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978-1-107-04957-4 — German Intellectuals and the Challenge of Democratic Renewal

Sean A. Forner

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German Intellectuals and the Challenge of Democratic Renewal

This book examines how democracy was rethought in Germany in the wake of National Socialism, the Second World War, and the Holocaust. Focusing on a loose network of public intellectuals in the immediate postwar years, Sean Forner traces their attempts to reckon with the experience of Nazism and scour Germany's ambivalent political and cultural traditions for materials with which to build a better future. In doing so, he reveals, they formulated an internally variegated but distinctly participatory vision of democratic renewal – a paradoxical counter-elitism of intellectual elites. Although their projects ran aground on internal tensions and on the Cold War, their commitments fueled critique and dissent in the two postwar Germanys during the 1950s and thereafter. The book uncovers a conception of political participation that went beyond the limited possibilities of the Cold War era and influenced the political struggles of later decades in both East and West.

SEAN FORNER is Assistant Professor of History at Michigan State University.

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German Intellectuals and the Challenge of Democratic Renewal

Culture and Politics after 1945

Sean A. Forner

Michigan State University



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Abbreviations

| | |
|------------|--|
| APO | Extraparliamentary Opposition |
| CCF | Congress for Cultural Freedom |
| CDU | Christian-Democratic Union |
| DFB | German Freedom Library |
| DGB | German Federation of Unions |
| DVP | Democratic People's Party |
| ECSC | European Coal and Steel Community |
| EDC | European Defense Community |
| EUD | Europe Union Germany |
| FRG | Federal Republic of Germany |
| FZ | <i>Frankfurter Zeitung</i> |
| GDR | German Democratic Republic |
| GlavPURKKA | Main Political Administration of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army |
| GVP | All-German People's Party |
| HICOG | Allied High Commission for Germany |
| ICD | Information Control Division |
| KdA | Fight Atomic Death |
| KfA | Campaign for Disarmament |
| KPD | Communist Party of Germany |
| MfS | Ministry of State Security |
| NSDAP | National Socialist German Workers' Party |
| NWDR | North-West German Radio |
| OMGUS | Office of Military Government for Germany, United States |
| PEN | Poets, Essayists, Novelists |
| PWD | Psychological Warfare Division |
| SAPD | Socialist Workers' Party of Germany |
| SDA | Protective Association of German Authors |
| SDS | Protective Association of German Writers (Chapter 5) |
| SDS | Socialist German Student League (Chapter 8) |

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Abbreviations xi

| | |
|------|---|
| SED | Socialist Unity Party of Germany |
| SFG | Socialist Supporters' Society |
| SPD | Social Democratic Party of Germany |
| SVAG | Soviet Military Administration in Germany |
| VVN | Union of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime |



Map 1 Germany and central Europe after 1945.