

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Laboratory of hope

Kai Strittmatter Süddeutsche Zeitung
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An excellent documentary on 3sat shows Turkey as a country undergoing change.

The ruptures, the upheavals, the forces that pull on Turkey and the ones that push it forward, all this can be studied in Istanbul. More than any other European metropolis this city is a mirror of its country – because half of Anatolia has migrated to Istanbul in the last few decades. Therefore, in this wonderful documentary, 3sat had a go at understanding Istanbul. The film by Peter Beringer set out to do the impossible: to explain Turkey in 45 minutes – and it achieves this goal quite well. It conveys a feeling for the conflicts, the dynamics, the diversity of the country. The Armenian who bemoans the lost riches of the past gets a say, as well as a writer critical of the army, who has made herself a target, the young cleaning

lady who has found freedom here, the rich entrepreneur who still finds enough time to advance democracy. It's a documentary beyond the touristic and political clichés. "The headscarf dispute is really the last problem Turkish women have", says the – uncovered – women's rights activist who leads the film team through her women's shelter. A people that prefer to forget rather than to remember, a country full of unresolved legacies, a society that is slowly emancipating, a city that is a laboratory of change: the film shows a Turkey full of discrepancies – and full of hope.

Return to Europe, 3sat, Sunday 19 October 2008, 21:00.