



... UND JETZT WOLLEN SIE WIEDER WEG?



\* NAME GEÄNDERT

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# UNCHARTED WATERS

ICH WAR NEUN ODER ZEHN DAMALS. NACH DER SCHULE WOLLTE ICH EINFACH NUR WEG AUS INDONESIA.

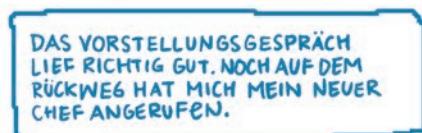


IN EINEM FREMDEN LAND STUDIEREN. UND ARBEITEN!  
AM 26. MAI 2001 BIN ICH IN HAMBURG GELANDET.

◀ H A M B U R G ▶







Before I left, I spent a year cramming in as much German as I could. I thought I was well-prepared./But I wasn't./Especially not for the German bureaucracy./Status Error: Your residence permit for applying to schools is expiring./I finally completed my studies in 2009. I lingered around, a huge gap in between, then came love and well ... but then I was ready to dive into the working world./"I'm ready!"/If not for ... /Status Error: Your residence permit to look for work after completion of studies expires after 12 months (today it's 18 months)./Employment in a café or as a translator wouldn't have been sufficient for the office. Because I studied computer sciences, it'd have to be a job in my field./Mail Inbox: Refusals and deadline reminders./"I found something in Düsseldorf."/Two months before I would have had to leave, a friend of mine recommended a company in Düsseldorf./The job interview went really well. On my way home, my new boss even gave me a call./Which didn't necessarily mean I could start working. He'd have to first take care of the employment office formalities./He wrote the employment office that he needed Indonesian employees./"We're expanding to Indonesia."/Such a lie!



NACH WEITEREN DREI WOCHEN HAT DAS TELEFON ENDLICH WIEDER GEKLINGELT.

DAS ARBEITSAMT HAT ABGELEHNT.

FÜR 2.600 EURO BRUTTO IM MONAT DÜRFEN WIR DICH NICHT BESCHÄFTIGEN.

MIST! VERDAMMT! OH, NEIN! WAS JETZT!?

WEIL ICH KEIN EU-BÜRGER BIN, DURFTE MICH MEIN NEUER CHEF NUR EINSTELLEN, WENN KEIN GLEICH QUALIFIZIERTER BEWERBER AUS DEUTSCHLAND ODER EUROPA IN FRAGE KOMMT.\*

\*FÄLLT HEUTE FÜR ABSOVENTEN DEUTSCHER HOCHSCHULEN WEG.

ABER DU HAST GLÜCK. DU BEKOMMST 3.000.

SCHON VERRÜCKT, DIE REGEL, DIE DEN DEUTSCHEN ARBEITSMARKT VOR LOHNDUMPING SCHÜTZEN SOLL, HAT MIR AUSLÄNDER MEHR GEHALT VERSCHAFFT.

IM JULI KONNTE ICH ANFANGEN.

ALLERDINGS MUSSTE ICH MEINE KONTO-AUSZÜGE EIN PAAR MAL VORZEIGEN, UM ZU BEWEISEN, DASS ICH DIE 3.000 WIRKLICH REGELMÄSSIG KRIEGE.

DIE ERSTEN TAGE IN DÜSSELDORF HABE ICH ZIEMLICH GEHASST. MAN FÄNGT JA WIEDER BEI NULL AN, OHNE FREUNDE.

ABER ICH HABE MICH DANN DOCH SCHNELL EINGEWÖHNT.

FÜNF JAHRE ZAHLTE ICH NUN SCHON IN DIE DEUTSCHE RENTENVERSICHERUNG EIN.

AUFENTHALTSTITEL

UPDATE VERFÜGBAR:

NIEDERLASSUNGSERLAUBNIS\* NACH § 9 AUFENTH

IGNORIEREN INSTALLIEREN

\* DIE ERLAUBNIS, IN DEUTSCHLAND UNBEGRENZT ZU LEBEN UND ZU ARBEITEN.

