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978-0-521-72025-0 - The Continuities of German History: Nation, Religion, and Race
across the Long Nineteenth Century

Helmut Walser Smith

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THE CONTINUITIES OF GERMAN HISTORY

In this controversial work of German history, Smith argues that German historians have become ever more focused on the twentieth century and on twentieth-century explanations for the catastrophe at the heart of it: the Holocaust. Against conventional wisdom, he considers long-term continuities – in the concept of nation and the ideology of nationalism, in religious exclusion and violence, and in race and racism. Exploring these topics in novel ways, he argues for deep continuities in German history, even as he insists that Germany was not on a special path to destruction. The result is a series of challenging reflections on nationalism, anti-Semitism, and race, as well as a novel interpretation of modern German history.

Helmut Walser Smith earned his PhD at Yale and is the Martha Rivers Ingram Professor of History at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of *German Nationalism and Religious Conflict* (1995) and *The Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town* (2002), which won the Fraenkel Prize for the best work in contemporary history and was named an L.A. Times Non-Fiction Book of the Year.

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HELMUT WALSER SMITH
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For Henry Turner and Peter Gay

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CONTENTS

	Introduction	<i>page</i> 1
1	The Vanishing Point of German History	13
2	The Mirror Turn Lamp: Senses of the Nation before Nationalism	39
3	On Catastrophic Religious Violence and National Belonging: The Thirty Years War and the Massacre of Jews in Social Memory	74
4	From Play to Act: Anti-Jewish Violence in German and European History during the Long Nineteenth Century	115
5	Eliminationist Racism	167
	Conclusion: Continuities in German History	211
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	235
	<i>Index</i>	239