

Decades of Reconstruction

As wars and other conflicts increase on a worldwide scale, the alleged ‘new wars’ of the present day have taught that military victory does not necessarily result in a sustained state of peace. Rather, societies in conflict experience a ‘status mixtus’ – a transformative period that includes substantial changes in economy, politics, society and culture. Focusing on these decades of reconstruction in Europe and North America, this book examines the transformation of state systems, international relations, and normative principles in international comparison. By putting the postwar decade after 1945 into a long-term historical perspective, the chapters illuminate new patterns of transition between war and peace from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Experts in the field show that states and societies are never restituted from a ‘zero hour’. They also demonstrate that foreign and domestic policy are intermixed before and after peace breaks out.

Ute Planert is Professor of Modern History at the Universität zu Köln. She was a Fellow at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University, Massachusetts and held the Hannah Arendt Visiting Chair of German and European History at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. Recent publications include ‘International Conflict, War, and the Making of Modern Germany, 1740–1815’, in *The Oxford Handbook of Modern German History*, edited by Helmut Walser Smith (2011), and the edited volume *Napoleon’s Empire. European Politics in Global Perspective* (2015).

James Retallack is Professor of History and German Studies at the University of Toronto, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. His most recent books are *Germany’s Second Reich: Portraits and Pathways* (2015) and *Red Saxony: Election Battles and the Spectre of Democracy in Germany, 1860–1918* (2017). His current research project is a biography of the Social Democratic leader August Bebel.

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Decades of Reconstruction

*Postwar Societies, State-Building,
and International Relations from the
Seven Years' War to the Cold War*

Edited by

UTE PLANERT
University of Cologne

JAMES RETALLACK
University of Toronto

GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
Washington, D.C.
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Notes on Contributors

Katherine Aaslestad, Professor of History at West Virginia University, is the author of *Place and Politics: Local Identity, Civic Culture, and German Nationalism in North Germany during the Revolutionary Era* (2005). She has coedited special issues in *Central European History* and *European History Quarterly*. She is also the author of articles and chapters on republican political culture in the Hanseatic cities, gender and consumption, and the Napoleonic Wars in northern Europe. She recently coedited *The Napoleonic Continental System: Local, European, and Global Experiences and Consequences* (2014). Her current research project is entitled “After the Wars: German Central Europe after Napoleonic Conquest, 1815–1848.”

Julia Angster, Professor of Modern History at the University of Mannheim, is the author of *Konsenskapitalismus und Sozialdemokratie. Die Westernisierung von SPD und DGB* (2003); *Erdbeeren und Piraten. Die Royal Navy und die Ordnung der Welt 1770–1860* (2012); and *Reform und Krise: Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1963–1982* (2012). Previously, she was Professor of British and North American History at the University of Kassel. Her current research interests include contemporary German history; international, transnational, and global history; naval history; relations in the Atlantic world; the British Empire; and working class movements.

Robert Beachy, Professor of History at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, is the author of *The Soul of Commerce: Credit, Property and Politics in Leipzig, 1750–1840* (2005) and a coeditor of *Women in Business and Finance in Nineteenth Century Europe: Rethinking*

Separate Spheres, with Alastair Owens and Beatrice Craig (2006); *Pious Pursuits: German Moravians in the Atlantic World*, with Michele Gillespie (2007); and *Who Ran the Cities? Elite and Urban Power Structures, 1750–1950*, with Ralf Roth (2007). His book *Gay Berlin: Birthplace of a Modern Identity* was published in 2014 and was named a Stonewall Honor Book in Non-Fiction by the American Library Association in 2015. It appeared in translation as *Das andere Berlin: Die Erfindung der Homosexualität. Eine deutsche Geschichte 1867–1933* (2015).

Sir Christopher Clark, Regius Professor of History at Cambridge University, is author of *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914* (2012), which won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize (History) and other awards. Earlier books include *Kaiser Wilhelm II* (2000) and *Iron Kingdom: The Rise and Downfall of Prussia, 1600–1947* (2006). His current research interests include Germany and continental Europe during the nineteenth century and political change in Europe following the 1848 revolutions.

Jörg Echternkamp, Professor at Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, is also senior fellow at the Center for Military History and Social Sciences in Potsdam and a coeditor of the *Militär-geschichtliche Zeitschrift*. He has recently published *Soldaten im Nachkrieg. Historische Deutungskonflikte und westdeutsche Demokratisierung 1945–1955* (2014) and *Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1945/49–1969* (2013), and is a coeditor of *Experience and Memory: The Second World War in Europe*, with Stefan Martens (2013), and *Gefallenengedenken im globalen Vergleich. Nationale Tradition, politische Legitimation und Individualisierung der Erinnerung*, with Manfred Hettling (2012). His current research interests include European military history since the nineteenth century. He is presently working on a project that examines German military history from 1970 to 1990.

