

Weimar's Long Shadow

Weimar casts a long shadow over postwar political thought. The Weimar Republic is used to understand contemporary threats to democracy and to critique or defend modernity. It has generated a series of political lessons that are invoked whenever democracies are challenged. This book questions the historical validity of many of these lessons and their applicability to contemporary political orders. It shows how Weimar lessons are often influenced by partial and superficial readings of events, often intended to advance particular political projects. The chapters give detailed accounts of how so-called Weimar lessons have influenced, if not shaped, political debates in Germany, elsewhere in Europe, and in the United States.

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Note on Bauhaus Font and the Cover Design

The Bauhaus school sought to modernize, unify, and standardize design into an idealistic form that would combine function with aesthetics. One aspect of their many proposed reforms was a series of related Bauhaus typefaces. They were intended to replace Gothic with more readable and aesthetically pleasing fonts. Many of these fonts are still in use and may represent the most universal and enduring feature of the Weimar era. We use a more colorful Bauhaus font, intended for posters, book covers, and other designs. The editors thank Jayden Lawrence for conceiving the cover, choosing the font, and preparing several mock-ups.