

INTRODUCTION

1. In the 21st century, the United States of America is the sole political and military superpower. American business models, Wall Street, and the dollar are at the heart of the global economy, and even the remotest corners of the world encounter the products of American culture on a daily basis in television, music, film, fashion, and fast food. American English has become the lingua franca of scholarly discourse. This is not the place to discuss once again the complex historical reasons behind these developments but rather to emphasize that the “United States,” an extraordinary political and cultural experiment, has stirred admiration as well as loathing in the rest of the world from the day of its founding¹—and these sentiments have often inspired publications. Alexis de Tocqueville’s classic analysis of the American political system in the 1830s is the tip of a large iceberg of books that aim to “understand” America or at least certain aspects of it. Many of them benefit from the outside view and the comparative perspective of their authors.

German interest in the United States was already high in the nineteenth century. Hundreds of thousands of Germans emigrated there, creating a strong demand for books on American geography, politics, economy, and culture back home. The growing economic rivalry around 1900 and the political contrasts in the first half of the twentieth century that culminated in World Wars I and II stimulated waves of new books time and again. They included serious academic research, popular treatises and travel accounts, and Anti-American propaganda. America became an ambivalent symbol of “modernity.”

In 1945, after the defeat of the Nazi regime, German-American relations took on a new dimension: West Germany and Austria were occupied in part by American troops, and democratic political life resumed under American supervision. Within a few years, under the conditions of the Cold War and the division of Europe into two power blocs, West Germany and the United States became political and military allies. To be sure, personal relations between the political leaders have been tense at times—Konrad Adenauer and John F. Kennedy did not get along well, nor did Helmut Schmidt and Jimmy Carter, and there was certainly no love lost between Gerhard Schröder and George W. Bush—yet the transatlantic partnership forged during the Cold War has consistently been a

¹ For an original interpretation of the many ways the United States influenced developments in Europe, see the essay by Germán Arciniegas, *America in Europe: A History of the New World in Reverse* (San Diego: Harcourt, 1986).

cornerstone of German foreign policy, just as Germany has been a key ally of the United States in Europe.² Criticism of America in public demonstrations against American politics or presidents and in the media, most notably during the Vietnam War, in the early 1980s, when new American short range missiles were stationed in Western Europe, and during the Gulf Wars of 1991 and 2003, have not undermined this alliance.

Early on, this relationship deepened on other levels as well. In the late 1940s and 1950s, as part of the American political and economic assistance to Europe, several exchange programs gave thousands of German students and professionals first-hand experience of the United States. In Germany, German-American societies flourished, and in many larger cities the U.S. government funded “Amerika-Häuser,” information centers on American politics and culture that offered language programs, libraries with current books and newspapers, and a variety of cultural programs.³ The success of Louis Armstrong and Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe and James Dean, or Coca Cola and Lucky Strike symbolized the first wave of a thorough “Americanization” of European popular culture. In the decades that followed, they were succeeded by Madonna and Michael Jackson, “Dallas” and “Dynasty,” and burgers and baseball caps.⁴ Now, German-American transnational corporations, city- and high school-

² For in-depth treatments of many of the following observations, see the comprehensive two-volume handbook by Detlef Junker, ed., *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1945–1968: A Handbook*, Vol. 1 (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004); *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1968–1989: A Handbook*, Vol. 2 (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

³ See, for example, Ute Bechdolf and Christiane Pyka, eds., *Politics and Pop, People and Partnership: 50 Jahre Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Tübingen* (Tübingen: Kulturamt der Universitätsstadt Tübingen, 2002); *Fünfunddreißig Jahre Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Köln e. V.* (Cologne: Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft, 1991).