EIN PROBLEM IST AUFGETRETEN.

ES WIRD VERMUTET, DASS SIE LÄNGER ALS ERLAUBT WÄHREND DES STUDIUMS GEARBEITET HABEN.

UNVERZÜGLICH ALLE UNTERLAGEN DER VERGANGENEN JAHRE IHREM SACHBEARBEITER VORLEGEN!

NA TOLL!

ICH HABE EINFACH ALLE ABRECHNUNGEN, DIE ICH NOCH HATTE, DEM SACHBEARBEITER IN DEN BRIEFKASTEN GEWORFEN.

HAT ER SICHER NIE GELESEN. REINE SCHIKANE!

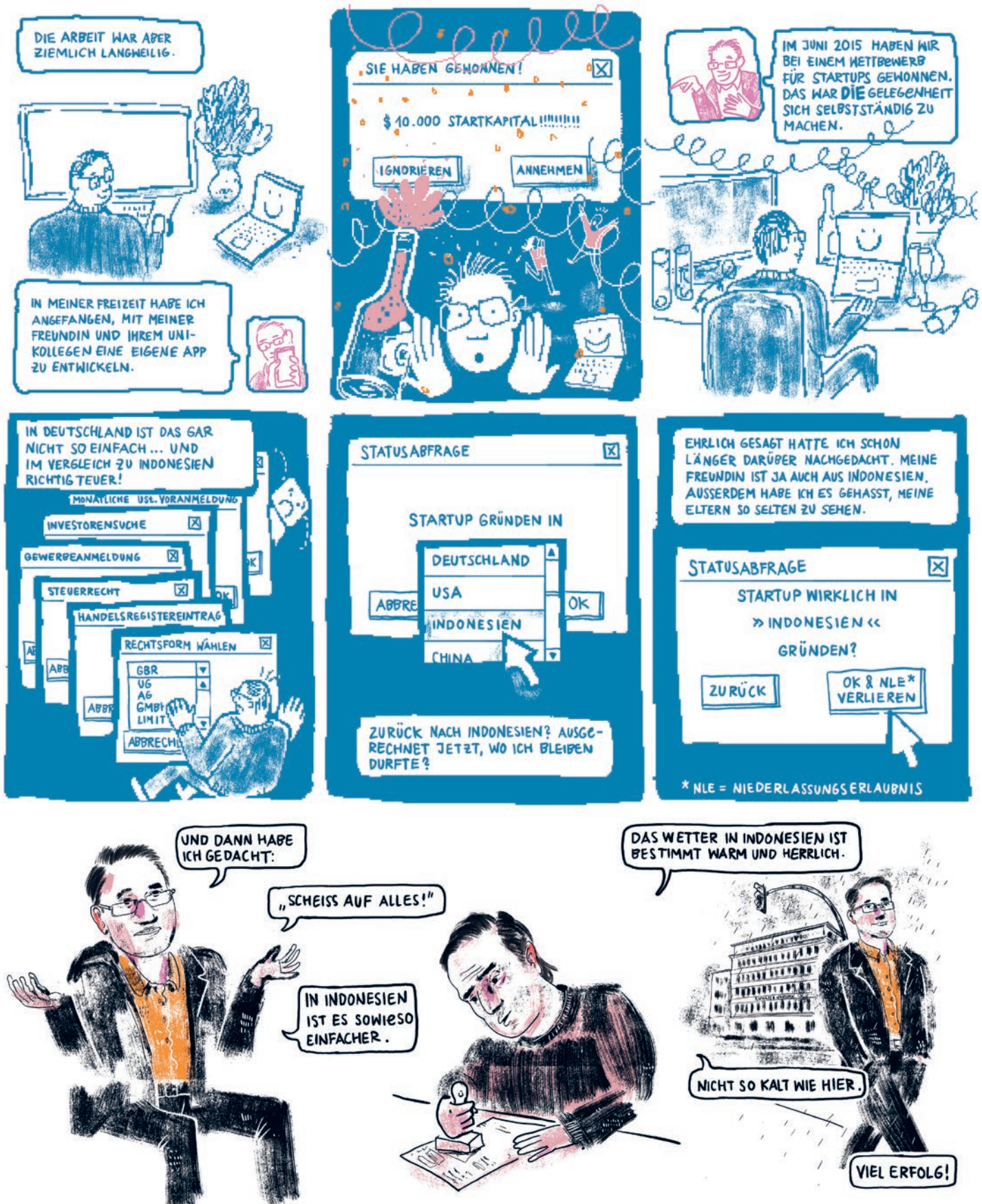
ABER ICH HATTE MEINE NIEDERLASSUNGSERLAUBNIS. IM OKTOBER 2013 BIN ICH WIEDER ZURÜCK NACH HAMBURG.

