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978-0-521-19832-5 - Honor, Politics, and the Law in Imperial Germany, 1871-1914

Ann Goldberg

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HONOR, POLITICS, AND THE  
LAW IN IMPERIAL GERMANY,  
1871–1914

Honor in nineteenth-century Germany is usually thought of as an anachronistic aristocratic tradition confined to the dueling elites. In this innovative study Ann Goldberg shows instead how honor pervaded all aspects of German life and how, during an era of rapid modernization, it was adapted and incorporated into the modern state, industrial capitalism, and mass politics. In business, state administration, politics, labor relations, gender and racial matters, Germans contested questions of honor in an explosion of defamation litigation. Dr. Goldberg surveys court cases, newspaper reportage, and parliamentary debates, exploring the conflicts of daily life and the intense politicization of libel jurisprudence in an era when an authoritarian state faced off against groups and individuals from “below” claiming new citizenship rights around a democratized notion of honor and law. Her fascinating account provides a nuanced and important new understanding of the political, legal and social history of imperial Germany.

ANN GOLDBERG is an associate professor of History at the University of California, Riverside. She is the author of *Sex, Religion, and the Making of Modern Madness* (1999).

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## *Abbreviations*

BA	Bundesarchiv, Berlin-Lichterfelde
BLA	Brandenburgisches Landeshauptarchiv
CJA	Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum, Archiv
GStPK	Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz
HdR	Handwörterbuch zur deutschen Rechtsgeschichte
<i>IdR</i>	<i>Im deutschen Reich</i>
IR	Irrenrechts-Reform
NWHSa	Nordrhein-Westfälisches Hauptstaatsarchiv
<i>SBR</i>	<i>Stenographische Berichte über die Verhandlungen des deutschen Reichstags</i>
<i>SBPA</i>	<i>Stenographische Berichte über die Verhandlungen des Preussischen Hauses der Abgeordneten</i>
StPO	Strafprozessordnung (code of criminal procedure)