

The Wild Frontier: German Settlers in Central and Eastern Europe, from the Dark Ages to 1945

Lecturer Simon Winder



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Biography

*Simon Winder is the author of three books - his highly praised book on British culture and James Bond, *The Man who Saved Britain*, and, more relevantly here, *Germania and Danubia* - 'anecdotal and facetious' accounts of the histories of what became the modern country of Germany and of the rise and fall of the Habsburg Empire. He is also a publisher at Penguin Books, responsible for much of the history list and for Penguin Classics.*

Abstract

In western Europe we like to think that the rest of Europe reflects the relatively settled, long-term identities of the British Isles, Italy and France. But the further east you travel the more chaotic it becomes - often prone to terrible insecurities, massacres, resettlement and the rise and fall of empires. This lecture takes as its possibly overambitious subject the role of Germans in shaping much of Europe over some 1,100 years and how for many countries with German populations this role ended with the fall of the Nazis' sickening attempt to continue--in their own eyes--the German mission of the Middle Ages.

Related to the subject of the lecture the BBC have a series of programmes on Germany presented by Neil MacGregor – the podcast can be found at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/germany>