⁴ From the broader perspective of consumer culture, see Victoria de Grazia, *Irresistible Empire: America's Advance Through Twentieth-Century Europe* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2005); Rob Kroes, *If You've Seen One, You've Seen the Mall: Europeans and American Mass Culture* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1996). For the years after 1945, see also Alexander Stephan, ed., *The Americanization of Europe: Culture, Diplomacy, and Anti-Americanism after 1945* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2006); Ute Bechdolf and Kaspar Maase, *Culture to go—Wie amerikanisch ist Tübingen?: Aneignung von U.S.-Kultur in einer globalisierten Welt; Begleitband zur Ausstellung im Stadtmuseum im Kornhaus, Tübingen, vom 21. April bis 1. Juli 2005* (Tübingen: Tübinger Vereinigung für Volkskunde, 2005); Ursula Lehmkuhl, Stefanie Schneider and Frank Schumacher, eds., *Kulturtransfer & Kalter Krieg: Westeuropa als Bühne und Akteur im Amerikanisierungsprozeß* (Erfurt: Universität Erfurt, 2001); Axel Schildt, *Zwischen Abendland und Amerika: Studien zur westdeutschen Ideenlandschaft der fünfziger Jahre* (Munich: R. Oldenbourg, 1999); Heinz Bude and Bernd Greiner, eds., *Westbindungen: Amerika in der Bundesrepublik* (Hamburg: Hamburger Edition, 1999); Konrad H. Jarausch, ed., *Amerikanisierung und Sowjetisierung in Deutschland 1945–1970* (Frankfurt/M.: Campus, 1997). For Austria, see the following titles by Reinhold Wagnleitner: *Die Marilyn-Monroe-Doktrin oder das Streben nach Glück durch Konsum: Die US-Popkultur und die Demokratisierung Österreichs im Kalten Krieg* (Vienna: Institut für die Wissenschaft vom Menschen, 1997);

partnerships, academic exchange programs, and millions of private trips each year contribute to a strong transatlantic network of personal contacts that keeps German interest in all things American alive and easily weathers the occasional political thunderstorm.⁵

The United States has been a central object of international research since 1945. The beginnings of German academic research on the United States date back to the nineteenth century but gained an institutional foundation in 1953 with the “Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien” (DGfA). Ever since, the DGfA, with its conferences, book publications, and the journal *Amerikastudien*, has been a well-respected forum for research on American literature, history, politics, as well as other areas.⁶ In the course of the reorganization of German universities after 1945, several new chairs with a focus on the history and culture of the United States were established. “American studies” as a broader interdisciplinary endeavor supplemented “Amerikanistik,” which is characterized by a focus on literary and language studies. Interdisciplinary research institutes were founded in Munich (Amerika-Institut, 1949), Berlin (John-F.-Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien, 1963), Frankfurt (Zentrum für Nordamerika-Forschung, 1979), and Heidelberg (Heidelberg Center for American Studies, 2003).⁷

Coca-Colonization and the Cold War: The Cultural Mission of the United States in Austria after the Second World War (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1994); and “Die Kinder von Schmal(t)z und Coca-Cola: Der kulturelle Einfluß der USA im Österreich der fünfziger Jahre,” in Gerhard Jagschitz and Klaus-Dieter Mulley, eds., *Die “wilden” fünfziger Jahre* (St. Pölten: Niederösterreichisches Pressehaus, 1985), 144–72.

⁵ The latest version of the *Deutsch-Amerikanisches Adressbuch* (*Directory of German-American Resources*), which is produced by the “Koordinator für die deutsch-amerikanische Zusammenarbeit” at the German Foreign Ministry, can be downloaded at <http://www.germany.info/relaunch/info/publications/addresses/directory.html>.

⁶ On the history of American studies in Germany and the founding of the DGfA, see Philipp Gassert, “Between Political Reconnaissance Work and Democratizing Science: American Studies in Germany, 1917–1953,” in *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.* 32 (2003): 33–50; Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, “50 Jahre Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien,” *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 48 (2003): 159–84. Still useful is the older overview by Sigmund Skard, *American Studies in Europe: Their History and Present Organization*, Vol. 1 (Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1958), 209–357. On American studies from the 1950s to the present, see Ulla Haselstein and Berndt Ostendorf, eds., *Cultural Interactions: Fifty Years of American Studies in Germany* (Heidelberg: C. Winter, 2005); “Special Issue: Amerikastudien / American Studies at 50,” in *Amerikastudien / American Studies* 50 (2005); Michael Dreyer, Markus Kaim and Markus Lang, eds., *Amerikaforschung in Deutschland: Themen und Institutionen der Politikwissenschaft nach 1945* (Stuttgart: F. Steiner, 2004); Gisela Strunz, *American Studies oder Amerikanistik?: Die deutsche Amerikawissenschaft und die Hoffnung auf Erneuerung der Hochschulen und der politischen Kultur nach 1945* (Opladen: Leske & Budrich, 1999).

