

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-32686-5 - Rudolf Vierhaus: Germany in the Age of Absolutism

Jonathan B. Knudsen

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

Preface	page vii
Introduction: Germany after the Thirty Years War	1
Socioeconomic Consequences: Collapse and Delayed Development	1
Sociocultural Consequences: Exhaustion, Stagnation, Provincialization	4
Political Consequences: The Particularization of Public Life, The Time of Government	8
1. Economic Development	12
Preliminary Remarks: Stagnation and Restoration	12
Demography	13
Agriculture	16
The Industrial Economy and Trade	20
Mercantilism	28
2. Society	31
Preliminary Remarks: Encrustation and Dynamic Elements	31
Princes and Courts	33
Old and New Nobility	39
Clergy	43
The Rural Population	45
Rural Artisanal and Manufacturing Labor	48
The Urban Population	50

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-32686-5 - Rudolf Vierhaus: Germany in the Age of Absolutism

Jonathan B. Knudsen

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
	Exceptional and Marginal Groups, Outsiders, Lowest Orders	52
	New Urban Orders	55
3.	Cultural Life	58
	Preliminary Remarks: From Baroque to Enlightenment: Estrangement and Independence	58
	Confessional Coexistence	60
	Religious and Secular Baroque, Courtly Culture	65
	Science, Culture, Education	68
	Pietism	75
	Enlightenment	79
	The Worldview and Values of the Burgher Class	84
4.	Political Organization	87
	Preliminary Remarks: The Estates and Absolute Monarchy	87
	Emperor and Empire	90
	Princes and Territorial Estates	97
	Imperial Church, Cities, and Nobility	103
	Government, Administration, and Bureaucratic Organization under the Sign of Absolutism	108
	Absolutism and Enlightened Absolutism	113
5.	Wars, Crises, and Conflicts	116
	Preliminary Remarks: Germany and Europe	116
	The Preeminence of France and the Rise of the House of Austria	118
	The Empire in the European Wars of the Early Eighteenth Century	127
	The Rise of Prussia and German Dualism	135
	The Seven Years War	141
	Conclusion: Germany at the End of the Seven Years War	144
	Chronology	147
	Bibliography	155
	Index	165