

Good news at last: why things are looking up for the world



Guido Mingels **Everything Used to be Worse**

[Früher war alles schlechter]
Why things are looking up for us – in spite of war, disease and catastrophes.
A *Spiegel* book

Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt
128 pages
52 colour illustrations
Format 18,5 x 15,0 cm
April 2017
With illustrations

Guido Mingels was born in Lucerne in 1970 and studied German, linguistics and philosophy in Berne and Frankfurt. He has contributed to several German-language media, including *Geo*, *mare* and the *Tagesspiegel*, and was the deputy chief editor of the magazine of the *Tagesanzeiger* in Zürich, later becoming the newspaper's New York correspondent. Since 2012 he has been a reporter on social matters for the *Spiegel*.

Let's be honest: what do you think – do more people die in plane crashes than used to be the case or fewer? Are there more wars and war casualties than 30 years ago or fewer? Are more children the victims of child labour and violence today or fewer? And the crime rate – is it rising or falling?

Every day we are faced with bad news – and overlook the fact that a lot (and what's more, a lot of important things) have changed for the better. We now live in a world with less poverty, increasing affluence and a lower death rate, as is impressively demonstrated by *Spiegel* editor Guido Mingels. His texts and charts illustrate a surprising trend for the better. For even if the news frequently makes us think otherwise, much in this world is moving in the right direction.

Press

"A useful antidote to rampant despondency and to the pessimism of apocalyptic prophets." *Bayern 2 Favoriten*

"An important book that counters end of the world attitudes with facts. A book one will turn to again and again." *Bangerang.de*

"Valuable factual tidbits for discussion with those permanently stuck in the past." *P.M.*