HAMBURG

FÜR MEINE FREUNDIN, DIE DORT STUDIERT, UND FÜR EINE BESSER BEZAHLTE ARBEIT. AB DA HABE ICH 3.750 EURO VERDIENT.

After three weeks, my phone finally rang./"The employment office refused."/ "We're not allowed to hire you for 2,600 Euro a month."/ "Crap! Dammit! No! What now?!" /Because I'm not an EU citizen, my boss could only hire me if there wasn't an equally qualified applicant from Germany or Europe. [No longer applies for alumni of German universities.]/ "But you're in luck. You're getting 3,000 Euro." /Pretty crazy: the rule aimed at protecting the German market from wage dumping allowed me, as a foreigner, to get a higher salary./I was able to start in July./I had to show my bank statements a couple times to prove that I'm consistently earning that much./I really hated my first few days in Düsseldorf, having to start over without any friends./But then I started to get in the groove of things./For five years now, I had been paying into the German pension fund./Status request: update on permanent residence permit (allowing people to live and work in Germany without restriction)./An issue has arisen. It is assumed that you have worked longer than allowed during your studies. Provide all documentation from the past years to your case officer immediately./Wow, great!/I simply threw all my financial statements in my case worker's mailbox./I'm sure he never read them. Pure harassment! /But I received my permanent residence permit. I went back to Hamburg in October of 2013. For my girlfriend, who was studying there, and for a job that paid more. There I earned 3,750 Euro.





But the work was pretty boring./I began developing my own app with my girlfriend and her university friends in my spare time./You've just won: 10,000 Euro start-up capital. Buttons: Ignore/Accept/ In June 2015, we won a competition for start-ups. That was the chance to be self-employed./It's not that easy in Germany ... and compared to Indonesia very expensive!/Pop-up: declare sales tax, search for investors, register the business, tax law, entry into the commercial registry, choose legal status./Status request: found a start-up in Germany|USA|Indonesia/Back to Indonesia? Of all times now? Just as I'm allowed to stay?/To be honest, I'd thought about it for some time. My girlfriend is from Indonesia, too. Besides, I hated not being able to see my parents as often./Status request: Seriously found a start-up in Indonesia? Button: Okay, and lose my permanent residence permit./"And that's when I thought ..."/"Fuck it all!"/"It's easier in Indonesia anyway."/"/I'm sure the weather in Indonesia is warm and fantastic."/"/Not as cold as here."/"/Well, good luck!"

To Learn More ...

The number of Indonesian students in Germany has remained quite stable since 1985. On average, roughly 2,200 Indonesians begin their studies in Germany annually.

Since 2012 there has been a significant increase: with 4,384 first-year students, the 2015/2016 winter semester saw more students than ever before.

An up-to-date version of "Uncharted Waters":

<http://uwo.ogplanet.com/en/intro.og>

Up-and-coming Indonesian startups in 2017:

<https://www.techinasia.com/indonesian-startups-to-watch-2017>

Translation: Daniel Stächelin

Alphabet des Ankommens • Alphabet of Arrival

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