

Film Rights Guide Fall 2024

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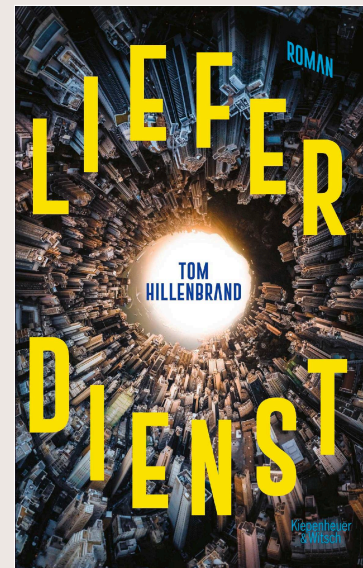
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Tom Hillenbrand

Delivery Service

- A Sci-Fi-Thriller set in a world where couriers are armed to the teeth – and delivery services have more power than we can imagine
- Over 1.2 million copies of Tom Hillenbrand's books sold
- English sample translation by Laura Caton available



August 2024 · 192 pages

© Helke Bogenberger



Tom Hillenbrand is a bestselling author whose books have sold more than 1.2 million copies – including the thrillers *Hologrammatica*, *Qube*, and *Montecrypto*. They have been translated into several languages, won numerous awards, and are regularly on the *SPIEGEL* bestseller list.

New Berlin, sometime in the future: Delivery services bring you everything you want, within minutes. But to make a profit, they have to be especially fast and unscrupulous.

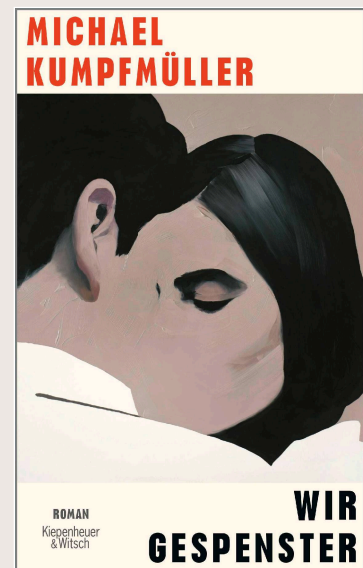
Arkadi's employer Rio specializes in producing orders using 3D printers and delivering them immediately. The pressure is enormous: as soon as something is ordered – whether it's a video game console or toothpaste – a ruthless race begins between the various delivery services to get it to the customer as quickly as possible. Only the fastest get paid, the others are left behind with their now next to useless product. Arkadi is one of the foot soldiers in this brutal competition, zipping around the city on a hoverboard, trying to outdo the competition by any means necessary.

One day, a colleague asks Arkadi to take on a job for him. Shortly thereafter his colleague is dead. The young courier gets caught up in a maelstrom of events from which he can barely escape. He is asked to carry out strange special assignments, and his management suddenly takes huge interest in him. Can he make the mysterious deliveries before the competition's marketing drones snatch him out of the air?

Michael Kumpfmüller

Ghosts Like Us

- A deft philosophical novel about what really matters in the end
- By the author of the international bestseller *The Glory of Life*, a novel about Kafka's last love, which was successfully adapted for the screen in 2024 and translated into 27 languages



August 2024 · 256 pages



Michael Kumpfmüller, born in Munich in 1961, lives in Berlin. His novel *Die Herrlichkeit des Lebens* enjoyed critical acclaim and became an instant bestseller; today, the book has been **translated into 27 languages**. His most recent novels are *Tage mit Ora* (2018), *Ach, Virginia* (2020) and *Mischa und der Meister* (2022).

The ghost of a young woman tries to solve a murder – her own, to be precise. Who is responsible for her death? As she gets closer to the answer, she realizes that a completely different question is actually gnawing at her.

In the early hours of the morning, Lilli looks down at a lifeless body at her feet. Only slowly does she realize that it's her own body lying there between the trees in the city park. While the bereaved grieve and the investigators sort through the clues with increasing perplexity, she receives support from a surprising source: Andrä, a former detective who died many years earlier during an assignment, takes her under his wing, carefully guiding her through the world of ghosts, which is surprisingly similar to our own. The dead argue, love, and have fun, discuss their problems in self-help groups, and observe the goings-on of the living with amused astonishment. In the process, Lilli and Andrä don't get any closer to solving the case, but do get closer to each other. When a boy who claims to have seen the perpetrator dies unexpectedly and joins them, everything starts to slip.

