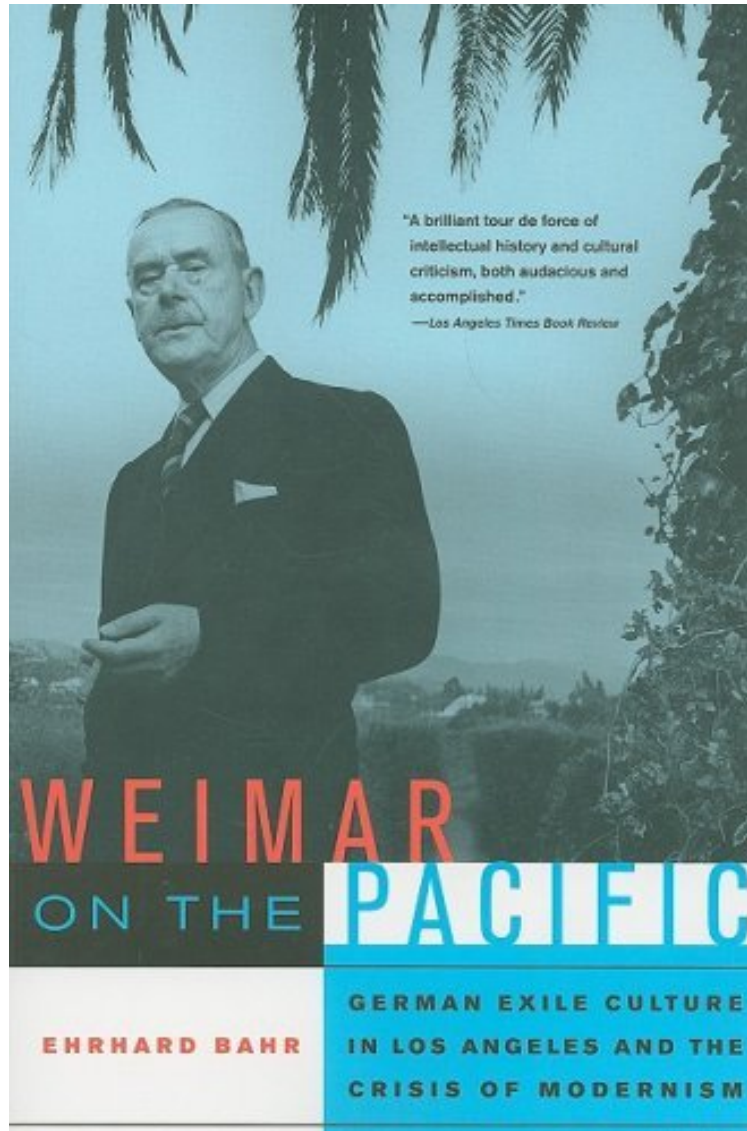


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Weimar on the Pacific: German Exile Culture in Los Angeles and the Crisis of Modernism (Weimar and Now: German Cultural Criticism)

Ehrhard Bahr

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Ehrhard Bahr : Weimar on the Pacific: German Exile Culture in Los Angeles and the Crisis of Modernism (Weimar and Now: German Cultural Criticism) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Weimar on the Pacific: German Exile Culture in Los Angeles and the Crisis of Modernism (Weimar and Now: German Cultural Criticism):

21 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Not at all distant or forgotten an era in LA life
By S. Elliott
I was a student at Caltech in the late 60s and the influence of the European emigree community in LA in science, music, literature, and the arts was still very strongly palpable; indeed many of my best professors were themselves emigrees. Reading this book makes far clearer and more comprehensive than anything I have read before the broad outlines of who these people were and what they accomplished while in the US. Later a student and businessman myself in Germany and Asia, I see even more clearly what an extraordinary European elite blessed LA with their presence. Not all of them are appealing (I personally don't care for Bertold Brecht or Adorno), but even their influence was visible, sometimes on well-known radicals like Angela Davis.

In the 1930s and 40s, Los Angeles became an unlikely cultural sanctuary for a distinguished group of German artists and intellectuals—including Thomas Mann, Theodore W. Adorno, Bertolt Brecht, Fritz Lang, and Arnold Schoenberg—who had fled Nazi Germany. During their years in exile, they would produce a substantial body of major works to address the crisis of modernism that resulted from the rise of National Socialism. Weimar Germany and its culture, with its meld of eighteenth-century German classicism and twentieth-century modernism, served as a touchstone for this group of diverse talents and opinions. *Weimar on the Pacific* is the first book to examine these artists and intellectuals as a group. Ehrhard Bahr studies selected works of Adorno, Horkheimer, Brecht, Lang, Neutra, Schindler, Douml;blin, Mann, and Schoenberg, weighing Los Angeles's influence on them and their impact on German modernism. Touching on such examples as film noir and Thomas Mann's Doctor Faustus, Bahr shows how this community of exiles reconstituted modernism in the face of the traumatic political and historical changes they were living through.

ldquo;This is a wonderful book.rdqo;