

A FORGOTTEN PERSPECTIVE?
SOME REMARKS ON MIGRATION PROCESSES
IN GERMANY USING SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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Germany is an immigration country with a past. Persons of German origin displaced in connection with World War II, labour-seeking migrants mostly from east and southeast Europe, and most recently the so-called "Spätaussiedler" (descendants of German settlers in east and southeast Europe only now or fairly recently returning to the country of their forebears) as well as those seeking political asylum, have always put to the test the nation's ability to integrate. Whereas interaction between scholars of several fields of knowledge meanwhile succeeded – as is demonstrated quoting from selected recent publications – to perform a comparative analysis of difficulties and opportunities of those migration processes, discussion among the broader public has often failed to relate the differing patterns of migration, each with its own development and consequences, to each other. As it is, looking back is worthwhile when seeking practicable solutions for problems relating to the administration of migration. To ignore, from the very start, the experience with more or less successful attempts at directing integration processes among inhabitants and immigrants in the aftermath of World War II is a missed opportunity, if one really wants to redress Germany's precarious position as an immigration country without an immigration law.