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978-1-107-02889-0 - Contested Commemorations: Republican War Veterans and Weimar Political Culture

Benjamin Ziemann

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## Contested Commemorations

This innovative study of remembrance in Weimar Germany analyses how experiences and memories of the Great War were transformed along political lines after 1918. Examining the symbolism, language and performative power of public commemoration, Benjamin Ziemann reveals how individual recollections fed into the public narrative of the experience of war. Challenging conventional wisdom that nationalist narratives dominated commemoration, this book demonstrates that Social Democrat war veterans participated in the commemoration of the war at all levels: supporting the ‘no more war’ movement, mourning the fallen at war memorials and demanding a politics of international solidarity. It describes how the moderate socialist left related the legitimacy of the Republic to their experiences in the Imperial Army, and acknowledged the military defeat of 1918 as a moment of liberation. This is the first comprehensive analysis of war remembrances in post-war Germany and a radical reassessment of the democratic potential of the Weimar Republic.

BENJAMIN ZIEMANN is Professor of Modern German History at the University of Sheffield. An expert on the social, political and cultural history of modern Germany, his many previous books include *War Experiences in Rural Germany, 1914–1923* (2007) and *German Soldiers of the Great War: Letters and Eyewitness Accounts* (co-edited with Bernd Ulrich, 2010).

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*Republican War Veterans and Weimar  
Political Culture*

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Benjamin Ziemann

*University of Sheffield*



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press,  
New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107028890](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107028890)

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First published 2013

Printed and bound in the United Kingdom by the MPG Books Group

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*  
Ziemann, Benjamin.

Contested commemorations : republican war veterans and Weimar political culture / by Benjamin Ziemann.

p. cm. – (Studies in the social and cultural history of modern warfare)  
Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-02889-0 (hardback)

1. World War, 1914–1918–Veterans–Germany. 2. World War, 1914–1918–Influence. 3. World War, 1914–1918–Personal narratives, German. 4. World War, 1914–1918–Social aspects–Germany. 5. Veterans–Germany–History–20th century. 6. Political culture–Germany–History–20th century. 7. War memorials–Germany–History–20th century. 8. Memory–Political aspects–Germany–History–20th century. 9. Germany–Politics and government–1918–1933. 10. Germany–Social conditions–1918–1933. I. Title.

DD238.Z54 2013

940.4'6094309042–dc23

2012024506

ISBN 978-1-107-02889-0 hardback

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## Acknowledgements

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My engagement with the issues discussed in this book dates back to the late 1990s. In the wake of my monograph on rural Bavaria from 1914 to 1923, I first came across the Reichsbanner, and discussed its significance in a journal article. At this time, and on many later occasions, I received generous advice from Belinda Davis, Christa Hämmerle, Wolfgang Hardtwig, Bedrich Loewenstein, Josef Mooser and Bernd Ulrich, for which I am extremely grateful. Work on the current book could finally commence after I had joined the University of Sheffield. I have benefited immensely from conversations with friends and colleagues at Sheffield, especially Miriam Dobson, Mike Foley, Ian Kershaw, Miles Larmer and my mentor Bob Moore. I am also grateful to Richard Bessel, Michael Geyer, Thomas Kühne, Thomas Mergel, Helmut W. Smith and Jay Winter for their intellectualism and unwavering support, and for important conversations with Martin H. Geyer, Rüdiger Graf, Daniel Morat, Nadine Rossol and Meik Woyke. Mike Geheran, Patrick Houlihan and Thomas F. Schneider have offered constructive feedback on individual chapters – thanks a lot! Moritz Föllmer and Matthew Stibbe have commented on a draft of the whole book. Both have written trail-blazing books and articles on Weimar Germany, and their work has deeply influenced my own thinking on the subject. Both are also trusted friends, and I owe a lot to their support and generosity.

Also important was the practical and material support I have received along the way. I very much appreciate the valuable support of the staff of the many archives and libraries I have consulted. Special thanks go to my friend Anja Kruke, head of the Archiv der sozialen Demokratie in the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bonn; to my former student Alexander Schwitanski, now head of the Archiv der Arbeiterjugend in Oer-Erkenschwick; to Michael Hensle of the Stadtarchiv Schiltach; to Ute Simon of the Stadtarchiv Schmalkalden; and to the staff of the library of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, of the Bibliothek des Ruhrgebiets in Bochum, and of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich. Martin Brost has generously funded the digitisation of Social

