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978-0-521-12392-1 - Popular Culture and the Public Sphere in the Rhineland, 1800-1850

James M. Brophy

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POPULAR CULTURE AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE IN THE RHINELAND, 1800–1850

The age of revolution challenged the *ancien régime's* political world, introducing Europeans to new ideals of citizenship. German society was no less affected. Following the Napoleonic era, a political culture of partisan choice undermined the official restoration of absolutism. Bourgeois and popular classes took part in the new political landscape of civil society, producing an impressive social base for participatory politics by the 1830s. Because of severe restrictions on speech and assembly, ordinary Germans formed political opinions in irregular ways. This book looks at the sites and forms of culture that facilitated political communication. With chapters devoted to reading, singing, public space, carnival, tumult, and religion, James Brophy argues that popular culture played a critical role in linking ordinary Rhinelanders to the public sphere. Moving beyond conventional explanations of opinion formation, he breaks new ground by exposing the broad cultural infrastructure that enabled popular classes to join the political nation.

JAMES M. BROPHY is Associate Professor of History at the University of Delaware. He is the author of *Capitalism, Politics, and Railroads in Prussia, 1830–1870* (1998) and is co-editor of the primary source reader, *Perspectives from the Past: Readings in Western Civilizations* (3rd edition, 2005).

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To my parents

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<i>ADB</i>	<i>Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie</i>
AEK	Historisches Archiv des Erzbistums Kölns
<i>AfS</i>	<i>Archiv für Sozialgeschichte</i>
<i>AHR</i>	<i>American Historical Review</i>
BM	Bürgermeister, Mayor
<i>CEH</i>	<i>Central European History</i>
DVA	Deutsches Volksliedarchiv Freiburg im Breisgau
<i>GiK</i>	<i>Geschichte in Köln</i>
GLA	General Landesarchiv Karlsruhe
GS	Graphische Sammlung
<i>GSKP</i>	<i>Gesetz-Sammlung für die Königlichen Preussischen Staaten</i>
GStAPK	Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz Dahlem-Berlin
HAStK	Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln
HStAD	Hauptstaatsarchiv des Rheinland-Westfalens Düsseldorf
HStAM	Hessisches Staatsarchiv Marburg
<i>HZ</i>	<i>Historische Zeitschrift</i>
IM	Innenminister, Minister of the Interior
<i>JbwL</i>	<i>Jahrbuch für westdeutsche Landesgeschichte</i>
<i>JMH</i>	<i>Journal of Modern History</i>
<i>JSH</i>	<i>Journal of Social History</i>
KSM	Kölnisches Stadtmuseum
LAS	Landesarchiv Speyer
LHAK	Landeshauptarchiv Koblenz
LR	Landrat, Prefect
<i>NDB</i>	<i>Neue Deutsche Biographie</i>
OBM	Oberbürgermeister, Lord Mayor
OP	Oberpräsident, Provincial Governor
<i>P&P</i>	<i>Past & Present</i>

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PD	Polizeidirektor, Police Director
Pr	Präsidialregistratur
RA	Regierung Aachen
RBSCPU	Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University
RD	Regierung Düsseldorf
<i>RhBA</i>	<i>Rheinische Briefe und Akten zur Geschichte der politischen Bewegungen</i>
RK	Regierung Köln
RP	Regierungspräsident, District Governor

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Fig. 1 Map of the Rhineland in 1832.