

In this issue

The cover illustration of this 'open' issue depicts Michel Foucault in Paris at approximately the time he gave his lectures on 'governmentality' there (1977–1979). In the debate section, we take the publication of these lectures as an opportunity to assess the current relevance of the governmentality concept for research in the field of contemporary history. Following *Jürgen Martschukat's* overview article on the significance of the concept, *Maren Möhring* applies it to questions pertaining to the history of body and gender. *Jan-Otmar Hesse* analyzes and discusses Foucault's intriguing theses on ordoliberalism and the 'social market economy', which seem especially relevant for contemporary history. As the three essays demonstrate, Foucault's analysis of the mechanisms of leading and being led are still indispensable for research on the power structures that shaped various political systems in the 20th century.

The articles of this issue are introduced by *Till Kössler's* contribution on the integration of industrial laborers into the new democratic system of the early Federal Republic of Germany. Before the backdrop of the Cold War and the partition of Germany, he examines the Ruhr Region as an example for the 'deradicalization' of Communist workers and changes in labor union politics on the factory level. Kössler demonstrates that the history of labor, which has lately seemed a bit out-of-date, indeed holds potential for interesting new inquiries and insights. Not least of all with regard to the current societal position of labor unions in the Federal Republic, a combination of social, political, and cultural facets affords a promising historical approach. *Philipp von Hugo* analyzes the public debate on Ingmar Bergman's film 'The Silence' from 1963. He discusses how in West Germany, especially the instigators of the so-called "'Clean Screen" Campaign' (*Aktion 'Saubere Leinwand'*) fiercely demonstrated against the film – admittedly with limited success. Moreover, von Hugo offers insight into the film's reception in other European countries, which allows for a more precise analysis of the specific German controversy. *Joachim Samuel Eichhorn* addresses another important topic of the 1960s – the Grand Coalition under Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger. Eichhorn specifically focuses on procedural aspects, as this coalition was an even greater balancing act than today's Grand Coalition. What were the main strategies employed by the protagonists in order to put aside ideological differences and create a basis for action? In his outlook, Eichhorn furthermore observes structural differences and similarities between the historical and the contemporary Grand Coalition in Germany.

While the three case studies introduced so far offer various perspectives on the history of the Federal Republic, *Jost Dülffer* presents a cross-section of memory culture in the USA from 1945 to the present. The famous photograph depicting the American flag being raised on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima

towards the end of World War II serves as a probe in this endeavor. Similar to Gerhard Paul's analysis of an icon of the Vietnam War published in this journal,¹ Dülffer traces the photo's origins and its reception, taking into consideration the way it was again taken up as a code in the context of 9/11. Besides its medial history, Dülffer bears in mind the image's significance for concrete political aims as well. He furthermore elucidates that, despite the Vietnam War, memory culture remains heroic in the USA – a conspicuous quality from the perspective of its post-heroic German counterpart.

Rolf Sachsse works with rather unusual primary source material – at least within the field of German contemporary history: he analyzes and contextualizes Afghan war rugs, which have been produced and proliferated in growing numbers for therapeutic as well as propagandistic purposes over the past decades. Sachsse distinguishes between various phases and sets of motives in these war rugs. It is especially remarkable that this old, but nowadays mostly industrially produced medium integrates newer media such as photography – with fascinating, but somewhat disconcerting results.

In the review section, *Jörg Requate* introduces a substantial collection of DVDs with TV-interviews by the prominent journalist Günter Gaus from the years 1963 to 1972. In retrospect, besides the intellectual brilliance of the interlocutors, the austere atmosphere of these interviews is quite impressive. The concentration only on spoken word and dialogue that becomes apparent in these visual documents seems characteristic of the early television era. In our series on 'rediscovered classics', *Riccardo Bavaj* examines Kurt Sontheimer's 'Anti-democratic Thought in the Weimar Republic' ('Antidemokratisches Denken in der Weimarer Republik', first published in 1962) – a real classic within the fields of political science and contemporary history, which were closely interlinked at the time. While Bavaj appraises Sontheimer, who died a year ago, *Daniel Morat* calls to mind Günther Anders' *opus magnum* 'The Outdatedness of Human Beings' ('Die Antiquiertheit des Menschen'), which was published 50 years ago and in many ways does not seem antiquated at all. The Review Digest, which features some important book reviews of the past months, concludes this issue.

The Editors

(translation: Eva Schissler)

¹ Gerhard Paul, Die Geschichte hinter dem Foto. Authentizität, Ikonisierung und Überschreibung eines Bildes aus dem Vietnamkrieg, in: *Zeithistorische Forschungen/Studies in Contemporary History* 2 (2005), pp. 224–245. Similar case studies, including on pictures from non-military contexts, are in preparation.