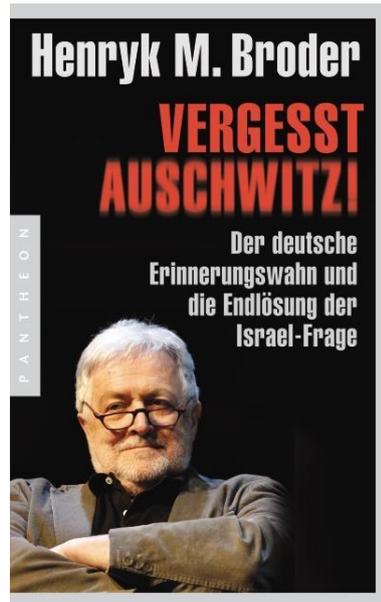


A polemical settling of the score with the way Germans remember the past



Henryk M. Broder
Forget Auschwitz!
[Vergesst Auschwitz!]
The German memory mania
and the final solution to the
Israel question

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Henryk M. Broder was born in 1946 into a Polish-Jewish family of parents both of whom had survived Nazi concentration camps. Broder is one of the best-known journalists in Germany and a bestselling author (*Hurrah, We Capitulate!*, *Critique of Pure Tolerance*). For many years he wrote for the *Spiegel* but now contributes to the daily *Welt*. He co-founded the "achgut.de" political blog and plays a main character in a TV series.

"Auschwitz" is the epitome of a German metaphor. It stands for the great break in civilization, but in daily discourse on the political stage it has long since been degraded to cheap argumentative loose change. The Germans have for years been investing vast sums of money in ways to remember the Holocaust, and yet their policies towards Israel and the Middle East, even the way they act on the stage of international politics show that these rituals of remembrance are often no more than empty gestures as a distraction from the present – or even worse.

In his provocative essay *Forget Auschwitz*, Henryk M. Broder has exposed as "memory mania" the clichéd gesture made by politicians and other people in the public eye of forever remembering the Nazi past. For Broder, this is no more than a politically correct guise for a new "secondary anti-Semitism" skilfully camouflaged as anti-Zionism. For this to change, Broder appeals for these cursed memories to be at last left in peace, and for money and energy to be invested instead in preventing new genocides and fighting brutal dictators.