

Tariq Ali

The British-Pakistani author, filmmaker and publicist studied Political Science and Philosophy at Oxford. He has written numerous publications on the history of Islam in Europe and religious fundamentalism.

Juri Andruchowytch

Ukrainian writer, poet and essayist. He has received a number of international awards, including the Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding in 2006.

Dora Bakojannis

Currently Greece's Foreign Minister, Bakojannis was exiled to Paris after the 1967 putsch. She studied Journalism and Politics in Munich and was Mayor of Athens from 2002 to 2006.

Maria Böhmer

Minister of State in the German government and Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration, she has been a Member of the German Bundestag for the CDU since 1990 and is a professor at Heidelberg Teachers College.

Almut Sh. Bruckstein

Professor of Philosophy and author of several publications on the history of European and Jewish philosophy and hermeneutics. She was a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin from 2003–2005 and holder of the Martin Buber Professorship for Jewish Philosophy in Frankfurt (Main) from 2004–2006.

Nilüfer Göle

Professor for Sociology at the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* in Paris and previously a professor in Istanbul and a fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. She studies and publishes on the relationship between Islam and the Modern.

Lena Gorelik

The author was born in St. Petersburg in 1981 and relocated to Germany in 1992. She is a graduate of the Deutsche Journalistenschule in Munich and published her debut novel "Meine weißen Nächte" (My White Nights) in 2004.

Benjamin Idriz

Idriz was born in Macedonia and has been imam for the Islamic community in Penzberg, Upper Bavaria, since 1995. He studied Theology in Damascus, Syria.

Senait Mehari

The Eritrean author and pop singer became a child soldier in the Ethiopian civil war at the age of six, then fled to Hamburg. She published her biography "Heart of Fire" in 2004.

Mario Monti

Graduate in Economics and Business and President of the Luigi Bocconi University in Milan, he was EU Commissioner responsible for the internal market from 1995–1999 and EU Commissioner responsible for competition from 1999–2004 and is now Chairman of "Bruegel," a Brussels-based think tank.

Pierre Nora

French historian and professor at the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* in Paris. He is a member of the *Académie française* and carries out research on French and European memorialism and cultural history.

Hans-Ulrich Obrist

The Swiss author and art historian has curated more than 100 international exhibitions. He was curator of the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris from 1996 – 2006 and has been co-director of the Serpentine Gallery in London since then.

Ilma Rakusa

The author, translator and publicist did Slavic and Romance Studies in Zurich, Paris and St. Petersburg. She has been lecturing at Zurich University's Slav Faculty since 1977 and has numerous publications, prizes and honors to her name.

Hans Joachim Schellnhuber

Professor for Physics at the universities of Potsdam and Oxford and Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. He is Scientific Advisor to the German Government on Climate Issues for the 2007 G8 and EU presidencies.

Werner Schiffauer

Professor for Comparative Cultural and Social Anthropology at the Viadrina European University in Frankfurt (Oder). His research focus is the integration of young Muslims and Islam in Europe, and he is a member of Germany's national Council for Migration.

Gesine Schwan

Graduate in Political Sciences and President of the Viadrina European University in Frankfurt (Oder). She won the 2004 *Marion Dönhoff Prize for International Understanding and Reconciliation* and was the German government's appointed coordinator for German-Polish relations from 2005–2006.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier

German Foreign Minister and member of the SPD since 1975. He was state secretary in the Lower Saxony State Chancellery from 1996–1998 and head of Germany's Federal Chancellery and coordinator of the Secret Service from 1999–2005.

Joseph E. Stiglitz

Professor for Economics at Columbia University, New York. He was Bill Clinton's economic advisor from 1993–1999, chief economist at the World Bank from 1997–2000, and won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2001.

Robert Duda

The Polish historian and publisher is Director of the Center for Historic Research on Berlin at the Polish Academy of Sciences and winner of the 2004 German-Polish Cultural Prize.

Ilija Trojanow

The Bulgarian writer, translator and publisher fled with her family to Germany in 1971 and then relocated to Kenya. She studied Legal Science and Ethnology in Munich from 1985–1989 and won the 2006 Leipzig Book Fair Prize.

Günter Verheugen

Vice President of the European Commission and EU Commissioner responsible for enterprise and industry, Verheugen was EU Commissioner responsible enlargement from 1999–2004. He has been a member of the German Bundestag for the SPD and FDP for many years and was Minister of State in the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1998–1999.