Michael Kumpfmüller writes of the beauty and fragility of life in a book that is lucid, melancholy, and cheerful all at once.

Frank Schätzing

Heroes

- Historical drama and breathtaking thriller – Schätzing's new great medieval novel
- English sample translation by Shaun Whiteside available
- Schätzing's books have sold 9 million copies and were translated into 27 languages



October 2024 · 1.040 pages

© Paul Schmitz



Frank Schätzing, born in 1957, published his debut *Death and the Devil* in 1995. His eco-thriller *The Swarm* was published in 2004 and went on to sell more than 4.5 million copies. It was **translated into 27 languages**. This was followed by the best-sellers *Limit* (2009), *Breaking News* (2014) and *The Tyranny of the Butterfly* (2018). He has also written two bestselling non-fiction titles: *Notes from an Unknown Universe* (2006) and *What If We Just Saved the World?* (2021). Frank Schätzing has received numerous awards for his works and they have sold 9 million copies altogether.

In his new, epochal novel set in the 13th century, Frank Schätzing paints a picture of a society in turmoil. Against the backdrop of huge upheavals, in which the Renaissance and modern times already loom on the horizon, in the eternal tension between power and morality, Schätzing sends his hero Jacop on a hellish ride through history.

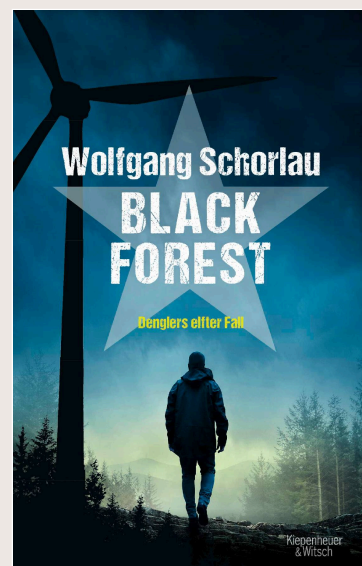
1263: Jacop the Fox is in trouble - big time. Just like three years ago when the lovable vagabond accidentally got caught up in the power struggle between Cologne's wealthy merchants and the church, only narrowly escaping death. After that, his fate took a promising turn. He became honourable, turning from thief to merchant's apprentice with the help of his mentor Jasper, a cunning priest with an interest in science. But once again he has to run, fight and swim for his life, chased by ghosts of the past, Scottish mercenaries and the terrifying Blonde Witch.

Thrown into a storm that engulfs all of Europe, triggered by English barons who plan nothing less than to oust their king and abolish the absolute monarchy, Jacop is caught up in international intrigues while at the same time trying to solve his own family-secrets and winning the woman that he loves. If only he had stayed in Cologne with his friends. But even there, the power struggles come to a dramatic head...

Wolfgang Schorlau

Black Forest. Dengler's 11th Case

- Georg Dengler's new case takes him into the depths of energy politics
- Over 1.6 million copies of the series sold



October 2024 · 448 pages



© Timo Kabel

Wolfgang Schorlau lives and works in Stuttgart. His acclaimed Dengler series, which has been adapted to the screen, now comprises 11 novels and sold 1,6 million copies. He received the German Crime Fiction Award, the Stuttgart Crime Fiction Award, and the Stuttgart Ebner Stolz Business Crime-Fiction Prize.

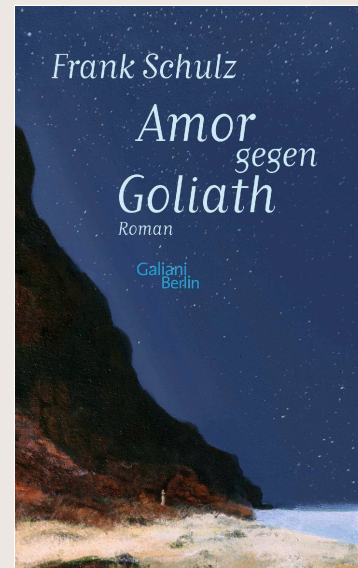
Dengler's mother is getting old, she starts seeing shadows in the yard at night. When Dengler arrives to reassure her, he realizes that either he has gone mad too or there really are figures moving around out there.

