"This book is a refreshing and provocative combination of recent and often controversial texts with good solid language practice and grammar exercises." led to lively classroom discussions in which both the weaker and stronger students were able to participate. Many of the discussion topics in the book lend themselves easily to work in small groups in which the students can help each other, which is ideal in today's overcrowded language classroom. Again, due to the contemporary nature of the subject matter, students invariably had opinions which they were anxious to share while the structure of the book enabled them to express themselves with increasing accuracy and impact. This is perhaps the main appeal of this book - its ability to combine a variety of texts, which range from modern-day graffiti to Goebbels' Sportpalastrede, with exercises which improve both the linguistic and analytical skills of the students, that makes it an excellent choice for any third- or fourth-year course. The book introduces four strategies which are essential for students trying to bridge that gaping chasm between learning the rules of a language and communicating effectively. They are, in the order in which they are presented, Lesestrategien, Argumentationsstrategien, Schreibstrategien, and Hörstrategien. These sections are invaluable as they help smooth out the "push-me-pull-you" nature of so many German classes - namely the split between students with native background and yet no critical linguistic tools, and students who have worked their way up from the 100 level but still have no real "feel" for register and tone. One section, for example, provides the linguistic tools required to state and then reformulate arguments, express opposition to other opinions, and then ultimately reach a compromise. These sections were always extremely popular with students and greatly improved their ability to communicate in an effective and lively manner.

The margins of the book are filled with tips on ways to approach certain exercises or texts, as...
well as recommendations for additional sources such as videos, news broadcasts, etc. and suggestions for homework assignments and group activities. There is also a cassette to accompany the text which includes songs, speeches, and radio plays.

I feel that the attraction of this book lies in its ability to combine a wide variety of stimulating texts which catch the students' interest with detailed sections which greatly improve the communicative abilities of the upper-level student. It is both effective and interesting to use and creates a wonderfully stimulating learning environment. In short - this book is a pleasurable learning experience for both the student and the instructor.

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