Germans and Estonians have been sharing a common history for several hundred years, characterized by conflicts and exchange, but most notably by the Germans predominating the Estonians. This state lasted until Estonia obtained state independence in 1918. For many Baltic-Germans the years of the first Estonian Republic were characterized by an altered personal situation and by a declining political and economical influence. With the final evacuation of the Baltic Germans in 1941 and the loss of Estonian state independence in the course of the Soviet occupation during the Second World War the Estonian-German history came to a temporary end. For the Estonians the Soviet occupation stood for an absence from the international stage that lasted nearly 50 years - existing ties were cut off, new contacts were hindered.

In the middle of the 80s the situation changed due to Soviet reforms initiated by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Mottoes like glasnost’ and perestroika were taken seriously in the Baltic States. The time of the collapse of Communism was the period of a possible resurrection of the Estonian-German relations - old ties were renewed and new contacts occurred. The presentation will focus on these contemporary connections between Germany and Estonia and their political and economical impacts on the young Estonian Republic as well as on the perception of Estonia in the German press.