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Edited by Carole Fink, Philipp Gassert and Detlef Junker
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1968: The World Transformed

1968: The World Transformed presents a global perspective on the tumultuous events of the most crucial year in the era of the Cold War. By interpreting 1968 as a transnational phenomenon, authors from Europe and the United States explain why the crises of 1968 erupted almost simultaneously throughout the world. Together, the eighteen chapters provide an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to the rise and fall of protest movements worldwide. The book represents an effort to integrate international relations, the role of the media, and the cross-cultural exchange of people and ideas into the history of 1968. That year emerges as a global phenomenon because of the linkages between domestic and international affairs, the powerful influence of the media, the networks of communication among activists, and the shared opposition to the domestic and international status quo in the name of freedom and self-determination.

Carole Fink is a professor of history at the Ohio State University in Columbus.

Philipp Gassert is a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C.

Detlef Junker is a professor of history at the University of Heidelberg and the director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C.

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Edited by Detlef Junker
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THE GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Preface

This book grew out of a conference organized by the German Historical Institute (GHI) on May 23–5, 1996, in Berlin. For three days, thirty-five scholars from nine countries became *acht-und-sechziger* (sixty-eighters), not on the streets and barricades but in lively debate over the events and significance of the momentous year 1968. This book consists of revised versions of many of the original papers as well as entirely new essays that complement our overall theme. I thank all of the authors and also those who participated in the conference but whose work could not be included here. I am grateful to Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich (Free University Berlin), Luisa Passerini (European University Institute, Florence), Keith A. Reader (University of Newcastle), and Dieter Rucht (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin) for chairing the various sessions and for guiding us through spirited discussions.

In Berlin, the Wissenschaftszentrum afforded a comfortable setting for three days of intensive debate. I thank Friedhelm Neidhardt, the center's director, and his dedicated staff – Birgit Hahn, Britta Heinrich, Ilse Kischlat, Dietmar Kremser, and Burckhard Wiebe – for hosting the conference and helping with its organization. Dieter Senoner of the mayor's office kindly welcomed us to Berlin at a reception at the Rotes Rathaus. Anneke de Rudder, who took us on a “1968 Walking Tour” through the German capital, gave us the opportunity to visit the key sites of that historic year.

At the GHI, I thank Bärbel Bernhardt, Christa Brown, Dieter Schneider, and Bärbel Thomas – all of whom were involved in the organization before, during, and after the conference. Pamela Abraham tracked down the copyrights for the illustrations and assisted in assembling the manuscript. Daniel S. Mattern, the series editor at the Institute, deserves a special note of appreciation for guiding us through the difficult process of publishing this collection and for preparing a readable, clear, and concise manuscript. Frank Smith, the executive editor for social sciences at Cambridge University Press, took great interest in this project from the begin-

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ning and helped bring about its final shape. Further, I thank the two anonymous readers for their very useful critical evaluations of the manuscript.

Finally, I thank my two coeditors. Carole Fink provided the original plan, which she presented to me at another GHI conference, in Berkeley, California, in May 1994. In subsequent discussions, we discovered that “1968” is a particularly well-suited topic for understanding the intellectual challenges that increasing global interdependence poses to historians of the twentieth century. We were later joined by Philipp Gassert, who worked with us to organize the conference and edit the book. I shall miss these last three and a half years of spirited collaboration among three very engaged historians.

The topic of this book dovetails nicely with the efforts of the GHI in Washington to promote comparative research. In fact, most of the four to five international conferences the Institute organizes annually are based on this perspective, comparing events, ideas, and structures in the United States and Europe. At times we have even taken a global perspective, with *1968: The World Transformed* being a case in point. In this age of globalization, historians should also become global players – at least mentally.

Washington, D.C.
April 1998

DETLEF JUNKER

Contributors

Manfred Berg is an associate professor of history at the John F. Kennedy Institute, Free University of Berlin.

Alan Brinkley is a professor of history at Columbia University.

Arif Dirlik is a professor of history at Duke University.

Jerzy Eisler is the director of the Ecole Polonaise in Paris.

Carole Fink is a professor of history at the Ohio State University.

Philipp Gassert is a research fellow at the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

Ingrid Gilcher-Holtey is a professor of history at the University of Bielefeld.

George C. Herring is a professor of history at the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Stuart J. Hilwig is a doctoral candidate in history at the Ohio State University.

Gerd-Rainer Horn is an associate professor of history at Western Oregon University.

Konrad H. Jarausch is a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Detlef Junker is the director of the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

Mark Kramer is the director of the Cold War Studies Program at the Davis Center for Russian Studies at Harvard University.

Diane B. Kunz is an associate professor of history at Yale University.

Claus Leggewie is a visiting professor at New York University.

Bernhard Maleck teaches at the Institute for European Studies, Berlin.

Eva Maleck-Lewy is the scholarly director of the Women's Academy for Arts and Sciences, Berlin.

Harold Marcuse is an assistant professor of history at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Gottfried Niedhart is a professor of history at the University of Mannheim.

Chester J. Pach Jr. is a professor of history at Ohio University.

Nancy Bernkopf Tucker is a professor of history at Georgetown University.

Lawrence S. Wittner is a professor of history at the State University of New York at Albany.