

Exiled Among Nations

How do groups of people fashion shared identities in the modern world? Following two communities of German-speaking Mennonites, one composed of voluntary migrants and the other of refugees, across four continents between 1870 and 1945, this transnational study explores how religious migrants engaged the phenomenon of nationalism. John P. R. Eicher demonstrates how migrant groups harnessed the global spread of nationalism to secure practical objectives and create local mythologies. In doing so, he also reveals how governments and aid organizations used diasporic groups for their own purposes, portraying such nomads as enemies or heroes in national and religious mythologies. By underscoring the importance of local and religious counter-stories that run in parallel to nationalist narratives, *Exiled Among Nations* helps us understand acts of resistance, flight, and diaspora in the modern world.

John P.R. Eicher is Assistant Professor of History at Pennsylvania State University-Altoona where his research focuses on Europe's global connections including colonialism, nationalism, migration, and religion. His research has been supported by numerous organizations including the German Historical Institute Washington, the Freie Universität Berlin, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and his writing has won awards from the University of Iowa and the University of Winnipeg.

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Exiled Among Nations

*German and Mennonite Mythologies
in a Transnational Age*

JOHN P. R. EICHER

Pennsylvania State University-Altoona

GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

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and*



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For Julia, my love.

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[More Information](#)

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of Maps</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xv
Introduction	I
1 No Lasting City (1870–1930)	32
2 A Sort of Homecoming (1929–1931)	84
3 Troubled Tribes in the Promised Land (1930–1939)	128
4 Mennonite (Di)Visions (1930–1939)	167
5 Peanuts for the Führer (1933–1939)	206
6 Centrifugal Fantasies, Centripetal Realities (1939–1945)	243
Conclusion	290
<i>Bibliography</i>	297
<i>Index</i>	319

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-73179-9 — Exiled Among Nations
John P. R. Eicher
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Figures

1.1	Built in 1912, the central school in Orloff, Molotschna Colony showcases the wealth and modernity of Russia’s Mennonites at the height of the so-called Mennonite Commonwealth in Russia	<i>page</i> 43
1.2	Mennonite mass burial in Blumenort, Molotschna, Russia during the Russian Civil War, 1920	72
1.3	A boy plowing with horses on the Mennonites’ West Reserve in Manitoba, Canada	76
1.4	Schoolhouse in the Menno Colony village of Schoental, n.d.	81
2.1	Mennonite dairy in Slavgorod, Siberia	92
2.2	Refugee Peter Kasper with his wife and his cousin in Moscow, Russia	94
2.3	Refugee feeding station on the train platform in Riga, Latvia, 1929	107
2.4	Christmas celebration for the refugees in Hammerstein, Germany, 1929	110
3.1	Hauling water in Menno Colony, n.d.	135
3.2	Fernheim Colony family outside their tent in the Chaco, 1930	138
3.3	Performing surgery on a wounded soldier in Fernheim Colony during the Chaco War	149
3.4	Early meeting with the Enlhit near Schoenbrunn, Fernheim Colony	163
4.1	Benjamin H. Unruh and H. S. Bender. Circa 1930	193
4.2	Family photograph enclosed with September 4, 1935 letter from H. B. Toews to Samuel McRoberts, Menno Colony, Paraguay	199

List of Figures

5.1	Fernheim Colony meeting hall in Filadelfia with a picture of Adolf Hitler displayed prominently at the front	230
6.1	A young women in the Fernheim Colony tends her swastika garden	255
6.2	Fernheim students receiving pedagogic education	261

Maps

o.1	Mennonite colonies in Southern Ukraine	<i>page</i> xvii
o.2	Mennonite settlements in Manitoba 1874–1878	xviii
o.3	Saskatchewan Mennonite reserves	xix
o.4	Mennonite colonies in Paraguay	xx
o.5	Menno Colony North Paraguay	xxi
o.6	Fernheim Colony Paraguay	xxii

The maps are also available as an additional resource at www.cambridge.org/eicher

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Abbreviations

AO	Auslandsorganisation (Foreign Organization)
BDMP	Bund Deutscher Mennoniten in Paraguay (League of German Mennonites in Paraguay)
BiN	Brüder in Not (Brethren in Need)
CMBC	Canadian Mennonite Board of Colonization
CPS	Civilian Public Service
DAI	Deutsches-Ausland Institut (German Foreign Institute)
DDP	Deutsche Demokratische Partei (German Democratic Party)
DVP	Deutsche Volkspartei (German People's Party)
DVfP	Deutscher Volksbund für Paraguay (German League for Paraguay)
JDC	Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
KfK	Kommission für kirchliche Angelegenheiten (Commission for Church Affairs)
KPD	Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands (Communist Party of Germany)
MC	(old) Mennonite Church
MCC	Mennonite Central Committee
VDA	Verein für das Deutschtum im Ausland (1908–1933) Volksbund für das Deutschtum im Ausland (1933–1945) (Association for Germandom Abroad)
VoMi	Hauptamt Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle (Central Welfare Office for Ethnic Germans)
VRD	Verband der Russlanddeutschen (Association of Russian Germans)

