as a science journalist for print media including *Die Zeit*, *Geo Wissen*, *FAZ*, *NZZ*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, and *bild der wissenschaft*. Spork has published several popular scientific non-fiction books, which were translated in ten languages, including the 2009 best-selling *The Second Code* and is also the author and editor of the newsletter *Epigenetics*.

Around the world, scientists are urgently trying to understand the human body in its entirety, from the smallest cell to the entire organism. Using the latest technology and new algorithms, systems biologists are busy decoding the huge number of metabolic processes and behaviour patterns that characterise our existence. Every day, there are new findings – findings that will eventually revolutionise medicine. The better we understand how illnesses happen, the sooner we can prevent them.

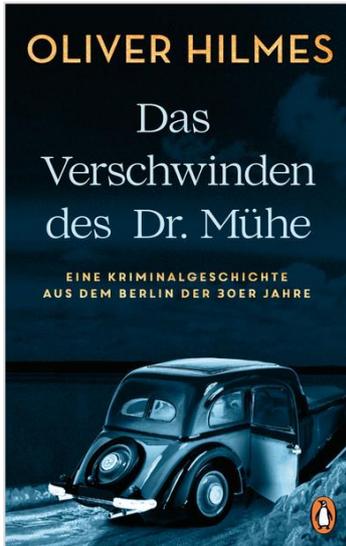
In his new book, bestselling author Peter Spork explains the benefits this forward-thinking science will bring each of us: soon we'll be able to determine our own health and fitness, protect ourselves from chronic illness and slow down the ageing process.

### Press

"The man who made epigenetics popular." *Deutschlandfunk*

"Making complex things simple to understand is the biggest talent of Peter Spork." *Spektrum der Wissenschaft*

## From our backlist:



Penguin, 240 pages  
August 2020

English sample translation  
available

[Book trailer](#)  
with English subtitles available

*Spiegel*  
BESTSELLER

### Oliver Hilmes: *The Disappearance of Dr Mühe*

A spectacular cold case from 1930s Berlin – the new book by the bestselling author

During the final months of the Weimar Republic, a highly regarded doctor disappears. His sports car is found abandoned on the shores of a lake near Berlin. The homicide division investigates and discovers that the respectable medic's carefully cultivated façade has been hiding a shady double life, whose trail leads from Berlin all the way to Barcelona.

Oliver Hilmes has reconstructed this sensational and puzzling case from files discovered in Berlin's regional archive. Enriched with fictional touches, Dr Mühe's Disappearance is the gripping and ingenious story of the search for truth, and of the dark side of middle-class life on the eve of dictatorship.

- *Spiegel* bestseller – 15,000 copies sold
- Rights sold to: Italy (Mondadori)

#### Press

"*Babylon Berlin* with other means. A portrait of a degenerate society, a darkening time." *Welt am Sonntag*

"Hilmes is a high-class historian with literary talent. [...] He has written a sophisticated, dramatically structured novel about the dark sides of individuals and politics." *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

"Oliver Hilmes has succeeded in creating a fast-paced crime thriller that is also a bit of history of the later Weimar Republic." *Stern Crime*

"Here the story of a crime becomes historical instructional material. This is a book that won't let you go." *Die Welt*

"More exciting than fiction, more fantastic than sober reality: a look back at a period of time that Oliver Hilmes resurrected with great accuracy [...]"

*WDR5 "Scala"*



Siedler, 432 pages  
With 55 b/w illustrations  
October 2020

English sample translation  
available

*Spiegel*  
BESTSELLER

## Andreas Kossert: *Uprooted – The Refugee in World History*

The renowned historian on escape and deportation as a profoundly human experience

In his new book, Andreas Kossert – the renowned expert on emigration and expulsion in the twentieth century and author of the bestselling *Cold Home* – places the early twenty-first-century refugee movement in a wider historical context.

Movingly told and interwoven with personal accounts, *Uprooted – The Refugee in World History* reveals the existential experiences of uprootedness and hostility that go hand in hand with losing one's homeland, and explains why refugees and displaced persons have always found it so difficult to settle into a new country. Whether they have come from East Prussia, Syria or India, refugees are agents of world history – and with this book Andreas Kossert gives them a voice.

- *Spiegel* bestseller – More than 12,500 copies sold
- Winner of the *NDR Kultur Sachbuchpreis 2020*

### Press:

"[A] brilliantly written and important book about displacement and flight [...] a compelling portrait of a raw human drama [...] This is a book for our times." *Christopher Clark*

"A very emotionally moving book. But it also has a clear and cool objectivity, which contributes to its enlightenment of this subject." *NDR Kultur Sachbuchpreis*

"One cannot praise Kossert's book enough. It is empathetic and intelligent, with a clearly visible viewpoint [...]." *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

"Such narrative talent is not often found [...]. Kossert understands how to not overstep the thin line separating vivid description from cheap effects." *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

"Andreas Kossert's perceptive book is a strong plea for empathy and a humane perspective." *SWR2 "Lesenswert"*



C. Bertelsmann, 320 pages  
With numerous colour illustrations  
November 2020

English sample translation  
available



## Markus Rex: *Frozen at the North Pole*

### One year in the eternal ice – a milestone in climate research

On the 20th September 2019 began the largest polar expedition of all time: The research vessel RV Polarstern set off from the port of Tromsø, Norway, to be frozen to the ice of the North Pole. Scientists from 20 countries have boarded to research the consequences of climate change for one whole year.

Markus Rex, the head of this research expedition called MOSAiC, recounts in his book the story of this unique endeavour. He reports excitingly and vividly about the everyday life of the expedition, which was exposed to unimaginable conditions and challenges in the Arctic: constant ice cracks, the dramatic rise of huge mountains of ice, enormous snow storms, extreme cold, the impenetrable darkness of the polar night, which lasted for months, and the frequent encounters with dangerous polar bears. And right in the middle of all this, the Corona pandemic brings the expedition to the edge of the abyss. Rex captivately describes how his research team overcomes the exertions always guided by the goal of shedding light on the processes of global climate change, which is nowhere as pronounced as it is in the Arctic.

Frozen at the North Pole is not only the story of the largest research adventure ever but at the same time a vivid insight into the dramatic consequences of climate change.

The book contains many colour illustrations throughout, including exclusive photos from the expedition, graphics and maps.

- **#3 Spiegel bestseller – More than 72,000 copies sold**
- **Rights sold to:** Canada/World English (Greystone), Korea (East Asia Publishing)

#### Press:

"Rex's enthusiasm is contagious. He adeptly combines the scientific data in his log with his personal experiences, adventures, and the presentation of scientific findings." *Deutschlandfunk*

"Rex writes intelligibly, unagitatedly, and at the same time full of respect for nature." *SWR 1*

"Easy to follow and fascinatingly vivid [...]. This is the stuff dreams are made of." *Denis Scheck, ARD "Druckfrisch"*

"Rex succeeds [...] in creating a gripping mixture of everyday life under extreme conditions, scientific facts and the magic of a fascinating unknown world." *MDR Wissen*



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Eastern Europe (except Czech Republic and Slovakia) and the Balkans; Scandinavia; China; Taiwan; Turkey

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