Dengler's family owns a piece of land which happens to be the ideal location for a wind turbine – if it weren't for the local opposition. When the spokeswoman for the protesters is found murdered, Dengler finds himself confronted with a complicated case – professionally as well as personally: the victim was his childhood sweetheart. The more progress Dengler makes in his investigation, the more clearly the murder brings to light an impenetrable web of obligations and bloodily enforced interests. Corrupt state politicians, greedy businesses, the nuclear lobby, and a Russian honorary consul are all mixed up in the case, and the connections reach all the way up into the highest echelons of power – and many decades into the past.

Frank Schulz

Cupid vs. Goliath

- A novel that takes us into the heart of the climate movement, to the heights of German language artistry and into the hell of an anxiety disorder



September 2024 · 752 pages



© by Gunter Glücklich - www.guntergluecklich.com

Frank Schulz, born in 1957, has received numerous awards for his novels, including the Hubert Fichte Prize, the Irmgard Heilmann Prize and the Kassel Literature Prize for Grotesque Humor.

Cathi, a popular and esteemed psychologist and in her spare time a highly active climate crisis campaigner, wants to finally relax on a Greek island - and mend her relationship with her beloved but increasingly odd husband, ex-stage performer Ricky. Ricky tries to hide from the world and his wife that he suffers from severe anxiety disorders; instead of composing new songs, he hides away all day in his rehearsal room, where he does nothing but swallow tranquilizers and combat his fear of being afraid. The additional fear of losing his idolized Cathi drives him to delicately irritating acts of jealousy.

Next door is the flamboyant Philipp, a journalist and womanizer, who knows all the tricks of the trade, and who wants to land a coup: A man called 'Konfusius' is causing quite a stir on the Internet with his bizarre appearances and eloquent sermons against nature-destroying mankind. But nobody knows who he is or what drives him. Büttner suspects him to be on the island, and he wants a big story.

With so much need for recreation and so much to talk about, Cathi and Philipp soon become threateningly close. And there are other disasters on the horizon besides climate change.

Alain Claude Sulzer

Almost Like a Brother

- "Sulzer tells his story with the stylistic confidence of a master! An incredibly powerful book!" – literaturblatt.ch
- Finnish, Slovak and Spanish rights with KiWi, all other rights with United Agents



August 2024 · 192 pages

© Lucia Hunziker



Alain Claude Sulzer, born in 1953, lives in Basel, Berlin and Alsace. His books have been translated into all the major languages. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Prix Médicis Étranger, the Hermann Hesse Prize and the City of Basel Culture Award.

Alain Claude Sulzer explores existential questions about friendship and goodbyes, (homo)sexuality, art and fame through the shared life story of two very different men.

They grow up like brothers in the Ruhr area of the seventies. But unlike the narrator, Frank is drawn out into the world at an early age: he wants to live as an artist, decides to go to New York, paints obsessively, but without success. Only when he is terminally ill does he return to his hometown.

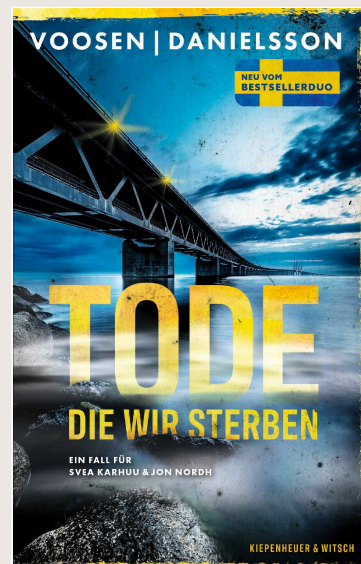
After a long time, the friends meet for the last time on Frank's deathbed. As different as their lives are, the bond forged in childhood is deep. After Frank's death, the narrator keeps receiving his paintings; well-packed, they arrive at his door. However, they remain alien to him, just like Frank's homosexuality.

Decades later, by chance, the narrator discovers Frank's paintings in a gallery. It is a mystery how they got there - and what a strange attraction they have: The art world celebrates the unknown painter as a genius, and the narrator finally recognizes the fascination that emanates from his friend's works. And what's more, he recognizes himself in the large-format painting of a naked man.

