

Annotated Bibliography on the City of Berlin

Student's name

Name of institution

Richie, Alexandra. *Faust's Metropolis: A History of Berlin*. London: HarperCollins, 2008.

In this book, Alexandra Richie debunks several myths of the city of Berlin and guides the reader through a vivid historic panorama. The book discusses the flowering of Romanticism during the period of Napoleonic occupation, the hyper nationalism of the First World War, Berlin's revolution into a grim majestic capital after the year 1871, the terrors of the Nazi rule and the Weimer turmoil, the correspondingly appalling horrors during the Soviet conquest, the spectacles of the cold war and the Berlin wall and ultimately, the reunification along with Berlin's massive revolution into a new capital. Richie appeals to Germany to build the legacy of the Federal Republic and salvage a sense of national identity without yielding to the foulest elements of the country's national identity. She endeavours to remind Berliners of their "distressed past in order that they will embrace its consequences and avert its extremes, crimes, and faults." This book covers virtually all the significant events, both tragic and glorious, that have occurred in the history of Berlin as a city.

Schneider, Peter. *Berlin Now: The City After the Wall*. 2014.

In his book, Peter Schneider discloses himself as a cold warrior who has faced several of the difficulties quite common to his generation. With the exorcism of the spectre of Communism, Islam is his present enemy. The book collectively entails concise interlocking pieces that introduce Anglophone readers to the city of Berlin. The author mainly tells stories pertaining to the old West Berlin. He recollects the city's brief history through its various characters. The book explicitly depicts the diversity between the East German woman and the West viragos. Schneider exposes his prejudices in the book about

foreigners. This is observable where he carries out his research in the clubbing scene.

“There had been countless ‘foreigners’, as they were called at the time. But they kept to themselves and would answer with broken German or English if you spoke to them”. The author seems quite disinterested in discussing the ethnic minorities in Berlin and only refers to them as foreigners. Except for this single weakness however, the book is quite entertaining and informative on various aspects of the city of Berlin.

MacLean, Rory. *Berlin: Imagine a City*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2014.

This is a book by the travel writer who is also a resident of Berlin, Rory MacLean. His book pays tribute to Alexandra Richie’s impeccable work in *Faust’s Metropolis*. He mentions in the book “Berlin is all about volatility. Its identity is based not on stability but on change.” He describes the city in all possible aspects; in terms of appearance, the feeling it accords, and the buildings, among others. “Yesterday echoes along the streets and the ideas conjured by Berlin’s dreamers and dictators seem as solid as its bricks and mortar. The hypnotic and volatile city comes alive in the mind.” In the book, the city of Berlin is described by MacLean as being the embodiment of twenty-three portraits of individuals. The various experiences of the residents of the city Berlin are carefully outlined in this book. Overall, Berlin is described as a city that has endured various eras from the Prussian empire to the Nazis to the cold war. With all that history, this book serves to draw in readers as MacLean mentions that it is one thing to read about Berlin; however, the city of Berlin needs to be experienced as well in order to fully appreciate its appeal and history anew.

Lutes, Jason. *Berlin: A Work of Fiction*. Montréal: Drawn and Quarterly, 2008.

In this book, Lutes has quite explicitly captured Weimer Republic Berlin. This ambitious historical book inspires a heightened notion of the cultural, economic, and political forces that are evidently clashing within the city of Berlin. Whereas some characters struggle to meet their daily needs, others ponder over how incomprehensible it would be to engage in any work activities; some are progressively swallowed into politics while others make significant attempts to shun away from the fray. Lutes' recreation of Berlin is indeed more compelling than the characters. Figures are barely separated from their environment, which is depicted with baffling specificity. The city envelops its characters. This author's treatment of the city of Berlin rejoices a crucial freedom afforded to the creators by the comic medium. The one weakness of this novel is that it deploys American slang where it should relate more to the German way of conversing. Additionally, both the political milieu and the clothing are in the lines of 1929 yet the conversations are more towards 1999.

Sarotte, Mary Elise. *The Collapse: The Accidental Opening of the Berlin Wall*. 2014.

The Collapse: The Accidental Opening of Berlin is a book by Mary Elise Sarotte that re-examines the pivotal time in history that marked the fall of the Berlin wall as well as the disintegration of East Germany from Soviet domination. The book reveals how accidental the collapse of the Berlin wall really was. It was merely a combination of a perfect storm of decisions that were made by bold underground revolutionaries, dictatorial party bosses, and disgruntled Stasi officers that sparked an unanticipated series of events concluding in the chaotic fall of the Berlin wall. The revolutionaries are evidently

represented risking everything in an effort to rustle the truth across the wall. Other characters' activities are clearly portrayed as well including Harald Jager who was the Stasi officer and Tom Brokaw who was a journalist from NBC. The activities of the dictators plotting for their restoration of control are highlighted in the book as well. Drawing on several interviews and archival sources, *The Collapse* offers the conclusive of the precise night that saw the fall of the Berlin wall. This is a major part of the history of the city of Berlin.

Adam, Hans-Christian *Berlin: Portrait of a City*. 2013.

