

‘MULTIPLE CHOICE IDENTITY’

‘There’s music in the book’

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A fascinating and turbulent roller coaster ride through Europe and the Arab world from 1917 till 2022. How did people keep standing during the many ups-and-downs and historical, economic, technological, ideological and philosophical turning points? It’s a creative and interactive ride across landscapes, events and images. Meanwhile 9 youngsters or ‘ghostwriters’ are sending tweets to express their opinions from different perspectives. In a continuing ‘multilogue’ the reader gets as close as possible to reality through good basic knowledge, stories from eye-witnesses, experiences of the writer, creative design, quotes, humour, lyrics and especially music. It’s written on the waves of music from The Beatles, -Underworld, The Cure, Muse, Metallica, Sigur Rós, Rammstein, David Bowie, Beyoncé, Pink Floyd, Kendrick Lamar and many others. It’s a ‘Gesamtkunstwerk’, an intriguing and unique experience.

The result is a multi-perspectivist, multi-disciplinary and multi-media story to read, to listen, to look, to feel and to act. On Spotify 220 songs (‘Multiple Choice Identity Playlist’) and on the To-Gather website 110 links (YouTube links) as well as scenes from the accompanying film ‘Hard to become who you are’ are available.

In the book the past, the present and the future get equal attention. Each chapter consists of a satellite view and 5 paragraphs about the historical, economic, technological, ideological and philosophical turning points. In succession the future (‘To-Gatherland Festival 2022’), the First World War, the Second World War, the Cold War and the present are worded, imagined and ‘audiolized’. In a passion-driven, informal, creative and digital way knowledge, insights and emotions may be internalized in order to develop a democratic citizen with a ‘Multiple Choice Identity’. So it’s about citizenship, democracy and identity. It’s a wake-up call to make the right choices at the right place and time to solve present and urgent key problems or ‘survival theses’ about youth unemployment, sustainability, corruption, climate change, violence, migration, the multi-cultural society, music and education. *‘We can work it out’* (The Beatles).

The main source of inspiration is the international educational project To-Gather (2006-), including many gatherings with youngsters and teachers at conferences, festivals and workshops all over Europe and in the Arab world. The writer was 'standing on the shoulders of giants' such as Mary Helen Immordino (*'Feel and therefore we learn'*), Howard Gardner ('Five minds for the Future'), Norman Davies ('Europe'), Eugene Rogan ('The Arabs'), Geert Mak ('In Europe') and Jeremy Rifkin ('Empathic civilization').

The book is written for:

1. Youngsters from 16 till 35 years old, to help them become open, flexible and democratic citizens;
2. Foreign students to enable them to create a bridge between the land of departure and the land of arrival;
3. Teachers and project leaders to give insight into an innovative, interactive and creative way of teaching;
4. Music lovers to let them see, know and feel more through music and to enjoy it even more;
5. Adults to assist them in becoming a good democratic citizen in the working place;
6. People who are interested in history and the present who want to become a 'Multiple Choice Identity' and to make a better world.