⁷ See *Amerika-Institut 1949–1989: 40 Jahre Amerika-Studien an der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in München; eine Institutsgeschichte* (Munich: Amerika-Institut der Universität München, 1989); *Das Zentralinstitut John F. Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien: Forschung an der Freien Universität Berlin* (Berlin: Freie Universität Berlin, 1996), and the web site of the

Whereas in West Germany the institutionalization and the support of “Amerikastudien” was closely linked to the political partnership and personal contacts, in East Germany, “America” officially symbolized the evils of capitalism and its goal of global political and economic hegemony. Nevertheless, there was a noticeable interest in American popular culture that indicated a more multifaceted East German image of the United States than the propaganda would allow. The 1988 concert of U.S. superstar Bruce Springsteen in East Berlin with an estimated 160,000 fans singing along to “Born in the USA” remains a strong testament to this complexity.⁸ Until the late 1960s, academic research opportunities and institutional resources were severely limited in the GDR. A more liberal interpretation of “Landeskunde” as a supplement to the teaching of American language and literature in the 1970s and 80s created new paths for research on the history and culture of the United States. East German scholars focused on the American labor movement, ethnic minorities, and social conflicts in general. However, much of the work on American foreign policy and international relations simply reflected the official propaganda and was of little value.⁹

In Austria and to a greater degree in Switzerland, American studies have been less prominent over the last fifty years and less formally institutionalized. While North America features in research and teaching at several universities, there are no research institutes comparable in scope to those in Germany. The “Österreichische Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien” (1975) and the “Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Nordamerika-Studien” (1978) were founded more than twenty years after their West German counterpart.¹⁰

Institute at <http://www.jfki.fu-berlin.de/>; Karin Meissenburg, “Interdisziplinarität und die Verbindung zwischen Theorie und Praxis: Das Zentrum für Nordamerika-Forschung (ZENAF) an der Universität Frankfurt,” in Franz Gress and Hans Vorländer, eds., *Liberale Demokratie in Europa und den USA: Festschrift für Kurt L. Shell* (Frankfurt/M.: Campus, 1990), 341–55, and the web site of the Institute at <http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/zenaf/>; and for Heidelberg: <http://www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/>.

⁸ Uta A. Balbier and Christiane Rösch, eds., *Umworbener Klassenfeind: Das Verhältnis der DDR zu den USA* (Berlin: Ch. Links Verlag, 2006); Therese Hörnigk and Alexander Stephan, eds., *Jeans, Rock und Vietnam: Amerikanische Kultur in der DDR; Wissenschaftliche Konferenz vom 15. bis 18. Januar 2002 im Literaturforum im Brecht-Haus Berlin* (Berlin: Theater der Zeit, 2002). On Springsteen’s concert in the GDR, see Christoph Dieckmann, *My Generation: Cocker, Dylan, Honecker und die bleibende Zeit*, 2nd ed. (Berlin: Ch. Links Verlag, 1999), 65–9.

⁹ Rainer Schnoor, ed., *Amerikanistik in der DDR: Geschichte—Analysen—Zeitzeugenberichte* (Berlin: Trafo-Verl. Weist, 1999); Christian H. Freitag, ed., *Bibliographie amerikanistischer Veröffentlichungen in der DDR bis 1968* (Berlin: John F. Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien, 1976); Thomas Finkenstaedt and Rita Stoll, eds., *Anglistenspiegel DDR: Biographische und bibliographische Angaben von Professoren, Dozenten, Habilitanden* (Augsburg: Universität Augsburg, 1990).

¹⁰ The “Amerika-Institut” in Vienna, founded in 1926, focuses primarily on culture and language education. On American studies in Austria before 1955, see Thomas Fröschl,

2. The general image of the United States in Germany and the German-speaking parts of Europe has never been shaped by the printed word alone. Personal recollections of travel experiences, letters, paintings, and photographs exercised their influence on the public early on. Later, they were supplemented by new media: in a 1986 survey in Germany, 85 percent of the people admitted that they got their opinions about America from television. Nevertheless, in the same survey 23 percent also named books as a source of information.¹¹ The writings of political scientists, historians, philologists, geographers, economists, and other academics, together with popular accounts and travel reports, contribute and will continue to contribute to the German image of the United States.

