

From the Editors

Our Fall issue features five articles on topics that have been especially salient in the current debates on and in Germany: the far right in all its manifestations, the role of architecture in the representation of memory and politics, particularly in Berlin, and the difficult (and often painful) process of integrating eastern and western Germany, especially in the labor market.

The first two articles address the radical right in contemporary Germany. Michael Minkenberg analyzes the German right comparatively in the context of current political developments in advanced industrial democracies. Using France's radical right in his comparison, Minkenberg argues that the relatively poor electoral performance of the German radical right over the years does not offer the best measurement of this movement's role in and effect on German politics. In a companion piece, Roger Karapin supports Minkenberg's argument that the radical right's importance in Germany goes well beyond its poor electoral showing on the federal level. By analyzing its performance in Länder elections, Karapin demonstrates that the radical-right impact has been far from negligible. Moreover, he argues that the most important variable in its success has been the salience of the immigration issue rather than the socioeconomic or cultural-anthropological factors often forwarded as explanations for the far right's existence.

The next two contributions explore the architectural representation of history, memory, and politics. In a comparison of the immediate postwar and post-unification periods, Deborah Howell-Ardila analyzes the attempts in both epochs to solidify and enhance Berlin's democratic polity through a "democratic" architecture. Howell-Ardila first examines the discourse accompanying the competitions and construction of two high-profile sites—the Stalinallee and Hansaviertel—then considers the possible legacy of this postwar politicization of architectural forms. Siobhan Kattago's article traces the ever-changing face and symbolic importance of the Berlin's Neue Wache memo-

rial, focusing on the memorial's controversial 1995 renovation (in which all victims of "war and tyranny" were to be commemorated together). In this exploration of Germany's various methods of post-war commemoration, Kattago shows the Neue Wache as emblematic of turbulence and travails in modern German history.

In this issue's concluding article, Astrid Segert offers a detailed empirical study on the enduring differences between eastern and western Germans. Segert argues that such differences may not reflect the failure of easterners to "catch up with the west," but rather bespeak an enduring—and perhaps welcome—differentiation in the behavioral patterns and opportunity structures of eastern and western Germans.

As usual, we conclude the issue with an assortment of book reviews.