

Im Osten nichts Neues?

Die DDR und der (alternative) Geschichtskrimi

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Abstract

All Quiet on the Eastern Front? The GDR and (alternative) historical crime story

Historical crime story, transporting a reader to the more or less distant past, is one of the most popular sub-types of crime stories. Not only the action of the story, but also the crime itself as well as the investigation are given a historical character. Among different types of historical crime stories one can distinguish alternative crime stories which offer counterfactual historical scripts. During the outburst of the so-called Ostalgie the focus of alternative historical crime stories was put, among others, on the German Democratic Republic (GDR). Texts describing the real history of East Germany heading toward decline written by Horst Bosetzky and Wolfgang Brenner were published by Jaron publishing house. On the other hand, in Plan D Simon Urban constructs an unreal world showing the GDR in 2011 CE. The key question of the present article is: what narrative criminal picture of the GDR emerges from the pages of the novels by Bosetzky or Jan Eik and Urban?

Keywords: GDR; ostalgie; historical crime story; alternative novel; Simon Urban.