

A critical analysis of the populist swing to the right that has changed Germany



Georg Diez
The Different Country
[Das andere Land]
How our democracy has been damaged and what we can do to repair it again

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Georg Diez, born in 1969, studied history and philosophy in Munich, Paris, Hamburg and Berlin. He has contributed to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, the *Zeit* and the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. He now writes for the *Spiegel* and is a columnist of *Spiegel Online*.

How is Germany doing? And how do we want to live in this country? Open-minded and freedom-loving or isolated and timid? For Georg Diez the summer of 2015 was a turning point in Germany. This was when this country seemed to be renewing itself joyfully and radically before hysteria, hate and right-wing bawling were let loose. The shock was deep-seated that intolerance was back again and letting those spirits long-thought banished try to seize power here, too. It was every bit as deep as the true cause of the populist swing to the right, the origins of which the experienced journalist sees ten years ago when the financial crisis shook our national identity and self-assurance. The decade between the financial crash and disruption and Macron's *En Marche* is still nameless.

Diez has collected facets of solidarity and hostility, diagnosed dangerous ruptures and smug complacency. But he also demonstrates that people want to be involved and have a say; that the desire for active participation is growing; that this decade has created structures that conceal new possibilities for a different country.