Roman Voosen, Kerstin Signe Danielsson

Deaths We Die. A Case for Svea Karhuu and Jon Nordh

- A new investigative duo shakes up Malmö
- Part 1 of a fast-paced new crime series about gang violence in the south of Sweden
- 500,000 copies sold of Voosen/Danielsson's books



August 2024 · 400 pages

Roman Voosen was born in 1973, grew up in Papenburg, and has studied and worked in Bremen, Växjö and Göteborg.

Kerstin Signe Danielsson was born (1983) and grew up in Växjö. She has studied and worked in Germany and Sweden.

The murder of a thirteen-year-old boy in Malmö makes headlines around the country and puts maximum pressure on the police. A new pair of investigators are tasked with solving the murder – and preventing others...

A teenager is shot dead in a drive-by shooting in the disadvantaged neighborhood of Hermodsdal. The police leadership and the press quickly decide that it's just another tragic low point in the escalating nationwide drug gang wars. The thankless case is delegated to Jon Nordh, a recently widowed detective, and Svea Karhuu, an investigator transferred from northern Sweden for disciplinary reasons.

The two quickly find themselves caught between the fronts of the brutal turf wars for quick money, power, honor – and revenge. When the dead boy's best friend goes into hiding, it looks like a betrayal. But after another murder, events come thick and fast, and the unlikely pair of investigators have to come together as a real team very quickly. Nordh and Karhuu are up against not only a relentless opponent, but the burden of their own pasts as well.

Marcus Bensmann, CORRECTIV

No One Can Say They Didn't Know. The AfD's Outrageous Plans

- SPIEGEL Bestseller



July 2024 · 256 pages

Marcus Bensmann reported for German media from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan, Iran, and Iraq for twenty years. Since 2014 he has been doing research for CORRECTIV, among other things as an expert on the New Right.

CORRECTIV is a non-profit media organization founded in 2013 to strengthen democracy.

In this book, Marcus Bensmann brings together the findings of many years of research into the Alternative for Germany (AfD) by the network CORRECTIV. Based on the party's own statements, he reconstructs its plans: from the secret meeting in Potsdam to the planned abolition of fundamental rights.

As an expert on right-wing extremism for the research network CORRECTIV, Marcus Bensmann has attended party conferences, district assemblies, and other meetings of the right-wing scene for years, analyzed the statements and programs of right-wing networks and books by their protagonists, and followed the development of the AfD which started out as an anti-Euro party before its takeover by the radical nationalist wing and the remarkable radicalization of the party leadership.

Drawing on the results of many years of research by CORRECTIV, in this book Bensmann pieces together the plans being pursued by the radical party leadership and its whisperers, and what's in store for Germany if they are actually able to do what they really want: the deportation of millions of people, a turn towards Russia and China and the abolition of universal human rights.

Tex Brasket, Christian Schlodder

Dirt and Glitter. A Story From the Streets About Light in Dark Places

- The legendary German punk band *Slime*'s new singer tells his story



October 2024 · 240 pages

Tex Brasket, born in 1980, has been the singer of the punk band *Slime* since 2021. He was born in Galveston, Texas, into a broken home. Adopted by a German family, he came to Bavaria at the age of three. In 2016, after many detours, he ended up in Berlin - and shortly afterwards became homeless.

Christian Schlodder is a freelance journalist who has written for *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *taz*, *Spiegel Online* and *ZEIT Online*, among others. He has been following Tex's life and career since 2017. He lives and works in Berlin.

In 2016, Tex Brasket comes to Berlin. It's not the first attempt at a new start, but one that really fails: After the odd stupidity and a few missed opportunities, he ends up on the street.

Tex knows all about setbacks. Immediately after being born into a difficult home in Texas, he tests positive for various drugs. Neither an adoption nor a move to the Bavarian provinces frees him from the issues of violence and addiction. Now he is left with a sleeping bag, a handful of clothes and his guitar. It is an unprotected life, characterized by mistrust, hardship and despair, but also by solidarity and hope.

Tex has bad experiences, learns his lessons, gets to know himself anew - and finds a new language: he begins to sing about this life. Over the next three years, he builds up a reputation and an audience as a street musician. And one day he is discovered as the new singer for the legendary punk band *Slime*. Months later, he is performing in front of 40,000 people on a festival stage.