Sven Externbrink, Lecturer in Early Modern European History at the University of Heidelberg, is the author of *Le Coeur du monde – Frankreich und die norditalienischen Staaten (Mantua, Parma, Savoyen) im Zeitalter Richelieus 1624–1635* (1999) and *Friedrich der Große, Maria Theresia und das Alte Reich. Deutschlandbild und Diplomatie Frankreichs im Siebenjährigen Krieg (1755–1763)* (2006), as well as editor of *Der Siebenjährige Krieg (1756–1763). Ein europäischer Weltkrieg im Zeitalter der Aufklärung* (2011). His current research

interests include international relations during the early modern period, the history of France and Italy during the early modern period, Franco-German history in a European context, and political communication. His current research projects are titled “The Seven Years’ War as a World War” and “Louis XIV: A Biography.”

John E. Fahey is a Ph.D. candidate at Purdue University. His principal research focus is the Habsburg Monarchy. He has published articles on civil-military relations in the Habsburg Monarchy in the *Journal on European History of Law* and *REGION: Regional Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia*. He is currently a Fulbright scholar conducting dissertation research on civil-military relations in Przemysl, Galicia, during the late Habsburg era and interwar period.

Charles Ingrao, Professor of History at Purdue University, is the author of *In Quest and Crisis: Emperor Joseph I and the Habsburg Monarchy* (1979); *The Hessian Mercenary State: Ideas, Institutions, and Reform under Frederick II, 1760–1785* (1987); and *The Habsburg Monarchy, 1618–1815* (1994, 2nd ed. 2000). His current research interests include early modern Europe, the history of the Habsburg Empire, and issues of ethnic conflict and coexistence in contemporary Europe.

Mark Jones, Irish Research Council International Career Development Fellow (IRC Elevate Fellow co-funded by Marie Curie Actions) at the Centre for War Studies, University College Dublin, and at the Free University of Berlin, is the author of *Founding Weimar: Violence and the German Revolution of 1918–1919* (2016) and “The Crowd in the German November Revolution 1918” in *Germany 1916–1923: A Revolution in Context* (2015). He has also contributed chapters to *Political Violence and Democracy in Western Europe, 1918–1945* (2015); *Maritime History and Identity: The Sea and Culture in the Modern World* (2013); and *Other Combatants, Other Fronts: Competing Histories of the First World War* (2011). His current research interests include global approaches to the history of revolution in the early twentieth century.

Jesse Kauffman, Associate Professor of History at Eastern Michigan University, is the author of *Elusive Alliance: The German Occupation of Poland in World War I* (2015) and articles in *First World War Studies* and *Finding Common Ground: New Directions in First World War Studies* (2011). He is also a coauthor of “A Sonderweg through Eastern Europe? The Varieties of German Rule in Poland during

the Two World Wars,” with Michael Meng and Winson Chu, which was published in *German History* (2013) and awarded the Article Prize of the German History Society.

Ulrike Kirchberger, Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Kassel, studied the History of Arts and History at the Universities of Stuttgart, Sussex and London. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Stuttgart in 1998 and her habilitation at the University of Bayreuth in 2006. Her research interests lie in the field of colonial and global history from the nineteenth to the twentieth centuries. Her publications include *Aspekte deutsch-britischer Expansion. Die Überseeinteressen der deutschen Migranten in Großbritannien in der Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts* (1999) and *Konversion zur Moderne? Die britische Indianermission in der atlantischen Welt des 18. Jahrhunderts* (2008). Her current research project deals with cultures of time in the Atlantic world in the years 1760–1830.

Jörn Leonhard, Professor of Modern European History at the Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg, taught at Oxford University from 1998 to 2003 and at Jena University from 2004 to 2006. From 2007 to 2012, he was one of the directors of the School of History of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS). In 2012–2013, he was Visiting Fellow at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University. His main publications include *Liberalismus. Zur historischen Semantik eines europäischen Deutungsmusters* (2001); ed. (with Ulrike von Hirschhausen), *Nationalismen in Europa: West- und Osteuropa im Vergleich* (2001); *Bellizismus und Nation. Kriegsdeutung und Nationalbestimmung in Europa und den Vereinigten Staaten 1750–1914* (2008); *Empires und Nationalstaaten im 19. Jahrhundert* (with Ulrike von Hirschhausen) (2nd ed. 2010); ed. (with Ulrike von Hirschhausen), *Comparing Empires. Encounters and Transfers in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century* (2nd ed. 2012). His most recent book is *Die Büchse der Pandora. Geschichte des Ersten Weltkriegs* (5th ed. 2014).

Kimberly Lowe, Assistant Professor of History at Lesley University, received her Ph.D. from Yale University in 2013 and has been a fellow at Amherst College, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva), and the Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg. Her research interests include the history of humanitarianism, human rights, and international law as well as the history of societies at

war. She is currently working on a book manuscript that examines the use of humanitarian aid as a non-military alternative to combating the Bolshevik Revolution after the First World War.

