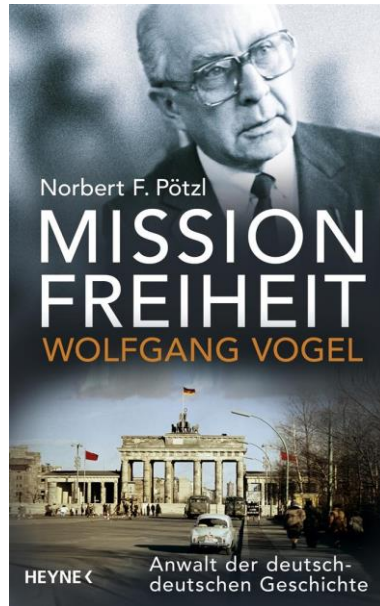


The lawyer who came in from the cold



Norbert F. Pötzl

Mission Freedom

[Mission Freiheit – Wolfgang Vogel]

Wolfgang Vogel – Attorney of German-German history

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Norbert F. Pötzl, born in 1948, was a *Spiegel* editor from 1972 until 2013. He has authored and edited several books, including *Erich Honecker: A German Biography* (2002), *Beitz: A German History* (2011) and *Bismarck: The Will to Power* (2015).

He regularly crossed borders between two worlds: East Berlin lawyer and GDR negotiator Wolfgang Vogel was instrumental in brokering payments for more than 33,000 East German political prisoners, organised the biggest spy swap in the Cold War and was at the same time highly regarded by top politicians in West Germany. But who was this man really?

Using material from the first-ever analysis of Vogel's private archive, Norbert F. Pötzl has pointed to the unique historic role played by this man. An important chapter in the history of post-war Germany – as gripping as a spy thriller.