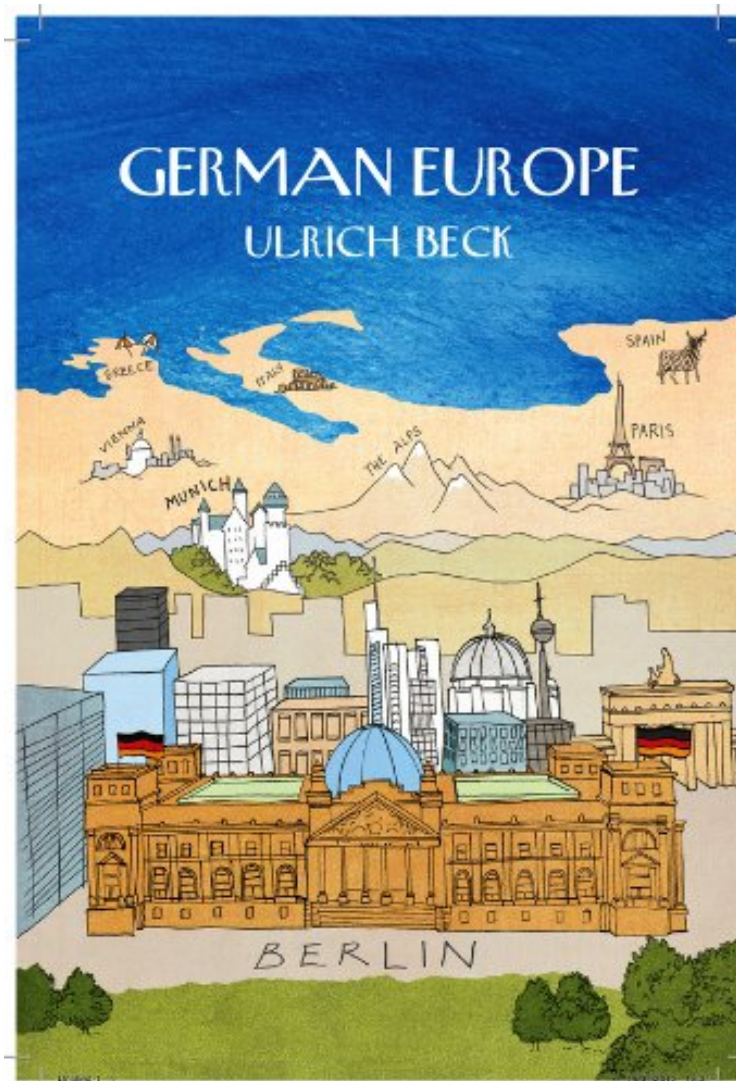


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## German Europe

Ulrich Beck

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**Ulrich Beck : German Europe** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised German Europe:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. InsightfulBy PennydimenickelSuper insightful and relevant to today's issues. Beck was one of the most important German scholars. It is helpful to read his work if you are studying German, European, or International studies.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. concise and straight to the pointBy Leonora ArteagaAn essay over how Germany has took over the EU and how to counter it's influence for the good of the Union. Basically Beck's point is that if Europe centers itself among the original project there are chances for success, but if it centers around the financial crisis, it could be a recipe for disaster. Not just for the project, but also for the member states.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Could be BetterBy Louis De BearI