So far there has been no bibliography that comprehensively covers books and scholarship on the United States produced in the German-speaking countries over the last several decades. This reference guide is the first attempt to fill this bibliographic gap. It provides information on all books published in West Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Austria, and the German-speaking parts of Switzerland from 1956 to 2005. Unpublished dissertations and *Habilitationen* on American topics submitted to German, Austrian, and Swiss universities are also listed regardless of the nationality of their authors. Comprising almost 21,000 entries, this reference guide should supersede existing bibliographies, which are generally narrower in chronological or thematic focus.¹² For books published before 1956, readers should consult *German Americana, 1800–1955*, GHI Reference Guide No. 18, published in 2005. For books published before 1800, older bibliographies by Baginsky, Palmer, and Dippel are available.¹³

Margarete Grandner, and Brigitta Bader-Zaar, eds., *Nordamerikastudien: Historische und literaturwissenschaftliche Forschungen aus österreichischen Universitäten zu den Vereinigten Staaten und Kanada* (Vienna: Verl. für Geschichte und Politik; Munich: R. Oldenbourg, 2000); Skard, *American Studies*, Vol. 2, 404–19, on Switzerland, *ibid.*, 385–403. See also Thomas Finkensstaedt and Rita Stoll, eds., *Anglistenspiegel Österreich—Schweiz: Biographische und bibliographische Angaben von über 100 Fachvertretern* (Augsburg: Universität Augsburg, 1984).

¹¹ Sebastian Knauer, *Lieben wir die USA? Was die Deutschen über die Amerikaner denken* (Hamburg: Gruner & Jahr, 1987), 27. See also Thomas Emons, *Das Amerika-Bild der Deutschen 1948 bis 1992: Eine mediengeschichtliche Analyse* (Aachen: Shaker, 2004).

¹² See especially the bibliographies of research published every year in the journal *Amerikastudien* and Werner Habicht et al., ed., *English and American Studies in German: Summaries of Theses and Monographs; a Supplement to Anglia* (Tübingen: M. Niemeyer, 1969–).

¹³ Christoph Strupp and Birgit Zischke, *German Americana, 1800–1955: A Comprehensive Bibliography of German, Austrian, and Swiss Books and Dissertations on the United States* (Washington, D.C.: GHI, 2005). This book is available from the GHI in hard copy and online at <http://www.ghi-dc.org/guide18/refguide18.pdf>. For books published prior to 1800, see Paul H. Baginsky, *German Works Relating to America, 1493–1800: A List Compiled from the Collections of the New York Public Library* (New York: New York Public Library, 1942) [new ed. by Don Heinrich Tolzmann (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1994)]; Philip Motley Palmer,

In this reference guide, every effort has again been made to give complete bibliographic information, including the full name of the author(s) or editor(s), title and subtitle, series (if applicable), place and year of publication (or submission), and publisher. As a general rule, the first and last editions are listed if more than one appeared.¹⁴ Occasionally, we had to compromise and accept that not all of this information could be verified. Dissertations and *Habilitationen* are only listed as such if no subsequent publication in book form could be found, if they were published outside Europe, or if they were published after 2005.¹⁵ If a title is available in other than the printed form, for example on microfilm, microfiche, or in an online version, this is indicated in brackets by “Mikroform.” *Magister-*, *Staatsexamen-*, and *Diplomarbeiten* have been excluded unless they have been published as books.

The process of compiling a bibliography and—more importantly—sorting the entries into subject categories involves decision-making. Thematically, this reference guide covers everything from art, economics, history, language, literature, media, and medicine to race, science, social policy, travel guides, and women. Sections with books on European images of America and American studies in Germany are also included. Short introductions to each of the thematic sections are intended to help users find their way through the mass of data. In particular, the introductions explain what can be found in each section, whether there are subsections, and where else to look for related entries. In each section, entries are arranged in chronological order. If there is more than one publication per year, the entries are given alphabetically by the last name of the author or, if the publication has no author, by the first main word of the title.¹⁶ Each entry is numbered. The author index lists all authors and editors alphabetically with entry numbers, including those of later

German Works on America, 1492–1800 (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1952); Horst Dippel, *Americana Germanica 1770–1800: Bibliographie deutscher Amerikaliteratur* (Stuttgart: J. B. Metzler, 1976). For German Canadiana of the twentieth century, see Günther Grünsteudl, ed., *Canadiana-Bibliographie 1900–2000: Veröffentlichungen deutschsprachiger Kanadisten*, 3rd ed. (Hagen: ISL, 2001).