This book presents the entire story of Berlin in terms of photographs, serial views, and portraits. Berlin has endured two world wars; it was divided by an iron wall during the period of the Cold War which fell after the fall seeing the reunification of the city. The city of Berlin is portrayed as having emerged as a core of European culture and power. From 1860 to date, this book is an unequivocal presentation of the history and the city of Berlin including its failures and triumphs. *The Spirit of Berlin* sums up the city's history within 560 pages comprising emotional atmospheric imageries. This ranges from pictures of the twenties to shattering images of the wars to heartening post-war imageries of a city that is piercing itself back together. Undoubtedly, this book is the most all-inclusive photographic study on the city of Berlin ever created. The photographs include works by Rene Burri, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Capa, Helmut Newton, and Thomas Struth. The book is a tribute to the city of Berlin and its social, civic, and photographic history. Additionally, this book pays homage to the inhabitants of Berlin. "They are filled with hope and strength. Their faces are a reflection of Berlin's undying soul."

Stratigakos, Despina. *A Women's Berlin* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008.

Several cities trigger instant visual association. For the city of Berlin, for instance, these visuals could be of the wall that once caused a divide in the city, the Brandenburg Gate among others. Additionally, one may think also of rubble women who undertook the city following the Second World War. *A Women's Berlin* by Despina Stratigakos presents a resounding selection of new material, narratives, and cases in the city of Berlin. It is a representation of the differences concerning female identity as well as social class in the city of Berlin. Stratigakos commonly draws parallels to several other cities therefore highlighting the unique role played by Berlin in relation to the choices open to the women of the city. According to the book, the author regards the politics of clubhouse architecture, new residential kind of housing for the modern women, as well as the women's role at home and in the area of work. This book addresses the lives of the women of the city of Berlin and advocates for their rights and freedom engage in various aspects of life. The women of Berlin are hailed in this book.

Till, Karen. *The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place*. University of Minnesota Press, 2005.

In this book, Karen E Till deploys a largely unique approach to explore places and time. She talks to people in an effort to try to make sense of the city of Berlin's past in particular. This book is a distinct tour description of the modern city of Berlin. The reader is taken through the city's memorable construction sites, the Gestapo Terrain, an exploration of Berlin-Schoneberg with open displays noting the restrictions placed on the Jews by the law and decree. She discusses Berlin's Holocaust Memorial as well as the Sachsenhausen concentration camp site. The book has prudently constructed theories of

urbanization and globalization. The availability of various drawings and pictures aid the reader to get a solid sense of the author's argument. For instance, in the argument that the prominent reason why globalization results in so much distress is its disbanding of the coordinates used to understand experience, Till establishes how the practice of understanding the place as well as geographical coordinates aids us in reducing the complexities with regards to the past and future.

Colomb, Claire. *Staging the New Berlin: Place Marketing and the Politics of Urban Reinvention Post-1989*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2011.

Presently, there has been minimal work published on the effectiveness and politics of place marketing. In her book, Claire Colomb closes this gap. She asks the question "To what extent do place marketing and branding along with the politics of image production affect the development of a city and the crafting of policy?" regardless of the fact that Berlin is vastly atypical since the city's disconnection from global economic restructuring for virtually forty years, in this book, it has served as an adequate laboratory for the assessment of place marketing impacts. Colomb in her book relies on a detailed analysis of both visual materials and textual sources as well as the results of semi-structured interviews with the city's officials. After the collapse of the Berlin wall in 1989, marketing and promotion in the city were not highly prioritized activities as the city leaders were required to handle the issue of their legacy as the divided city. Colomb addresses the advent of the importance of marketing in the city of Berlin following the failed bid for the Olympics of 2000.

Friedrich, Thomas. *Hitler's Berlin: Abused City*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.

In this book, Thomas Friedrich makes an exploration of Hitler's relationship with the city of Berlin. The book addresses how Hitler identified with Berlin and was intrigued by it, how his political ambitions were mirrored in the architectural aspirations he had for the city, and how Berlin astoundingly inspired the establishment of Hitler's political notions. Friedrich carefully explores Hitler's dreams of transforming Berlin into the capital that would be a reflection of his autocracy. Hitler used Berlin to test the Semitic policies and to demonstrate the power of the Third Reich. Through this book, the reader gets to experience vicariously the city of Berlin's troubled years of being subjected to the Nazi rule. Evidently, Friedrich offers a clearer understanding of Adolf Hitler and his architectural views, politics, and artistic notions. This book is a brilliant examination of the manner in which Hitler used the city of Berlin and treated it as a lab rat on which he could perform his architectural trials and views on urban planning.

About Benton's urban origin theories, the theory regarding the guilds and their importance in Medieval Europe is quite applicable in the explanation regarding the origin of the city of Berlin. According to the theory, guilds were essentially the centre of the social and economic life of people in various trades. The city of Berlin, similarly, was founded on diversified separation of functions. The city had different classes of people involved in diversified trades. In the development of this urban society, this theory enhanced the development of technical skills; hence, the city of Berlin was founded.

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