



Das Boot (1981)

adaption of 1973 novel by
Lothar-Günther Buchheim

six Academy Award
nominations

“Eine Reise ans Ende des
Verstandes” (journey to the
end of understanding)

plot

October 1941

submarine U-96

viewpoint of war

correspondent Lt. Werner

tension between older and
newer crew

excitement of battle... but
also boredom, frustration

sub is nearly destroyed
multiple times



Wolfgang Petersen (1941-)

highly productive in film and TV

Oscar nomination for
Best Director (*Das Boot*)

Hollywood films:

- Enemy Mine (1985)
- Outbreak (1995)
- Air Force One (1997)
- The Perfect Storm (2000)
- Troy (2004)



“New German Cinema”

by 1980s: artistic and economic stagnation
in German film

New German Cinema made extremely popular movies
right away

emerged in a national environment of forgetting the
Nazi past

but not truly a forgetting: *denied* responsibility is a
repeated theme

emphasis on perspective of “typical” individual