¹⁴ First editions that were published before 1956 are indicated by OA (*Originalausgabe*), followed by the year. Later editions are listed in brackets after the year of the original printing (or first printing after 1956). Changes in the titles, subtitles, editors, publishers, etc., are indicated. If no further changes are indicated (i.e., “2. Aufl. 1968”), then all other bibliographic information has remained the same in subsequent editions.

¹⁵ In those cases, place and year of publication and the publisher are given in brackets. It is likely that many of the dissertations of 2003 to 2005 will appear in book form in the coming years.

¹⁶ In Literature—Authors and Philosophy—Authors, entries are sorted alphabetically by topic (e.g., Auster, Pynchon, Steinbeck; Dewey, Emerson, Thoreau) first, then chronologically by the date of publication.

editions. The subject index covers the names of all individuals, regardless of their nationality, as well as American states, cities, and geographic landmarks such as mountains or lakes.

The data presented here were compiled primarily using key-word searches that covered a broad range in the online catalogs of hundreds of national and international libraries. They are accessible through the *Karlsruher Virtueller Katalog*, an invaluable tool for bibliographic research.¹⁷ Of course, we also made use of the bibliographies of our predecessors, and we combed through the literature that deals with the German image of America. For obvious reasons, only a very limited number of books listed here could be examined firsthand. We therefore welcome any additions or corrections from users of this guide.

Despite its broad thematic range, this reference guide cannot and does not pretend to give a full picture of what has been available in print on the United States in German. First of all, it does not contain articles. A lot of important work has been published in journals and yearbooks, and the number of pertinent articles published since 1956 easily extends into the tens of thousands. For practical reasons, we could not include books published in the United States by German Americanists or German institutions such as the German Historical Institute. Translations of European and American works are also excluded. For example, neither “Volle Deckung, Mr. Bush,” the successful German edition of moviemaker Michael Moore’s critical book on the Bush administration, “Dude, Where’s My Country?” nor any of the more academic interpretations of American politics and society since 9/11 from abroad are listed. We also had to leave out German-language Americana published in the United States itself.¹⁸ Finally, although works of fiction have played a central role in shaping German reception of America—we need only mention the Saxon writer Karl May—this reference guide is restricted to nonfiction.

¹⁷ The KVK can be reached at <http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk.html>. The catalogs of holdings of the German and Swiss National Libraries and the Austrian National Bibliography are available online at <http://www.d-nb.de/index.htm>, <http://www.snl.admin.ch/slb/> and <http://bibliographie.onb.ac.at/biblio/>. The most important libraries for German Americana in Germany are the Niedersächsische Staatsbibliothek in Göttingen and the Berliner Staatsbibliothek. In the United States, the holdings of the Library of Congress are unsurpassed though far from comprehensive. In addition to the electronic databases, we also used Reinhard Oberschelp, ed., *Gesamtverzeichnis des deutschsprachigen Schrifttums 1911–1965*, 150 vols. (Munich: Verl. Dokumentation-Saur, 1976–1981).

¹⁸ They are relevant primarily for earlier decades. See Emil Meynen, ed., *Bibliographie des Deutschtums der kolonialzeitlichen Einwanderung in Nordamerika, insbesondere der Pennsylvanien-Deutschen und ihrer Nachkommen 1683–1933* (Leipzig: Harrassowitz Verl., 1937); Don Heinrich Tolzmann, ed., *German-Americana: A Bibliography* (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1975); Hartmut Fröschle, ed., *Americana Germanica: Bibliographie zur deutschen Sprache und deutschsprachigen Literatur in Nord- und Lateinamerika* (Hildesheim: Olms, 1991).

Researchers should take these limitations into consideration when working with it.

