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978-0-521-11851-4 - Death in Berlin: From Weimar to Divided Germany

Monica Black

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Death in Berlin

FROM WEIMAR TO DIVIDED GERMANY

We tend to think of death as a basic and immutable fact of life. Yet death, too, has a history. *Death in Berlin* is the first study to trace the rituals, practices, perceptions, and sensibilities surrounding death in the context of Berlin's multiple transformations over the decades between Germany's defeat in World War I and the construction of the Berlin Wall. Evocatively illustrated and drawing on a rich collection of sources, Monica Black's study reveals the centrality of death to the evolving moral and social life of one metropolitan community. In this book, she connects the intimacies of everyday life and death to events on the grand historical stage that changed the lives of millions – all in a city that stood at the center of some of the twentieth century's most transformative events.

Monica Black is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has received grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council on Germany, and others. In 2007, she was awarded the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize by the Friends of the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations appear in the main text or in the notes. Abbreviations that refer to the names of archives or that are specific to archival references can be found in the bibliography.

ACC	Allied Control Council
ADV	Consortium for German Folklore (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für deutsche Volkskunde)
AFD	Consortium for Cemeteries and Memorials (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Friedhof und Denkmal)
CDU	Christian Democratic Union (Christlich Demokratische Union)
DNVP	German National People's Party (Deutschnationale Volkspartei)
EKD	Evangelical (Protestant) Church in Germany (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland)
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
GDR	German Democratic Republic
KPD	Communist Party of Germany (Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands)
LLL	Lenin-Liebknecht-Luxemburg
NKFD	National Committee for a Free Germany (Nationalkomitee Freies Deutschland)
NSDAP	National Socialist German Workers' Party, or Nazi Party (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei)
NSFK	National Socialist Flyers Corps (Nationalsozialistische Fliegerkorps)
OKW	Supreme Command of the German Armed Forces (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht)
PAF	Provisional Consortium for Cemetery Design (Provisorische Arbeitskreis für Friedhofsgestaltung)
RAF	(British) Royal Air Force

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SA	Stormtroopers (Sturmabteilung)
SBZ	Soviet Zone of Occupation (Sowjetische Besatzungszone)
SD	Intelligence Service of the SS (Sicherheitsdienst)
SED	Socialist Unity Party of Germany (Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands)
SMAD	Soviet Military Administration in Germany (Sowjetische Militäradministration in Deutschland)
SPD	Social Democratic Party of Germany (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands)
SS	Blackshirts (Schutzstaffel)
VEB	People's Own Enterprise (Volkseigener Betrieb)
VFF	Union of Freethinkers for Cremation (Verein der Freidenker für Feuerbestattung)
Volksbund	National Alliance for the Care of German War Graves (Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge)