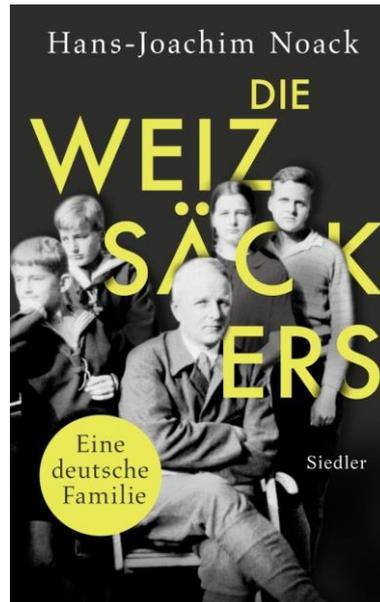


Mind and power, glory and tragedy: Germany's most famous family



Hans-Joachim Noack
**The Weizsäcker.
A German Family**
[Die Weizsäcker. Eine
deutsche Familie]

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Hans-Joachim Noack is one of the most celebrated political biographers in Germany, and his portraits of German chancellors have all been bestsellers. He was a reporter for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *Frankfurter Rundschau* before joining the *Spiegel*, where he worked for many years, finally as the head of the politics desk. He has received many awards for his journalistic work, including the Egon Erwin Kisch Prize and the Theodor Wolff Prize. His most recent publications were *Helmut Schmidt: The Biography* (2008), *Helmut Kohl: The Biography* (2010, with Wolfram Bickerich) and *Willy Brandt: One Life, One Century* (2013).

No other family has left a greater mark on German history during the last hundred years than the Weizsäcker. Hans-Joachim Noack has spent years researching the family and examined many hitherto unknown documents in the process of tracing the path of this family – a path that must surely be typical of the incredible ups and lowest of downs of the German elite.

Karl Hugo von Weizsäcker is made a member of nobility when he was Minister President, his son Ernst was sentenced as a Nazi war criminal, Carl Friedrich was involved in work on the German atom bomb and influenced the peace movement, brother Richard was elected to be the first President of Germany after reunification. And as the co-president of the Club of Rome, Ernst-Ulrich is active in the green movement.

Hans-Joachim Noack has explored the connection between mind and power, of glory and tragedy and en passant his narrative is almost a history of Germany during the last hundred years.