

GERMANY, COUNTRY FOR (MY) EMIGRATION?

Thoughts on the longing for an abandoned country

Jana Burgerová

The author discusses the blockades making it difficult for her to accept her new reality of life in Munich openly and graciously after her involuntary emigration from Prague in 1968. She argues that her parents' decision in favour of their initial emigration from the USA to Czechoslovakia in 1950 was dictated by idealized notions and their inability to interpret warning signs correctly. According to Burgerová, they handed down this wishful thinking and the accompanying denialism to their daughter in the shape of a transgenerational imprint. The resulting prejudices against the "evil West" and the rejection of all things German, so the author, impeded her in her personal development as an adult; she was only able to break through this pattern after becoming a psychoanalyst. She also illustrates how frequently it occurs throughout history using the plot of the film "Nostalgia" by Italian director Mario Martone.