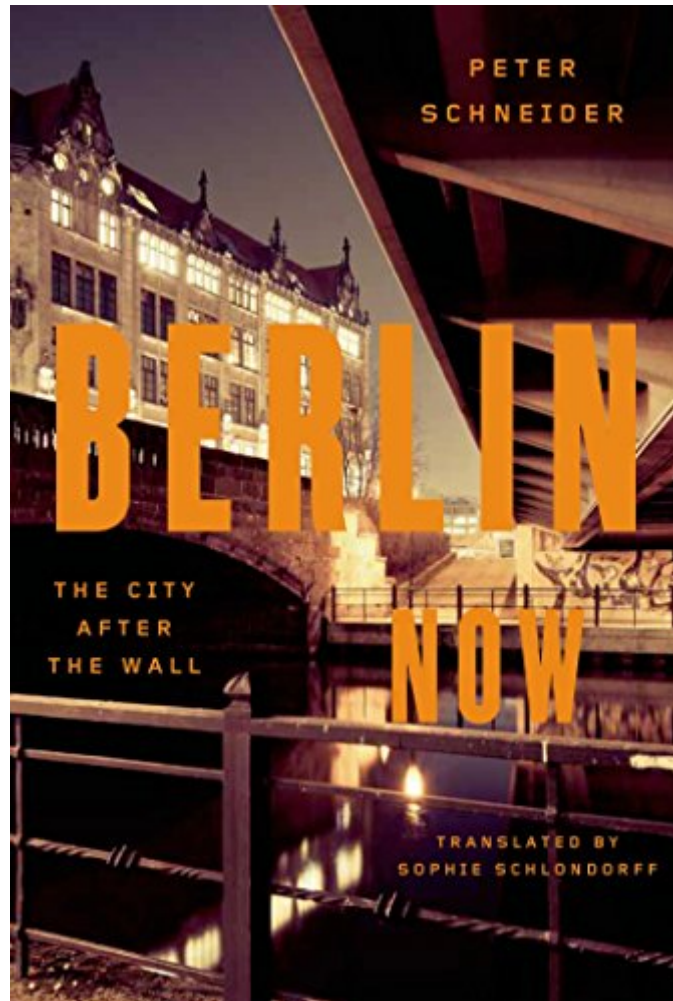




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Berlin Now: The City After The Wall



Synopsis

A smartly guided romp, entertaining and enlightening, through Europe's most charismatic and enigmatic city! It isn't Europe's most beautiful city, or its oldest. Its architecture is not more impressive than that of Rome or Paris; its museums do not hold more treasures than those in Barcelona or London. And yet, when citizens of "New York, Tel Aviv, or Rome ask me where I'm from and I mention the name Berlin," writes Peter Schneider, "their eyes instantly light up." *Berlin Now* is a longtime Berliner's bright, bold, and digressive exploration of the heterogeneous allure of this vibrant city. Delving beneath the obvious answers—Berlin's club scene, bolstered by the lack of a mandatory closing time; the artistic communities that thrive due to the relatively low (for now) cost of living—Schneider takes us on an insider's tour of Germany's rapidly metamorphosing metropolis, where high-class soirees are held at construction sites and enterprising individuals often accomplish more without public funding— assembling a makeshift club on the banks of the Spree River—than Berlin's officials do. Schneider's perceptive, witty investigations on everything from the insidious legacy of suspicion instilled by the East German secret police to the clashing attitudes toward work, food, and love held by former East and West Berliners have been sharply translated by Sophie Schlondorff. The result is a book so lively that readers will want to jump on a plane—just as soon as they've finished their adventures on the page.

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Customer Reviews

Unlike other more established European cities, Berlin is a city in flux due to its 20th century history. In that respect it has more in common with American and Asian cities than other European cities. Buildings rise. Cranes dot the sky. Neighborhoods recombine. And everywhere are the marks of the past. In this portrait of the city after the Wall came down, the author looks at Berlin from political, economic, cultural, and social perspectives. There are chapters on all sorts of facets of the city- from famous clubs to a resurgent Jewish life in the city. From the status of an airport that is permanent delay mode to the resurrection of a Hohenzollern palace. From pieces on the architecture of the city to a social analysis of who East German women end up marrying. This is a fascinating and insightful book on Berlin. If you're going to Berlin or have just come from Berlin, then this is a book you will enjoy.

I am intending to visit Berlin on a holiday trip from Australia in the next year or so, and was wanting to get an understanding of modern day living in Berlin. I had heard a number of positive comments from friends who had visited Berlin. In particular I wanted to get past the the war and the impact that obviously had on past generations and to find out how that has influenced contemporary culture, thinking and politics in Berlin. The concept of linking the fall of the wall, and all the barriers that presented with the rise of a new city culture was a great starting point. The book gave me a good insight and has raised my interest in visiting the city.

Fun and interesting read, especially since I just returned from Berlin. Wish I had seen it before the trip. Very youth oriented city but that is just one aspect of the city. The book covers a lot of interesting subjects related to the history of this dynamic city. It's really unlike any other city in Germany. It's quirky and in some ways not very attractive. This book explains some of the reasons behind the quirks. It's a cool slice of history. The city is going to change and this will be a snapshot.

Incredible overview of the history, culture, architecture and people of Berlin. Should absolutely be on more pre-travel reading lists. Author has a great voice and organized the book in a way that allows the reader to select chapters/topics of interest.

Fascinating read. It provides a great complement to David Clay Large's book "Berlin," or other historical accounts that cover the city up through the 1990s. Schneider's post-wall account captures the current city in a number of easy-read vignettes. Feels like a collection of travel articles written by a local with deep knowledge.

The book is filled with reflections on its subject. My only complaint would be that it seemed to ramble a bit from one subject to another and spend an inordinate amount of time on some of its subjects while glossing over others. Overall, I did like the book.

Funny. A little bit of gossip about what happened just after the wall fell. There are separate chapters about each subject so you can read the parts that interests you without having to go through the whole thing.

Very insightful. I read this book just after returning from a trip to Berlin and I was sorry I had not read it before I went. I visited some of the sights mentioned, gained insight into others and missed quite a few.

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