used to work as a Political and Economic Expert to the Italian Government at the Council of the Regions. I also studied European Politics at degree level, did an MA in European Economics and LLM in EU law and have taught EU politics, law and International Relations theory around the World. When this book came up on the Vine list I thought it may be a very interesting read. The book is written by the leading German sociologist Ulrich Beck and the basic premise is that the present Euro Crisis is turning the major nation state members into German economic and social clones. The conditions Merkel has imposed on the bailouts of Southern Europe has meant that the cultural/economic values of Germany, have been linked to the bailout conditions. This as the author suggests is to change the way the "lazy southern Europeans" do business and end the overly protective welfare states that foster laziness. This transfer of cultural values as Beck suggests, was to placate the German electorate. Personally I have enormous issues with what Merkel has done and with the austerity model in general. As a macro economist who believes strongly in Keynesian answers, I have some sympathy for the Southern Europeans and the almost "evil" way Merkel has driven ever greater austerity, resulting in mass unemployment, virtually no growth and people who feel completely disenfranchised with their Governments and with the EU. It is extremely easy to criticise the welfare programmes of Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal pre 2007 and some changes were needed, but Merkel is using her position as lender of last resort, to overly influence economic changes in southern Europe, to the detriment of the peoples of those countries. For me the ECB should take a greater role, taking Germany out of the equation and issue Bonds/Guillts backed by all 27 national countries. This would allow all EU countries to borrow money to kick start their economies, without the enormous influence Merkel has had on shaping economic bailout policies. A very similar scheme as put forward by Keynes at Bretton Woods, vetoed by the Americans. I agree with the author, that this power and influence has been badly used and could endanger the entire EU project. There is an alternative to austerity and certainly a better alternative to Merkel influenced bailout loans. This book is a fascinating essay on the influence of Merkel in terms of the refinancing of southern Europe and the potential dangers that her policies could create. I do agree with the author that this woman has taken citizens' needs out of the equation and she is driving an economic policy that could lead to disaster and the splintering of the EU. Not every country wants Germanisation. Interesting read.

The euro crisis is tearing Europe apart. But the heart of the matter is that, as the crisis unfolds, the basic rules of European democracy are being subverted or turned into their opposite, bypassing parliaments, governments and EU institutions. Multilateralism is turning into unilateralism, equality into hegemony, sovereignty into the dependency and recognition into disrespect for the dignity of other nations. Even France, which long dominated European integration, must submit to Berlin's strictures now that it must fear for its international credit rating. How did this happen? The anticipation of the European catastrophe has already fundamentally changed the European landscape of power. It is giving birth to a political monster: a German Europe. Germany did not seek this leadership position - rather, it is a perfect illustration of the law of unintended consequences. The invention and implementation of the euro was the price demanded by France in order to pin Germany down to a European Monetary Union in the context of German unification. It was a quid pro quo for binding a united Germany into a more integrated Europe in which France would continue to play the leading role. But the precise opposite has happened. Economically the euro turned out to be very good for Germany, and with the euro crisis Chancellor Angela Merkel became the informal Queen of Europe. The new grammar of power reflects the difference between creditor and debtor countries; it is not a military but an economic logic. Its ideological foundation is 'German euro nationalism' - that is, an extended European version of the Deutschmark nationalism that underpinned German identity after the Second World War. In this way the German model of stability is being surreptitiously elevated into the guiding idea for Europe. The Europe we have now will not be able to survive in the risk-laden storms of the globalized world. The EU has to be more than a grim marriage sustained by the fear of the chaos that would be caused by its breakdown. It has to be built on something more positive: a vision of rebuilding Europe bottom-up, creating a Europe of the citizen. There is no better way to reinvigorate Europe than through the coming together of ordinary Europeans acting on their own behalf.

"A compelling analysis of Germany." The Economist "A blistering indictment of Germany's modern-day economic domination, by one of Germany's most distinguished intellectuals." Daily Mail "A brilliant and succinct analysis of the political genius of Angela Merkel." Charles Moore, Sunday Telegraph "A short but punchy book by the distinguished German sociologist." Prospect "A welcome tonic to reactionary discourses on the ills of Brussels." Times Literary Supplement "Democracy won't be real in Europe until that kind of law has to be proposed, debated, and voted on by all concerned. Beck has moved us a small step closer to this highly desirable consummation, and to a unified political will in Europe, by getting his readers accustomed to thinking of a 'European Germany' rather than a 'German Europe'." Los Angeles of Books "Diagnoses Europe's troubles with a realism and clarity that suggests a long and arduous road ahead." Financial Times "A thought-provoking essay on the European economic crisis, recommended to all interested in this topic." Journal of Global Faultlines "A brilliant analysis of Europe's shifting landscape of power." Joschka Fischer, Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor of Germany, 1998-2005 "An immensely incisive and encouraging book. Not only does it present an eye-opening outlook on Europe's crisis, it also offers a credible

solution." Daniel Cohn-Bendit, MEP and co-president of the Greens/Free European Alliance Group in the European Parliament "Ulrich Beck's German Europe is one of those rare and brilliant political tracts that offers us a new language with which to understand the present crisis so that we can shape the future." Mary Kaldor, Professor of Global Governance, LSE nbsp;