Christian Schlodder and Tex Brasket met in 2017 when, apart from Tex's voice and talent, there was little to suggest such a turn of events. Together, they tell a story that is full of dirt and darkness, but sparkles all the more brightly.

Claus Peymann, Christine Dössel

Theater Madness

- 60 years of German theatre history



April 2025 · 240 pages

Claus Peymann, born in 1937, started out as a director in the university theater, was acting director in Stuttgart, directed the Schauspielhaus Bochum, the Burgtheater in Vienna and the Berliner Ensemble. He lives in Berlin.

Christine Dössel has been a theater critic for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* since 1990 and a feature editor since 2000. She is a juror for the *Berlin Theatertreffen*, co-author of the dtv encyclopedia of theater and author of a biography of Klaus Maria Brandauer.

Claus Peymann is a "living legend" of German-language theater. For almost 60 years, he has shaped what we understand as theater today - as a director, as an artistic director, as a public voice unafraid of conflict and debate.

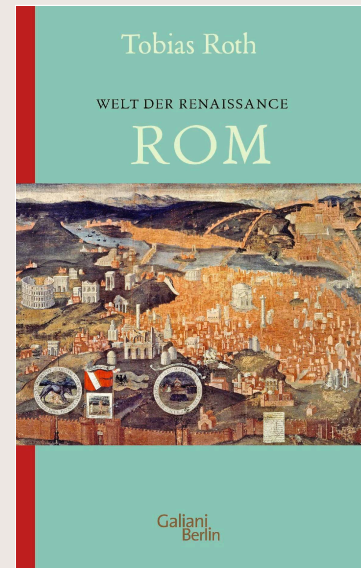
Like no other director, he had a close working relationship over decades with great authors such as Peter Handke, Thomas Bernhard, Elfriede Jelinek, Peter Turrini, Hans Henny Jahnn, Christoph Ransmayr, Gerlind Reinshagen, Botho Strauß, Heiner Müller, Thomas Brasch - as well as with the best actors and actresses of his time. Since the world premiere of Peter Handke's "Publikumsbeschimpfung" in Frankfurt in 1966, which is considered the beginning of a new era in German-language theater, theater has not only been art and craft for Claus Peymann, but also always a place of political statement and provocation, of humane utopia and radical resistance against public lies, hostility towards art and old and new philistinism.

The fact that Claus Peymann has lost none of his infectious energy, his passion for the magic of the theater and his rhetorical brilliance is demonstrated in the interviews he conducted with the renowned theater critic Christine Dössel for this book. An entire epoch of German cultural history becomes visible, reminding us emphatically how much we still need the theater today as a mirror of our lives and a space for our freedom.

Tobias Roth

World of the Renaissance: Rome

- A brilliant portrait of a city and an era



September 2024 · 208 pages



© Axel Gundermann/YEARROUND/MUNICH

Tobias Roth, born in 1985, is a freelance author, co-founder of the publishing house *Das Kulturelle Gedächtnis*, poet and translator. Roth received his doctorate with a study on the poetry and philosophy of the Italian Renaissance. His remarkable tome *World of the Renaissance* was published in 2020. This was followed in 2023 by *World of the Renaissance: Naples*, the first volume in the subsequent city series, and in 2024 with the second volume on the Renaissance in Florence.

Rome - the city of contradictions, marble ruins and the meteoric rise to capital of the world. Tobias Roth discovers, translates and comments on the literary treasures of the time and takes us into a world full of high art and crazy clerics, poets with a passion for the ancient world and harsh reality.

Renaissance expert Tobias Roth guides us through the astonishing life in Rome with all its contrasts, highs and lows. At the beginning of the Renaissance, Rome is a heap of ruins. When Petrarch looks out over Rome from the Capitol, there is not much left of the splendor of the ancient capital of the world. Instead of over a million people, only just under 20,000 still live on the huge site, with goats and cows grazing between the stone witnesses to former greatness. But with the arrival of power-conscious popes, things began to look up. Money flowed into the city, artists followed, huge building projects were initiated and art and poetry began to flourish.

