

The House of Austrian History: Establishing a 21st Century museum in a changing political landscape

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The House of Austrian History was founded by an act of parliament in 2016, in November 2018 the institution will open with an 18-month exhibition in temporary premises. Public discourse has focused on the difficult, decade-long prehistory of the museum and the many previous proposals that failed to materialise. How can a newly created federal museum establish and position itself in a shifting political context and amid ongoing debate about the need and relevance of such an institution? What problems faces a new museum curating still-contentious aspects of Austria's history over two republics and two dictatorships about which there is no agreed terminology, never mind consensus?