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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