

Preface

This collection of essays is based essentially on the discussions of the 19th and 20th Karlsruhe Dialogues in 2015 and 2016 on the topics of ‘Global DemocracITIES. Between Triumph and Decline’ and ‘NationEUrope. The Polarised Solidarity Community’. Since the topics of ‘NationEUrope’ and ‘global democracities’ are closely interlinked, an interdisciplinary overview of historic and recent developments as a basis for understanding and debating the rapidly changing alignments within the European context is more important than ever. From the aspirations of migrants and changes in civil society over present and anticipated political crises – including rising populism and extremism in many European countries, as well as in countries with a large influence through their emigrant populations such as Turkey, but also in many other parts of the world – to independence movements, such as the one in Catalonia, or the concept for the realisation of a global parliament of mayors, a wide range of themes is discussed. A crucial focus is placed on ways to maintain European unity and includes questions with regard to the structural architecture of the European Union, its fundamental values, and collective identities.

All contributions have one thing in common: they convey and reflect important aspects, developments, and solutions concerning the future of European existence, European unity, global democracy, and the chances and opportunities of cities globally interacting with each other on a new level of global governance. Some essays were written at an early stage and may not take account of the most recent developments.

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