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Democrat journals and newspapers, which are hosted by the online portal of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. I am extremely grateful for this invaluable resource. Archival research in Germany was supported by a British Academy Small Grant, and facilitated by invitations to work as a Visiting Scholar at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and as a Visiting Professor at the Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen. Ewald Frie, Daniel Menning, Jörg Neuheiser, Sebastian Kraffzig, Lena Gautam, Claudia Prinz, Andreas Weiß and many others turned these trips into convivial occasions. Thanks also to Franz and Joan Brüggemeier for putting me up during a trip to Freiburg! I am grateful to Laura King and Robert Whitelock, who carefully copy-edited my manuscript, and to Conny Schneider, whose diligent work as a research assistant was indispensable. At various stages, James Pearson kindly offered crucial technical support. The Arts and Humanities Research Council has generously supported the completion of the manuscript through a grant in its Fellowship Scheme. Michael Watson, my editor at Cambridge University Press, offered crucial support, and commissioned very helpful feedback by two anonymous reviewers. Permission to reproduce copyright material by the following is gratefully acknowledged: Berliner Vorwärts Verlagsgesellschaft, Archiv der sozialen Demokratie der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Bonn, Bundesarchiv Koblenz, Archiv der Münchener Arbeiterbewegung, Münchener Stadtmuseum and Museum Schloss Wilhelmsburg in Schmalkalden.

Finally, my most heartfelt thanks go to my family: to Christine, Jonathan and Sophie; to my brothers Alexander and Jakob; and to my mother, Susanne Lücke, née Plojetz, who taught me all about the importance of books.

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## Abbreviations

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AdK, Kempowski-BIO	Akademie der Künste Berlin, Kempowski-Biographienarchiv
AdsD	Archiv der sozialen Demokratie
<i>AfS</i>	<i>Archiv für Sozialgeschichte</i>
BA/MA	Bundesarchiv/Militärarchiv Freiburg im Breisgau
BArch	Bundesarchiv Berlin-Lichterfelde
BHStA	Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv München
BVP	Bayerische Volkspartei (People's Party of Bavaria)
<i>BVZ</i>	<i>Berliner Volks-Zeitung</i>
<i>CEH</i>	<i>Central European History</i>
<i>DAZ</i>	<i>Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung</i>
DDP	Deutsche Demokratische Partei (German Democratic Party)
DFG	Deutsche Friedensgesellschaft (German Peace Society)
DHV	Deutschnationaler Handlungsgehilfen-Verband
DNVP	Deutschnationale Volkspartei (German National People's Party)
DVP	Deutsche Volkspartei (German People's Party)
FdK	Friedensbund der Kriegsteilnehmer (Associations of War Veterans for Peace)
<i>GG</i>	<i>Geschichte und Gesellschaft</i>
GStA	Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz Berlin
HStASt	Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart
<i>HZ</i>	<i>Historische Zeitschrift</i>
IfZ	Institut für Zeitgeschichte München, Archiv

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<i>JCH</i>	<i>Journal of Contemporary History</i>
KPD	Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands (German Communist Party)
LAB	Landesarchiv Berlin
<i>MGZ</i>	<i>Militär-geschichtliche Zeitschrift</i>
MSPD	Mehrheitssozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (Majority Social Democratic Party of Germany)
NCO	Non-commissioned officer
NHStAH	Niedersächsisches Hauptstaatsarchiv Hannover
PND	Politischer Nachrichtendienst der Polizeidirektion München (Political News Service of the Munich Police Headquarters)
POW	prisoner of war
<i>RB</i>	<i>Das Reichsbanner: Zeitung des Reichsbanner Schwarz–Rot–Gold</i>
ReK	Reichsvereinigung ehemaliger Kriegsgefangener (Reich Association of Former Prisoners of War)
RjF	Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten (Reich Federation of Jewish Front Soldiers)
SAJ	Sozialistische Arbeiterjugend (Socialist Labour Youth)
SBPK	Staatsbibliothek Preußischer Kulturbesitz zu Berlin, Handschriftenabteilung
SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (German Social Democratic Party)
StA Bremen	Staatsarchiv Bremen
StAM	Staatsarchiv München
StA Schiltach	Stadtarchiv Schiltach
USPD	Unabhängige Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (Independent Social Democratic Party of Germany)
VeK	Vereinigung ehemaliger Kriegsgefangener (Union of Former Prisoners of War)
<i>WUA</i>	<i>Das Werk des Untersuchungsausschusses der Verfassunggebenden Deutschen Nationalversammlung und des Deutschen Reichstages 1919–1930, 4. Reihe, II. Abteilung</i>

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