

Germany's return to the stage of world politics



Dr. Josef Joffe
The Good German
[Der gute Deutsche]
The career of a moral
superpower

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Josef Joffe has been the publisher-editor of the weekly *Die Zeit* since 2000. Previous to that he was in charge of the foreign policy section of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. He has taught international politics in Munich, at Johns Hopkins University and Harvard, and has been teaching at Stanford since 2004. Joffe is on the supervisory board of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York, which houses a comprehensive archive on German-Jewish history.

The second German republic is the best Germany ever: liberal, stable, prepared to balance out social differences and with citizens actively engaged in public life. How did this career from the ugly German to moral superpower come about?

Josef Joffe, renowned journalist and publisher of the weekly *Die Zeit*, tells the story of this turnabout of the once guilt-ridden pariah that is Germany. From Angela Merkel's mastering the feat of merging moral imperatives with the politically useful; Konrad Adenauer's brilliant strategy of gaining power by renouncing power; Willy Brandt's peace policy as an instrument of consolidating power; and finally Helmut Schmidt's dangerous game in the face of terror and protest. The Germans could be proud of this metamorphosis – notwithstanding its underbelly in the form of mediocracy as mainstream. But they are not.