

# DIVIDING BERLIN

## By Alexandros Athanassiou

Over the past five years or so, people around Europe been telling me that Athens is the new Berlin. And I've been saying

'No, bye.'

And then a smart boy told me, 'Come on, pumpkin. Why so grumpy? Relax! This is no graffiti contest.' And I said,

'Well, if it were a graffiti contest, we would admire the Londoners using silver Montanas for their throw-ups, while los Madrileños would paint funkier, vibrant colours. Then we would both thank a vandal universe of heterogenous styles and mannerisms for this holy diversity.

Why should my city be defined by your city's throw-ups? I think Theseus and 2.5k years of history would not approve of this.'

'Has Berlin ever been mean to you, man?' said the smart boy: 'Well, know this: What a glass is for a pool, localism is for nationalism.'

Insightful little devil, I had to admit.