The Unfinished Peace after World War I

This is a highly original and revisionist analysis of British and American efforts to forge a stable Euro-Atlantic peace order between 1919 and the rise of Hitler. Patrick O. Cohrs argues that this order was not founded at Versailles but rather through the first ‘real’ peace settlements after World War I – the London reparations settlement of 1924 and the Locarno security pact of 1925. Crucially, both fostered Germany’s integration into a fledgling transatlantic peace system, thus laying the only realistic foundations for European stability. What proved decisive was the leading actors’ capacity to draw lessons from the ‘Great War’ and Versailles’ shortcomings. Yet Cohrs also re-appraises why they could not sustain the new order, master its gravest crisis – the Great Depression – and prevent the onslaught of Nazism. Despite this ultimate failure, he concludes that the ‘unfinished peace’ of the 1920s prefigured the terms on which a more durable peace could be built after 1945.

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The Unfinished Peace after World War I

*America, Britain and the Stabilisation of Europe, 1919-1932*

Patrick O. Cohrs
For My Mother
&
Erica
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Abbreviations

AA Auswärtiges Amt (German Foreign Office), Berlin
ADAP Akten zur deutschen auswärtigen Politik
AHR American Historical Review
AR Akten der Reichskanzlei, Berlin
BHR Business History Review
CAB Cabinet Office Papers, National Archive, London
CEH Contemporary European History
CID Committee of Imperial Defence
DBFP Documents on British Foreign Policy
DH Diplomatic History
EHQ European History Quarterly
EHR English Historical Review
FA Foreign Affairs
FO Foreign Office
FO 371 Foreign Office Political Files, National Archive, London
FRBNY Federal Reserve Bank of New York
FRUS Papers relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States
GG Geschichte und Gesellschaft
GWU Geschichte in Wissenschaft und Unterricht
Hansard Hansard, Parliamentary Debates: House of Commons
HC House of Commons
HJ Historical Journal
HZ Historische Zeitschrift
IHR International History Review
IMCC Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control
IO International Organization
JAH Journal of American History

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List of abbreviations

JAS  Journal of American Studies

JBIIA  Journal of the British Institute of International Affairs

JCEA  Journal of Central European Affairs

JCH  Journal of Contemporary History

JEH  Journal of Economic History

JMH  Journal of Modern History

JOC  Journal Officiel, Chambre des Députés

JOS  Journal Officiel, Sénat

Locarno-Konferenz  Locarno-Konferenz, 1925. Eine Dokumentensammlung (Berlin, 1962)

MAE  Archives du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (French Foreign Ministry), Paris

MF  Archives du Ministère des Finances, Archives Nationales, Paris

NA RG 59  National Archives, Maryland, Record Group 59 (Department of State, General Files)

NAL  National Archive, London

NN  Nations and Nationalism

NPL  Neue Politische Literatur

PA  Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes, Berlin

PHR  Pacific Historical Review


RHD  Revue d’Histoire Diplomatique

RI  Relations Internationales

RIS  Review of International Studies

RP  Review of Politics

SB  Stenographische Berichte über die Verhandlungen des Reichstags (minutes of the German parliament)

SB, Nationalversammlung  Stenographische Berichte über die Verhandlungen der verfassunggebenden Deutschen Nationalversammlung (minutes of the German constitutional national assembly, 1919)

UF  Ursachen und Folgen (Berlin, 1959ff)

VfZg  Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte

WP  World Politics
A note on the footnotes and bibliography

To save space, all works in the footnotes are cited only by the last name of the author, or editor, and the year of publication. These abbreviated citations correspond to works listed, and cited in full, in the bibliography.