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978-0-521-85133-6 - GIs in Germany: The Social, Economic, Cultural, and Political History of the American Military Presence

Edited by Thomas W. Maulucci and Detlef Junker

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GIs in Germany

The Social, Economic, Cultural, and Political History of the American Military Presence

The fifteen essays in this volume offer a comprehensive look at the role of American military forces in Germany. The American military forces in the Federal Republic of Germany after World War II played an important role not just in the NATO military alliance but also in German–American relations as a whole. Around twenty-two million U.S. servicemen and their dependents have been stationed in Germany since World War II, and their presence has contributed to one of the few successful American attempts at democratic nation building in the twentieth century. In the social and cultural realm the GIs helped to Americanize Germany, and their own German experiences influenced the U.S. civil rights movement and soldier radicalism. The U.S. military presence also served as a bellwether for overall relations between the two countries.

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Edited by

Hartmut Berghoff with the assistance of David Lazar

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History of the American Military Presence*

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 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

<i>Contributors</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
Introduction <i>Thomas W. Maulucci, Jr.</i>	I
PART ONE: STRATEGY AND POLITICS	
1 Guarantors of Peace and Freedom: The U.S. Forces in Germany, 1945–1990 <i>Hans-Joachim Harder</i>	37
2 Deterrence and Defense: The Stationing of U.S. Troops in Germany and the Implementation of Forward Strategy in Europe, 1950–1967 <i>Bruno Thoß</i>	55
3 The War That Was Never Fought: The U.S. Army, the Bundeswehr, and the NATO Central Front <i>Dennis Showalter</i>	73
4 Why They Did Not Go Home: The GIs and the Battle over Their Presence in the 1960s and 1970s <i>Hubert Zimmermann</i>	96
PART TWO: MILITARY COMMUNITIES	
5 U.S. Army Military Communities in Germany <i>Thomas Leuerer</i>	121
6 German–American Relations at the Local Level: Heidelberg, 1948–1955 <i>Theodor Scharnholz</i>	142

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

Contents

7	American Military Families in West Germany: Social, Cultural, and Foreign Relations, 1946–1965 <i>Donna Alvah</i>	161
PART THREE: TENSIONS BETWEEN NEIGHBORS		
8	Insolent Occupiers, Aggressive Protectors: Policing GI Delinquency in Early 1950s West Germany <i>Gerhard Fürmetz</i>	189
9	Protection from the Protector: Court-Martial Cases and the Lawlessness of Occupation in American-Controlled Berlin, 1945–1948 <i>Jennifer V. Evans</i>	212
PART FOUR: THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES AND THE AMERICAN MODEL		
10	The Godfathers of <i>Innere Führung</i> ?: The American Military Model and the Creation of the Bundeswehr <i>Klaus Naumann</i>	237
11	From <i>Befehlsausgabe</i> to “Briefing”: The Americanization of the Luftwaffe <i>Wolfgang Schmidt</i>	252
PART FIVE: THE 1970S AND 1980S		
12	“Army in Anguish”: The U.S. Army, Europe, in the Early 1970s <i>Alexander Vazansky</i>	273
13	The U.S. Military and Dissenters in the Ranks: Germany, 1970–1975 <i>Howard J. De Nike</i>	296
14	The U.S. Armed Forces and the Development of Anti-NATO Protests in West Germany, 1980–1989 <i>Anni P. Baker</i>	311
15	GIs under Siege: The German Peace Movement Confronts the U.S. Military <i>Lou Marin</i>	330
	Appendix: Population Statistics on the U.S. Military in Germany, 1945–2000 <i>Dewey A. Browder</i>	347
	<i>Select Bibliography</i>	353
	<i>Index</i>	359

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