In recent years, with the establishment of transatlantic research teams, research collaboration, joint conferences, collections of essays, and a tendency by younger German philologists and historians to publish in English and with American publishers, research structures have become increasingly international. At the same time, transnational research topics such as multiculturalism in the social sciences or postcolonial literature in literature departments have been on the rise. Therefore, one could ask whether the main selection criterion of this guide—place of publication—is still relevant and whether the concept of a bibliography of the research of nation-states on the history, society, and culture of another nation-state is not dated.¹⁹ On the other hand, much of today's research remains linked to patterns that are influenced by national traditions. Whether European researchers should embrace this heritage and see it as a particular strength or reject it as an obstacle to gaining full access to and acceptance in the American research community is a matter of debate.²⁰ We hope that this reference guide will not only serve as a handy inventory of existing books but will also inspire future research on all aspects of America—in the German-speaking countries and beyond.

3. Bibliographies are tools meant to be consulted, not read cover to cover. Nevertheless, the pages of this guide reveal many trends that are worth exploring. First of all, the number of publications on the United States has grown exponentially since the 1950s. In the last ten years, the output has risen to a thousand books and dissertations per year and is almost impossible to overlook. From the 1950s to the 1970s, a lot of research focused on topics such as American history, economy, law, and literature, which had been traditional areas of interest since at least the late nineteenth century. Since the 1980s, those fields have changed and broadened, and they have been supplemented by literature from whole new fields such as media studies, pop culture, and gender studies.

¹⁹ See Günter H. Lenz and Klaus J. Milich, eds., *American Studies in Germany: European Contexts and Intercultural Relations* (Frankfurt/M.: Campus; New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995), and Marcus Gräser, "Weltgeschichte im Nationalstaat: Die transnationale Disposition der amerikanischen Geschichtswissenschaft," in *Historische Zeitschrift* 283 (2006): 355–82; David Thelen, "The Nation and Beyond: Transnational Perspectives on United States History," in *Journal of American History* 86 (1999): 965–75.

²⁰ See in this context also the personal observations on the past, present, and future of American history in Germany by Norbert Finzsch, Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, Detlef Junker, and Ursula Lehmkuhl, in Astrid Eckert, "American History in Germany: The View of the Practitioners," in *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.*, 32 (2003): 51–84, especially 59–61, 64–8.

Historians continued to concern themselves with political history and international relations, in particular German-American relations. Two new dimensions were added and turned into research topics once the archives had opened: the German exile in the U.S. during the “Third Reich” and America as an occupying power in Germany after 1945. In the 1960s, growing interest in social history stimulated research on German emigration in the nineteenth century and its many different regional and local features. Later on, German acculturation in America in general and the labor movement received attention. However, the number of emigration accounts and emigration guides that featured prominently in *German Americana, 1800–1955* has greatly declined.

The triad of “Race, Class, Gender” that is often used to describe the American historiography and social studies of the last three decades has been less influential in German-language publications on the U.S. Of course, the longtime German fascination with the history and culture of Native Americans has continued unabated; over the decades, it has found its expression in hundreds of books, most of which are popular rather than academic in nature. But the fate of other ethnic minorities has resonated considerably less with the audience on the other side of the Atlantic. Recent waves of immigration from Latin America and Asia and their consequences for society and politics have hardly been acknowledged as topics of research in Germany thus far. The noteworthy exception here is within “Amerikanistik,” where the study of the literature of ethnic minorities is currently very much in fashion.

Of all American presidents, John F. Kennedy has inspired by far the largest number of biographical (and commemorative) publications in Germany, but the number of original biographies on other American politicians is limited. Because the Vietnam War and the politics of the Reagan administration were controversial in Germany, these issues have led to many publications, whereas another key event of post-1945 American history that commands considerable shelf space in every American bookstore—Watergate and the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon—has generated comparatively few German publications. However, no period in American history has provoked more publications than the first six years of the administration of George W. Bush, the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001, and the 2003 war on Iraq. Of course, this is partly due to overall changes in the media market and a growing public appetite for sensational and alarmist reporting. Nevertheless, the still expanding profusion of books underscores the character of these years as a watershed not just for American but also for global history.

