BERLIN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Berlin has been the focal scene of some of the most dramatic and formative events of the twentieth century. Through periods of decadence, fascism, war, partition and reunification, it has seen both extraordinary constraint and creativity. Andrew Webber explores the cultural topography of Berlin and considers the city as key capital of the twentieth century, reflecting its history, its traumas and its achievements. He shows how Berlin’s spaces and buildings participate in the drama by analysing how they are represented in literature and film. Taking his methodology from Walter Benjamin, Webber presents bold new readings of works synonymous with Berlin, with authors from Bertolt Brecht and Franz Kafka to Christa Wolf, and directors from Walther Ruttmann to Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Wim Wenders. Across this range of material, twentieth-century Berlin is seen to be as ambivalent as it is fascinating.

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A Cultural Topography

ANDREW J. WEBBER
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Abbreviations

References to key works are abbreviated as follows:


**UL** Christa Wolf, ‘Unter den Linden’, *Gesammelte Erzählungen* (Frankfurt am Main: Luchterhand, 1988), pp. 54–96


**ZA** Uwe Johnson, *Zwei Ansichten* (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1965)

Unless otherwise indicated, all translations are mine.