Ute Planert, Professor of Modern History at the University of Cologne, is the author of *Antifeminismus im Kaiserreich. Diskurs, soziale Formation und Politische Mentalität* (1998) and *Der Mythos vom Befreiungskrieg. Frankreichs Kriege und der deutsche Süden. Alltag, Wahrnehmung, Deutung 1792–1841* (2007). Her other publications include “International Conflict, War, and the Making of Modern Germany, 1740–1815” in *The Oxford Handbook of Modern German History* (2011) and “Women’s Suffrage and Antifeminism as a Litmus Test of Modernizing Societies: A Western European Comparison” in *Imperial Germany Revisited: Continuing Debates and New Perspectives* (2nd ed., 2012). She recently edited *Napoleon’s Empire: European Politics in Global Perspective* (2016). Her research interests include European history from the eighteenth century to the twentieth century, postwar and nationalism, gender, and the Napoleonic Empire in a global context.

James Retallack, Professor of History and German Studies at the University of Toronto, is the author of *Germany’s Second Reich: Portraits and Pathways* (2015) and *The German Right, 1860–1920: Political Limits of the Authoritarian Imagination* (2006). As well as editing *Imperial Germany 1871–1918: The Short Oxford History of Germany* (2008), he has coedited essay collections with Larry Eugene Jones, Simone Lässig, Karl Heinrich Pohl, Geoff Eley, and David Blackbourn. His monograph, *Red Saxony: Election Battles and the Spectre of Democracy in Germany, 1860–1918*, was published in 2017. Killam and Guggenheim Fellowships have allowed him to begin work on a new biography of the Social Democratic leader August Bebel.

James J. Sheehan, Dickason Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Modern European History, Emeritus, at Stanford University, is a former president of the American Historical Association. His major works include *German Liberalism in the Nineteenth Century* (1978); *German History, 1770–1866* (1989); *Museums in the German Art World: From the End of the Old Regime to the Rise of Modernism* (2000); and *Where Have All the Soldiers Gone? The Transformation of Modern Europe* (2008). He is also the author of numerous journal articles and book

chapters on German and European history from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.

Adrian Shubert is University Professor of History at York University, Toronto. His major works include *The Road to Revolution in Spain: The Coal Miners of Asturias, 1860–1934* (1987), *A Social History of Modern Spain, 1800–1982* (1990), and *Death and Money in the Afternoon: A History of the Spanish Bullfight* (1999), all of which have been translated into Spanish, as well as numerous journal articles and chapters in edited volumes. His current research project focuses on the Spanish military and the political figure Baldomero Espartero (1793–1879). He has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Killam Research Fellowship and has been named a Commander of the Order of Civil Merit by King Juan Carlos of Spain.

Reinhard Stauber is Professor of Modern and Austrian History and the head of History Department at the University of Klagenfurt. He is the author of *Der Wiener Kongress* (2015) as well as of *Der Zentralstaat an seinen Grenzen. Administrative Integration, Herrschaftswchsel und politische Kultur im südlichen Alpenraum 1705–1820* (2001). He co-edited *L’Autriche intérieure – Im Innern Österreichs* (2005), *Identität und politische Kultur in der Frühen Neuzeit* (1998), and *Nationalismus vor dem Nationalismus?* (1998). He is a board member of the Austrian Science Fund and a member of the Historische Kommission bei der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. For the latter, he is overseeing the publication of *Die Protokolle des Bayerischen Staatsrats 1799–1817* (3 vols. to date).

Elizabeth Vlossak, Associate Professor of History at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, is the author of *Marianne or Germania? Nationalizing Women in Alsace, 1870–1946* (2010), “Remembering Oradour and Struthof: New How Regional Memory Challenges National Commemoration” in *Place and Locality in Modern France* (2014), and “Traitors, Heroes, Martyrs, Victims: Veterans of Nazi ‘Forced Conscription’ in Alsace and Moselle,” in *Rewriting German History: New Perspectives on Modern Germany* (2015). Her research focuses on women’s history, the European feminist movement, border studies, gender and nationalism, the cultural history of the two world wars, and the politics of memory and commemoration. Her current research project explores the reintegration of non-German *Wehrmacht* veterans into postwar European society.

Christopher Wilkins, Assistant Professor of History at William Jewell College, is currently revising his Stanford Ph.D. dissertation (2012) for publication as “American Republic, American Empire: The United States, Post-Civil War Reconstruction, and the State of Santo Domingo, 1869–1873.” His research interests include the international history of the US Civil War and Reconstruction, the United States’ emergence as a global power in the late nineteenth century, and the influence of anti-slavery concerns on US foreign policy from 1865 to the present.

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