Stefan Schomann

On the Nature of Rivers

- Fascinating nature writing about rivers around the world
- Extensive English summary available
- English sample translation by David Dollemayer available soon



October 2024 · 368 pages



© Jürgen Blume

Stefan Schomann, born in Munich in 1962, studied literature and works as a freelance writer. His reportages, portraits, and feature articles appear in leading German newspapers and magazines. He has written numerous books, including one about the Red Cross, two about horses, and three about China. Together with photographer Holger Lorenz, he produced an opulent coffee table book on the American Southwest for *National Geographic Germany*. His latest work *In Search of Wild Horses* (2021) was praised by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung as “probably the most extraordinary book ever written about horses” and was **translated into Spanish**.

They are lifelines and carriers of secrets, borders and trade routes, reservoirs and places of power. They bring fertility and destruction, awaken both nameless discomfort and debilitating longing. Our fascination with rivers and their stories remains unbroken.

Stefan Schomann has spent years traveling on and along rivers, from mighty currents like the Amazon to tranquil ones like the Hase in Emsland, Northern Germany. He dives into the source of the Sorgue, rafts in the Himalayas, explores the karst caves dug by the Reka, accompanies a sea rescuer in South Africa’s Pondoland and a bird whisperer on China’s Nujiang. He dedicates himself to some of the last primeval landscapes on earth, wanders through mythological realms, and devotes himself to the rivers of paradise as well as those of the underworld.

His stories meander and flow. He tries to plumb the essence of water and probes the world for examples of a contemporary approach to nature. Brimming with curiosity, he lingers with the people who live on the rivers’ shores.

Sara Weber

Someone Else Can Do That. How AI Can Help Us All Do More Meaningful Work

- The risks posed by implementing AI in the work world are complex – Sara Weber takes a constructive look at them
- How can we make sure that everyone really benefits from AI in their everyday work?



August 2024 · 240 pages



Sara Weber, born in 1987, is German-American. She studied journalism and book studies and attended the German School of Journalism. After working as a freelance writer for *Die Zeit*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, and *Spiegel*, among others, she spent five years at LinkedIn. Today, she works as a media consultant, digital strategist, and freelance journalist. Sara Weber regularly discusses digitalization, diversity, and the new world of work in interviews and as a presenter and speaker. In 2023, she published her first book, *The World Is Ending, And I'm Still Supposed to Work? Rights to the book were sold to Taiwan.*

Artificial intelligence is already coordinating stock levels in warehouses, preparing presentations, and diagnosing tumors. And this is just the beginning. It's a well-established fact at this point that AI has the potential to bring about major change not only in the private sphere but also in the world of work – a significant and very concerning transition, but one that has come at exactly the right time.

Considering the prevalence of exhaustion combined with the increasing labor shortage, we urgently need solutions that go beyond “if everyone does just a little bit more...” Yet the longing for relief is coupled with concern that AI will make us completely redundant. In reality, however, we are all more necessary than ever in this age of AI. What's certain is that the future of work is in our own hands.

Sara Weber is convinced that AI doesn't only pose risks: we need to learn from our past mistakes and set the right political course now. Because, in the end, AI is just a tool. If we use it for positive and just change, we can work better than ever before.

Jürgen Wiebicke

Ten Rules for Saviours of Democracy



August 2024 · 112 pages



© Bettina Fürst-Fastré

Jürgen Wiebicke, born in 1962, studied philosophy and German language and literature in Cologne. Since 1997, he has been working as a freelance journalist, primarily for radio. Every Friday evening, he hosts “Das philosophische Radio” (“The Philosophical Radio”) on WDR 5, German-language radio’s only interactive philosophy program. In 2012, he won the META Award for Ethics in the Media, awarded by the Stuttgart University of Media Studies.

If we didn’t already know it before, Donald Trump’s election has made it clear: our liberal democracy is in danger. Very much so. There’s no guarantee that authoritarian forces won’t also prevail here on our side of the Atlantic. So what should we do in this decisive election year 2017 – and beyond? How can we defend the substance of our democracy against increasingly bold and vocal deprecators – and not just at the voting booth? How do we encourage others to join us?

Journalist and philosopher Jürgen Wiebicke offers ten handy rules to help anyone begin anytime. Right outside our very own homes. In our daily lives. For – and this is something we need to remind ourselves of constantly – democracy is more than a form of governance; it is a form of life that we must continually revive and defend.