



BERLIN: *Berlin* (Taschen), by Hans Christian Adam, is a tour of the city as seen through the camera lens, from the end of the Prussian empire to the present. Late 19th-century images of quiet courtyards and alleyways offer glimpses of a lost world. Sparsely populated boulevards dotted with vendors and carriages are ominously juxtaposed with factories under construction. But the book's real treasure is a collection of photographs from the Weimar period, that brief moment of cultural and political freedom from which Berliners drew their few golden years. Both Willy Römer's 1927 shot of a gypsy parading a dancing bear through the city streets and a picture of the octagonal great reading room of the Prussian State Library, destroyed in World War II, capture a world on the brink of destruction.