Reading Comprehension
20. Kapitel / Chapter 20
Buchbesprechung (pp. 200-201)

Getting Ready

1. What sort of information do you expect to find in a publisher's catalogue description of one of its books?
2. What are some of the periods commonly found in histories of Germany?
3. Look at the title.
   * What is the name of the author?
   * Where and when was the book published?
   * How many pages does the book have?
   * What special features are promised according to the abbreviated code following the title?
4. Look at paragraph 3 of the text.
   * How many units are outlined?
   * In which two units would you look for information on the German people in the Middle Ages?
   * What happens in the period following 1850?
   * What categories does Mirow use to discuss the contemporary situation of the German people?

Read!

1. Locate the following features of the author's language to designate contrasts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>German</th>
<th>English Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>above all</td>
<td>in its totality as well as in its diversity (of ...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in erster Linie</td>
<td>that, which interests one the most</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not only . . . but also</td>
<td>the same is to be found in . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it includes . . and goes until . .</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Use your answers from the previous exercise to identify the corresponding synonymous expressions in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expression used in text</th>
<th>Synonymous expression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nicht nur das Ganze, sondern auch jedes Detail</td>
<td>in erster Linie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>es beginnt mit ..., und hört mit ... auf</td>
<td>Ahnliches ist zu entdecken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dies ist von mehr Interesse als alles andere</td>
<td>genau so wie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Look at the text again and note how relationships between nouns are indicated. A relation of ownership, of part and whole, of membership, of property, of feature, of characteristic (and etc.) is commonly indicated by a genitive construction. Locate the following examples in the text and identify the relationship by filling in the blanks below:

a) Mirow schreibt eine _________ des deutschen Volkes
b) Mirow ist _________ dieses Bandes
c) Er spricht von _________ seiner Lebensäußerungen
d) und von _________ der Menschen
e) Das 5. Kapitel des Buches beschreibt das _________ der Fürstenhöfe.

4. T/F. Reread the text and indicate below whether each rephrasing of the author's words results in a true or a false statement.

• Mirows Buch ist in erster Linie eine Geschichte der großen Politiker.
• Mirow sieht seinen historischen Stoff neu an.
• Einerseits schreibt er über den Alltag des einfachen Volkes.
• Er schreibt nichts über das geistige Leben in Deutschland.
• Mirows Repräsentation der deutschen Geschichte ist schwer zu verstehen und schwierig zu lesen.
• Mirow schreibt nicht nur über Entwicklungen in Deutschland, sondern auch über Entwicklungen in Nachbarländern.
• Mirows Geschichte des deutschen Volkes hört mit dem Jahr 1945 auf.

What led you in each case to make your decision? Where did you find synonyms and similarities in language? Where did you find contradictions to the language in the original text?

5. Reading for meaning:
• What are the claims made in the book catalogue text about Mirow's style and his approach to German history?
• Do the titles of the chapters seem to support or contradict the claims about Mirow's approach and style?
• Which of the units or chapters would you find most interesting? What would you expect to find out about the history of the German people in that time period?

Notes and Further Reading
1. To find more information on the author, Jürgen Mirow, and his book *Geschichte des deutschen Volkes*, visit the website of Casimir Katz Verlag at [http://www.casimir-katz-verlag.de/autoren/miro_juergen.htm](http://www.casimir-katz-verlag.de/autoren/miro_juergen.htm)