

Allied Internment Camps in Occupied Germany

Between 1945 and 1950, approximately 130,000 Germans were interned in the Soviet zone of occupied Germany, including in former Nazi concentration camps. One-third of detainees died, prompting comparisons with Nazi terror. But what about the western zones, where the Americans, British, and French also detained hundreds of thousands of Germans without trial? This first in-depth study compares internment by all four occupying powers, asking who was interned, how they were treated, and when and why they were arrested and released. It confirms the incomparably appalling conditions and death rates in the Soviet camps but identifies similarities in other respects. Andrew H. Beattie argues that internment everywhere was an inherently extrajudicial measure with punitive and preventative dimensions that aimed to eradicate Nazism and create a new Germany. By recognizing its true nature and extent, he suggests that denazification was more severe and coercive but also more differentiated and complex than previously thought.

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*Extrajudicial Detention in the Name of
Denazification, 1945–1950*

Andrew H. Beattie
University of New South Wales



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To Melanie

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In early 2016, I was still committed to writing only a comparative history of internment's reception, not its 'actual' history. But as I struggled with word count and continued to encounter scholarship and journal peer reviewers wedded to (in my view) inaccurate understandings of Soviet and/or western internment, I realized there were things I wanted to say about internment and that I could and must write separate books. I would like to thank Robert Buch and Ronan McDonald for a crucial conversation in that realization process and to humbly acknowledge an ARC assessor's rectitude in suggesting several years

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earlier that internment's history was insufficiently settled to write the history of its reception.

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Abbreviations

ACA	Allied Control Authority
ACA (BE)	Allied Commission for Austria (British Element)
ACC	Allied Control Council
ACICR	Archives du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge, Geneva
AEKR	Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland, Düsseldorf
AEM	Archiv des Erzbistums München und Freising Munich
BAB	Bundesarchiv Berlin
BDM	Bund Deutscher Mädel
BHStA	Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Munich
CCS	Combined Chiefs of Staff
CDU	Christian Democratic Union
CIC	Counter Intelligence Corps
CIE	Civilian Internment Enclosure
DIAC	Directorate of Internal Affairs and Communications
DP	displaced person
<i>DzD</i>	<i>Dokumente zur Deutschlandpolitik</i>
EAC	European Advisory Committee
EKD	Evangelical Church in Germany
ELAB	Evangelisches Landeskirchliches Archiv in Berlin
EZA	Evangelisches Zentralarchiv, Berlin
FO	Foreign Office
FORD	Foreign Office Research Department
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
<i>FRUS</i>	<i>Foreign Relations of the United States</i>
GDR	German Democratic Republic
Gestapo	Secret State Police
GPU	State Political Directorate
GULAG	Main Administration of Corrective Labour Camps and Labour Settlements

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GUPVI	Main Administration for POW and Internee Affairs
HHStA	Hessisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Wiesbaden
HStAS	Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IMT	International Military Tribunal
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
KPD	Communist Party of Germany
LAELKB	Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche in Bayern, Nuremberg
LDPD	Liberal Democratic Party of Germany
LKAB	Landeskirchliches Archiv Bielefeld
LKAD	Landeskirchenarchiv Dresden
LKAE	Landeskirchenarchiv Eisenach
LKAK	Landeskirchliches Archiv Kiel
LKAS	Landeskirchliches Archiv Stuttgart
MVD	Ministry for Internal Affairs
NADSC	Nazi Arrest and Denazification Subcommittee
NCO	non-commissioned officer
NDPD	National Democratic Party of Germany
NKVD	People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs
NL	Nachlass
NLAH	Niedersächsisches Landesarchiv Hanover
NSDAP	National Socialist German Workers' Party
OMGUS	Office of Military Government, United States
POW	prisoner of war
PSC	Public Safety Committee
RSHA	Reichssicherheitshauptamt
SA	Sturmabteilung
SD	Sicherheitsdienst
SED	Socialist Unity Party of Germany
SHAEF	Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces
SMAD	Soviet Military Administration in Germany
SMERSH	Special Methods of Spy Detection
SMT	Soviet Military Tribunal
SPD	Social Democratic Party of Germany
SS	Schutzstaffel
StAH	Staatsarchiv Hamburg
StAL	Staatsarchiv Ludwigsburg
TNA	The National Archives of the United Kingdom, London
ZAEKHN	Zentralarchiv der Evangelischen Kirche in Hessen und Nassau, Darmstadt