

Everyday Denazification in Postwar Germany

In the wake of World War II, the victorious Allied armies implemented a radical program to purge Nazism from Germany and preserve peace in Europe. Between 1945 and 1949, 20 million political questionnaires, or Fragebögen, were distributed by American, British, French, and Soviet armies to anxious Germans who had to prove their non-Nazi status to gain employment. Drafted by university professors and social scientists, these surveys defined much of the denazification experience and were immensely consequential to the material and emotional recovery of Germans.

In *Everyday Denazification in Postwar Germany*, Mikkel Dack draws the curtain to reveal what denazification looked like on the ground and in practice and how the highly criticized vetting program impacted the lives of individual Germans and their families as they recovered from the war. Accessing recently declassified documents, this book challenges traditional interpretations by illustrating the positive elements of the denazification campaign and recounting a more comprehensive history, one of mid-level Allied planners, civil affairs soldiers, and regular German citizens. The Fragebogen functions as a window into this everyday history.

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Everyday Denazification in Postwar Germany

*The Fragebogen and Political Screening during
the Allied Occupation*

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Abbreviations

ACC (G)	Allied Control Council (Germany)
ACC (I)	Allied Control Commission (Italy)
ACDP	Archiv für Christlich-Demokratische Politik (Archive for Christian Democratic Policy)
ADMAE	Archives diplomatiques, Ministère des Affaires Étrangères (Diplomatic Archives, Ministry for Foreign Affairs)
AdsD	Archiv der sozialen Demokratie (Archive of Social Democracy)
ADW	Archiv des Diakonischen Werkes (Archive for Diaconal Work of the Evangelical Church in Germany)
AFHQ	Allied Forces Headquarters
AM	AlliiertenMuseum (Allied Museum)
AMFA	Administration militaire française en Allemagne (French Military Administration in Germany)
AMG	Allied Military Government
AMGOT	Allied Military Government for Occupied Territories
APW	Armistice and Post-War Committee
ASTP	Area Specialized Training Program
BAB	Bundesarchiv, Berlin (German Federal Archives)
BAF	Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv, Freiburg (German Federal Archives/Military Archives)
BAK	Bundesarchiv, Koblenz (German Federal Archives)
BDC	Berlin Document Center
BDM	Bund Deutscher Mädel (League of German Girls)
BHStA	Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv (Bavarian State Main Archives)
CAC	Civil Affairs Center
CAD	Civil Affairs Division
CAO	Civil Affairs Officers
CASC	Civil Affairs Staff Centre
CATS	Civil Affairs Training School

List of Abbreviations

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CC	Control Council
CCAC	Combined Civil Affairs Committee
CCG(BE)	Control Commission for Germany (British Element)
CCS	Combined Chiefs of Staff
CDU	Christlich Demokratische Union (Christian Democratic Union)
CES	Central European Section
CIC	Counter Intelligence Corps
COSSAC	Chief of Staff to Supreme Allied Commander
DAF	Deutsche Arbeitsfront (German Labor Front)
DCCAO	Deputy Chief of Civil Affairs Officer
DP	displaced person
DRA	Deutsche Rundfunkarchiv (German Broadcasting Archive)
DVP	Deutsche Volkspartei (German People's Party)
EAC	European Advisory Council
EAD	Europe–Africa Division
EKD	Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (Evangelical Church in Germany)
ETOUSA	European Theater of Operations, United States Army
EZA	Evangelisches Zentralarchiv (Evangelical Central Archives)
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FDP	Freie Demokratische Partei (Free Democratic Party)
FEA	Foreign Economic Administration
FORD	Foreign Office Research Department
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
FSF	Field Security Force
G-5	Civil Affairs Division (SHAEF)
GCU	German Country Unit
GDR	German Democratic Republic
Gestapo	Geheime Staatspolizei (Secret State Police)
HJ	Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth)
IfZ	Institut für Zeitgeschichte (Institute for Contemporary History)
ITC	Intelligence Training Centre
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
KfD	Kraft durch Freude (Strength through Joy)
KPD	Kommunistische Partei Deutschland (Communist Party of Germany)
LAB	Landesarchiv Berlin (Berlin State Archives)
LDP	Liberal Demokratische Partei (Liberal Democratic Party)

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MG	Military Government
MOII	War Office Section of Military Operations
MVD	Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NKVD	People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs
NSDAP	Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (National Socialist German Workers' Party)
NSV	Nationalsozialistische Volkswohlfahrt (National Socialist People's Welfare)
OMGUS	Office of Military Government, United States
OSS	Office of Strategic Services
PMG	Office of Provost Marshal General/War Office
PNF	Partito Nazionale Fascista (National Fascist Party)
POLAD	Political Affairs Division
POW	prisoner of war
PWD	Psychological Warfare Division
R&A	Research and Analysis Branch
RM	Reichsmark
SA	Sturmabteilung (Storm Detachment)
SCAO	Supreme Civil Affairs Officer
SD	Sicherheitsdienst (Security Service)
SED	Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschland (Socialist Unity Party of Germany)
SHAEF	Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force
SIS	Secret Intelligence Service
SMA	Soviet Military Administration
SOE	Special Operations Executive
SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (Social Democratic Party of Germany)
SS	Schutzstaffel (Protection Squadron)
Stasi	Ministerium für Staatssicherheit (Ministry for State Security)
TNA	The National Archives
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
USFET	United States Forces, European Theater
USGCC	United States Group Control Council
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
ZFO	Zone française d'occupation (French Zone of Occupation)



Map 1 Germany under Allied Occupation, 1945–49