

## Episode 27: Volker Weiss, Author and Historian

**Guest:** Dr. Volker Weiß – Historian, author

**Hosts:** Efe & Philip

**Bio:** Dr. Volker Weiß is a historian, independent journalist, and leading analyst on authoritarian and far-right movements in Germany and beyond. He studied literature, social and economic history, and psychology at the University of Hamburg and has taught at the Universities of Hamburg, Leipzig, and Munich. In 2021, he held a guest professorship at the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Innsbruck. Weiß regularly contributes to major media outlets, including *Die Zeit*, *taz*, and *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. His 2017 book, *Die autoritäre Revolte. Die Neue Rechte und der Untergang des Abendlandes* (*The Authoritarian Revolt: The New Right and the Decline of the West*), was nominated for the Leipzig Book Fair Prize, and his latest work, *Das Deutsche Demokratische Reich. Wie die extreme Rechte Geschichte und Demokratie zerstört* (2025) (*The German Democratic Reich: How the Extreme Right Destroys History and Democracy*), immediately reached number one on German nonfiction bestseller lists. His research examines contemporary authoritarian tendencies in the context of historical continuities and ideological structures.

**In this episode:** Efe and Philip talk with Dr. Weiß about the current dynamics of the Israel-Palestine conflict, situating it within global trends of authoritarianism, and the so-called “authoritarian revolt.” Dr. Weiß explains key concepts such as metapolitics and cultural hegemony and traces historical continuities that link extremist movements across time and geography. The conversation explores how far-right and authoritarian ideologies intersect with contemporary debates around Israel, antisemitism, and the recent escalation in Gaza since October 7. Dr. Weiß provides insight into ideological parallels between far-right movements in Germany, Europe, the US, and the Middle East, examining how historical alliances, nationalist ideologies, and extremist strategies shape modern political conflicts. The discussion also critically addresses media polarization, political instrumentalization of antisemitism, and the motives behind the Hamas attacks, offering nuanced perspectives on both historical context and present-day developments.

### Links:

Weiß, Volker. Massaker und Message. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 30 Oct. 2023, [www.sueddeutsche.de/kultur/nahost-krieg-in-israel-israel-gaza-volker-weiss-hamas-botschaft-1.6295924?reduced=true](https://www.sueddeutsche.de/kultur/nahost-krieg-in-israel-israel-gaza-volker-weiss-hamas-botschaft-1.6295924?reduced=true)

Weiß, Volker. *Die autoritäre Revolte: Die Neue Rechte und der Untergang des Abendlandes*. Klett-Cotta, 2017.

[https://www.klett-cotta.de/produkt/volker-weiss-die-autoritaere-revolte-9783608963267-t-4717?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.klett-cotta.de/produkt/volker-weiss-die-autoritaere-revolte-9783608963267-t-4717?utm_source=chatgpt.com) (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Weiß, Volker. Das Deutsche Demokratische Reich: Wie die extreme Rechte Geschichte und Demokratie zerstört. Klett-Cotta, 2025.

[https://www.klett-cotta.de/produkt/volker-weiss-das-deutsche-demokratische-reich-9783608966671-t-8993?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.klett-cotta.de/produkt/volker-weiss-das-deutsche-demokratische-reich-9783608966671-t-8993?utm_source=chatgpt.com) (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

***Please also check out our other episodes in the political debate chapter to explore multiple perspectives.***

***Dedication:***

*We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed and injured in Gaza and their grieving families and friends. To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima and Mai who shared their losses so powerfully with us. To their families: Tal's wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings, to Mai's and Sima's family, to her mother Bushra.*

*To the blessed memory of: Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeris Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.*

***Disclaimer:***

In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, and expert perspectives. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.

***Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:***

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes

for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the *Preis des Historischen Kollegs* in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.