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978-1-107-02255-3 - West Germany and the Global Sixties: The Antiauthoritarian Revolt, 1962–1978

Timothy Scott Brown

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## WEST GERMANY AND THE GLOBAL SIXTIES

The antiauthoritarian revolt of the 1960s and 1970s was a watershed in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany. The rebellion of the so-called “68ers” – against cultural conformity and the ideological imperatives of the Cold War; against the American war in Vietnam; in favor of a more open accounting for the crimes of the Nazi era – helped to inspire a dialogue on democratization with profound effects on German society. Timothy Scott Brown examines the unique synthesis of globalizing influences on West Germany to reveal how the presence of Third World students, imported pop culture from America and England, and the influence of new political doctrines worldwide all helped to precipitate the revolt. The book explains how the events in West Germany grew out of a new interplay of radical politics and popular culture, even as they drew on principles of direct democracy, self-organization, and self-determination, all still highly relevant in the present day.

TIMOTHY SCOTT BROWN is Associate Professor of History at Northeastern University. He is the author of *Weimar Radicals: Nazis and Communists between Authenticity and Performance* (2009) and co-editor of *Between the Avant-garde and the Everyday: Subversive Politics in Europe, 1957 to the Present* (with Lorena Anton, 2011).

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*Abbreviations*

AAO	Action-Analytical Organization
AFN	Armed Forces Network
AGSS	Action Association of Spandau School Pupils
AHA	General Homosexual Working Group
APO	Extraparliamentary Opposition
ASH	Action School Pupil Self Help
AUSS	Action Center for Independent and Socialist School Pupils
BFBS	British Forces Broadcasting Service
BRD	Federal Republic of Germany
CDU	Christian Democratic Union
CSU	Christian Social Union
DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
DDR	German Democratic Republic
DFFB	German Film and Television Academy Berlin
DGB	Confederation of German Trade Unions
DKP	German Communist Party
FDJ	Free German Youth
FDP	Free Democratic Party
HAW	Homosexual Action West Berlin
HIB	Homosexual Initiative Berlin
IEST	International Essen Song Days
InfoBUG	Info Berlin Undogmatic Groups
KBW	Communist League West Germany
KfA	Campaign for Disarmament
KPD	Communist Party of Germany
LSD	Liberal German Student League
MSB	Marxist Student League Spartakus
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NPD	National Democratic Party of Germany
NSDAP	National Socialist German Workers Party

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x	<i>List of abbreviations</i>
OAS	Secret Armed Organization
RAF	Red Army Faction
SDAJ	Socialist German Worker Youth
SDS	Socialist German Student League
SED	Socialist Unity Party of Germany
SEW	Socialist Unity Party West Berlin
SFB	Socialist Women’s League West Berlin
SPD	Social Democratic Party of Germany
SRP	Socialist Reich Party
SSK	Socialist Self-Help Cologne
USG	Independent School Pupils’ Association