In economics, empirical and practically oriented studies have replaced the approach of the so-called Historical School. Research on the American

economy but also on new developments in transportation or the technological sciences has both reflected and acknowledged the ever growing strength of the U.S. in these areas. The steep rise in the number of German books on American international economic relations as well as business and tax law over the last decade is clearly a by-product of economic globalization: new markets in fields such as telecommunications, the rising number of multinational corporations, and the geographic expansion of the business activities of even small European firms make solid up-to-date information on new economic trends, rules, and regulations a necessity. In comparative legal studies, America has increasingly replaced European countries as a research topic. In West Germany, the introduction of a democratic political system and the establishment of political science fostered studies on the American Constitution and political system. A similar interest can be discerned, by the way, in research conducted during earlier German experiments with democracy: in the years of the Revolution of 1848 and in the early 1920s.

German academic research on American “high culture,” in particular the works of American poets but also philosophers and sociologists, began early on with books and dissertations on Henry James, Edgar Allan Poe, and Walt Whitman, as well as Ralph Waldo Emerson, William James, and Henry David Thoreau. Initially, however, it had little effect on one of the most basic European prejudices about the United States, its “lack of culture.” From the 1950s, the number of authors deemed worthy of scholarly treatment has risen continuously, and today many authors of “modern classics,” such as Paul Auster or Thomas Pynchon, but also writers with an ethnic background, such as Toni Morrison or Maxine Hong Kingston, have dozens of monographs devoted to their works. In research on the theories of American scholars, classic authors such as John Dewey and Charles Sanders Peirce have continued to command attention, but scores of recent monographs on leading intellectuals of the next generation such as the sociologist Talcott Parsons, the philosopher John Rawls, or the feminist theorist Judith Butler show the widening of the spectrum of reception in this field. In economic theory, the influence of American thinking is reflected in works on John Kenneth Galbraith, Milton Friedman and the Chicago School, and others.

By far the biggest expansion, however, has taken place in publications on popular culture. Books on American music, film, and sports were almost non-existent until the 1950s. A few composers such as Leonard Bernstein and George Gershwin received attention early on, as did Jazz music, but academic research and popular writing on pop culture did not flourish until the late 1970s. Since then, a flood of publications on American music, films, television and other media, as well as sports such as basketball, baseball, and American football, has accompanied the rising

popularity of these subjects in Europe. We have included popular treatments of newcomer actors, boy bands, and sports trends that have swept across the Atlantic over the last few years, because they broadly influence fashion, attitudes and language, and leisure habits. They contribute to the constant transformation and adaptation of the image of the United States. And the line between canonical artists such as Woody Allen or Bob Dylan, whose works are undisputed beacons of modern American pop culture, and others is, in the end, elusive.

We also strayed far from the field of academic publications in including the hundreds of travel guides and picture books that have been published since 1956. They are a by-product of modern mass tourism with its roots in economic prosperity and technological progress. Mass tourism has turned traveling to the United States from the dangerous once-in-a-lifetime adventure of the early nineteenth century into an almost commuter-like everyday experience so that far fewer travel accounts are published today. The travel guides listed here are valuable sources of "Landeskunde" that often oscillate between confirming and correcting existing prejudices and established images of America and also reveal changing geographic preferences of Germans traveling to the United States.

This list of almost 21,000 books and dissertations from the last fifty years gives the impression that German, Austrian, and Swiss authors have covered everything imaginable. However, a closer look reveals gaps and omissions. The regional dimension of American history, politics, and society is probably the most important one. Even though hardly a German book fails to mention that "America" is complex and multifaceted, many nevertheless favor holistic approaches to their topics. The exceptions to this rule almost exclusively feature New York City and Chicago, California, and the German-American Midwest. In 1998, the American journalist Robert D. Kaplan argued in a brilliant analysis of social and economic developments in the Southwest and on the West Coast of the United States that these regions were undergoing the early stages of a new process of regionalization. Ultimately, he argued, it will alter the internal power structure of the country, further diminish the importance of the federal level, and create new centers of social and economic activity that will extend beyond the political borders in the South and Northwest and even across the Pacific Ocean.²¹ If Kaplan's assessments are true, dealing with these developments may be one of the big challenges and at the same time one of the big opportunities for the next generation of German Americanists.

²¹ Robert D. Kaplan, *An Empire Wilderness: Travels Into America's Future* (New York: Random House, 1998).

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