

Acknowledgments

THE IDEA FOR THIS BOOK comes from a series of conversations between Kurt Leube, a longtime friend from Salzburg, and me. The first one was impromptu. With the assistance of a bottle of German Gesindelsfingen Assmannshäuserrosenfahrt Spätlese 1997, it took place in front of the fireplace in the kitchen of an old Spanish-style house in which my wife and I live on the Stanford campus. Over the next year and a half Kurt and I continued to talk about America and Europe at regular intervals, usually in the afternoon over coffee at the Hoover Institution. Our conversations were never recorded, but I always took notes and later on we often referred to them.

By 2004 I had a complete manuscript in the form of eleven conversations. I also had one enthusiastic critic, who loved them. But I had a dozen more who didn't like them at all. They were too polite to say so then, but I later learned that they either became bored and didn't finish the manuscript, or they fell asleep. In all cases they said, politely, "the conversations are very interesting."

But, finally, another reader whose judgment I trusted and whom I had known for more than thirty years, called me in December 2004 and told me the truth. Hisako Matsubara, a novelist who writes in English, German and Japanese, explained, candidly, that the conversations just didn't work. She said they were heavy, stilted, and difficult to follow. She also found them tired and forced, because she couldn't tell the difference between Kurt's "voice" and my own. But she also thought the content was unusual, so she suggested that I present the conversations in a more conventional manner. I did so in the course of 2005.

The relationship between America and Europe is so intimate that it is, in fact, a kind of conversation. This is why I wanted to construct the book along those lines. I hope the current format better suits my purposes in illuminating this important topic.



The foregoing is the genesis of this book. Much of what is in it does come from my discussions with Kurt, but a good deal also comes from conversations with acquaintances carried on over a long period of time, from the moment I began my studies as a graduate student at the Freie Universität Berlin in 1966. Among them, and there are many more than those whose names are written below, are some who have traveled widely and some who have never left the country in which they were born, some who speak several languages and some who speak only their own, some who hold Ph.D. degrees and some who completed their formal educations in country schoolhouses.

Their viewpoints are as diverse as their backgrounds. Many of the observations in this book are theirs, but the focus, accents, and conclusions are all my own.

In addition to university scholars and political leaders, their professions paint a fascinating picture full of contrast, to wit: schoolteacher, novelist, shop keeper, human resources director, farmer, retirement home director, psychiatrist, investment manager, ex-communist, banker, newspaper publisher, chairman of the board of a tire company, car dealer, stock analyst, rare book expert, forester, housekeeper, photographer, book editor, real estate salesman, estate manager, picture framer, mathematician, attorney, foundation executive, automobile executive, wine maker, priest, geologist, student, minister, physician, sculptor, cabaret entertainer.

Their names appear here because they have all offered their time, in one way or another, to give me their views about the differences and affinities, the interests, and the habits of life described in this book. As individuals they are grouped together here as Americans, and as Europeans.

From America:

James W. Hodgen, William Carter, Alvin Rabushka, Deborah M.

Skelly, Robert G. Van Dine, Charles G. Schott, Allan E. Goodman, Henry N. Kuechler, Hisako Matsubara, Doyen P. McIntosh, Becky Andersen, David R. Gress, Dean A. Cortopassi, William Carter, Kirsten Buehler, Peter E. Thieriot, Hansi Rigney, Jared C. Bark, Ingrid A. Gregg, Earl I. Heenan III, Thomas A. Barclay †,¹ David B. Kennedy, Reginald and Helle Dale, Bill and Barbara Geisler,

From Europe:

Christian and Christel Hacke, Bertrand Jacquillat, Roselyn de Caudrel-ier-Bénac, Diemut Koestlin, Marina Eloy Jacquillat, Stephane de Cham-barlhac, Hans† and Marie† Herzfeld, Charles-Antoine and Christine de Meaux, Peter and Marie-Caroline Hammerer, David Charters, Hubert Jousset, Olivier† and Thérèse† de Sugny, Burkhard and Erika Koch, Mar-kus Kerber, Klaus and Christiane Wagner, Eric Bourdais de Charbon-nière, Charles† and Eveline Jurien de la Gravière, Marie-Pierre Bouligaud, Felix and Theodora de Marez Oyens, Elisabeth Burgess, Yolande Poirier, Ghislain and Marie-Thérèse de Maigret, Margarita Mathiopoulos, Kaisa de Tristan, Georges Liebert, La famille Béal—Maurice, Noémie, Jean-Luc, Gilles et Séverine, Pauline and Louis, Daniel and Françoise Bartho-loni, Roland Denis, Dolores Figueras de Wakonigg, Petr, Jája and Ondřej Čepék, Jean de Sugny†, Eberhard Hoene, Michael and Bärbel Zöllner, Corneilia and Victoria Hoene, Bruno and Marie-Pierre Thiollier, Xavier de Marqueissac, Horst† and Marlene† Rühland, Henning Köhler, Jens Hacke, Jacques and Lily de Vieville, Bim and Eva Borgh, Amaury et Hé-lène de Chaunac, André† and Claude Bary, Peter-Carl Rühland†, Guil-lermo Wakonigg†, Myriam de Mandat-Grancey, Alain de Maigret, Aubert and Pamela de Villaine, Jean-Lou Nicolas†, Pater Heinz Wanke, S.J.†, Horst and Brigitte Rühland, Patrick Chamorel, Peter Bauer†, Rob-ert Stewart Fothringham, Dietrich Mende†, Milorad Drachkovitch†, Klaus Ritter, Herbert Giersch, Gerlinde Kempendorff, Anna von Bayern, Benoît and Marie-France de Soultrait, René de Chambrun†, Kurt and Nini Leube.

A debt of thanks is owed each of them that I gladly pay with gratitude made of friendship, affection, and respect.

1. This symbol, †, denotes deceased.



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Dennis L. Bark
St. Romain d'Urfé, France
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