

Cambridge University Press

0521622948 - *Anticipating Total War: The German and American Experiences, 1871-1914*

Edited by Manfred F. Boemeke, Roger Chickering and Stig Förster

Frontmatter

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Anticipating Total War

THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN EXPERIENCES, 1871–1914

The essays in *Anticipating Total War: The German and American Experiences, 1871–1914* explore the discourse on war in Germany and the United States between 1871 and 1914 – in the era bounded by the midcentury wars in Europe and North America and World War I. The concept of “total war,” which was prefigured in aspects of the earlier conflicts and realized in 1914, provides the analytical focus. The essays reveal vigorous discussions of warfare in several forums – among soldiers, statesmen, women’s groups, and educators – on both sides of the Atlantic. Predictions of long, cataclysmic wars were not uncommon in these discussions, while the involvement of German and American soldiers in colonial warfare suggested that future combat would not spare civilians. Despite these “anticipations of total war,” virtually no one foresaw the practical implications in planning for war in the early twentieth century.

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