

Prague to the Baltic September 2024 tour - interesting books:

PRAGUE:

Best general intro:

Prague DK Eyewitness Guide, no named author, Dorling Kindersley, 2019 (maybe more recent update)

Cultural history:

Prague, Andrew Beattie (Innercities Cultural guides by Signal Books), 2012

Prague, Crossroads of Europe, Derek Sayer (Cityscopes series by Reaktion Books), 2018

History of Central Europe as a whole, with fascinating insights into Germany too:

Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends, Lonnie R Johnson (Oxford), 2011 edition

DRESDEN:

Dresden, 13 February 1945, Frederick Taylor (Bloomsbury Books), 2004

Dresden Marco Polo Pocket Guide, no named author, 2014

BERLIN:

Best general intro:

Berlin DK Eyewitness Guide, no named author, Dorling Kindersley, get the most recent you can

General history/culture:

Berlin, Joseph Pearson (Cityscopes series by Reaktion Books), 2017

Berlin, a Modern History, David Clay Large (Allen Lane), 2001 - a (too ?) big book: Dr T hopes to produce a *Berlin: Just-Enough History* before long!

German history overall:

Germany: Just-Enough History, Andrew Thomson, e-book 2022 - needless to say, the best!

A Mighty Fortress, a New History of the German People, Steven Ozment (Granta), 2004

Berlin 1945 history:

The Last Battle, Berlin 1945, Cornelius Ryan, 1966 - from the author of *The Longest Day*

Berlin, The Downfall 1945, Anthony Beevor (Penguin), 2002 - the best modern account of 1945

Inside Hitler's Bunker, Joachim Fest (Macmillan), 2004 - top German historian's account

Cold War:

Yalta to Berlin: the Cold War Struggle for Germany, WR Smyser (St Martin's Press), 1999

Berlin 1961, Frederick Kempe (Penguin), 2011

The Collapse: the accidental opening of the Berlin Wall, Mary Elise Sarotte (Basic books), 2014

Comrades no more: the seeds of change in Eastern Europe, Renée de Nevers (MIT), 2003 - too much political science-speak, but fascinating account of how the collapse of communism was so different in each country; helpful to understand the East German & Czech stories

BALTIC:

No specific English guides - covered in general Germany guides (Michelin, Rough Guide, Lonely Planet).

V2 Peenemunde story covered in:

Peenemünde; the extraordinary story of Hitler's secret weapons V1 & V2, Guido de Maeseneer (AJ Publishing), 2001

The Peenemünde Raid August 1943, Martin Middlebrook (Penguin), 1982

The Rocket & the Reich, Michael Neufeld (Harvard), 1995 - also wrote a great biography of Von Braun

The Good German, Joseph Kanon (Sphere), 2001 - a rare thing for DrT: a novel! Covers the moral issues behind the rocket programme pretty well. (Warning: the movie version is very poor)

Andrew Thomson
20 February 2024 version