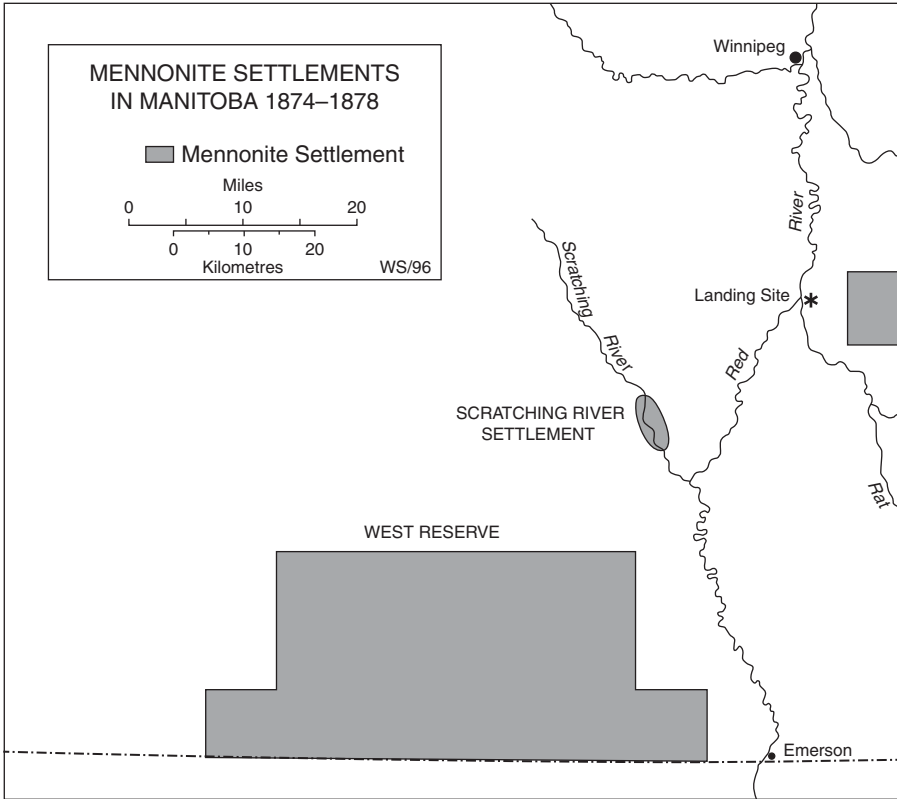
xvi	<i>List of Abbreviations</i>
WP	Reichspartei des deutschen Mittelstandes (Reich Party of the German Middle Class)
Z	Deutsche Zentrumspar­tei (Center Party)

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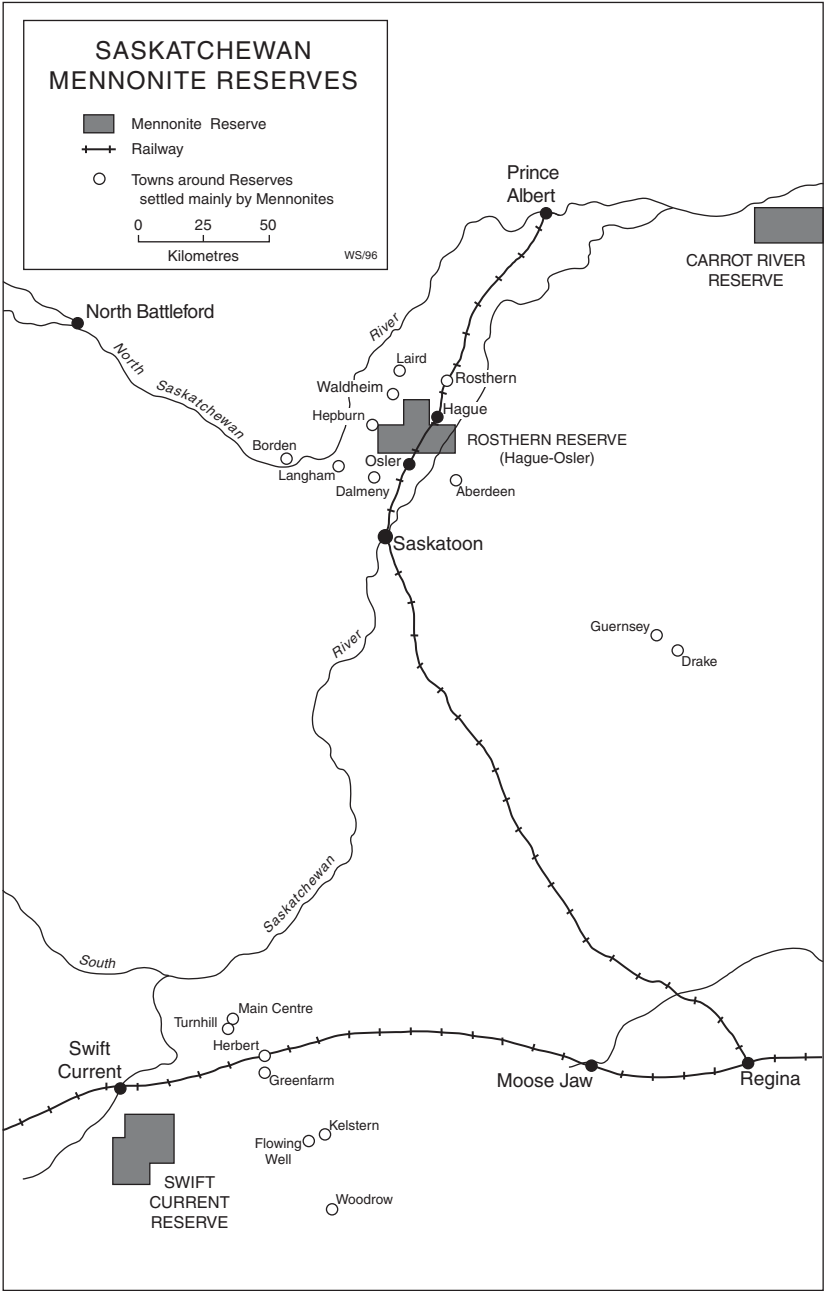
MAP 0.1 Mennonite colonies in Southern Ukraine

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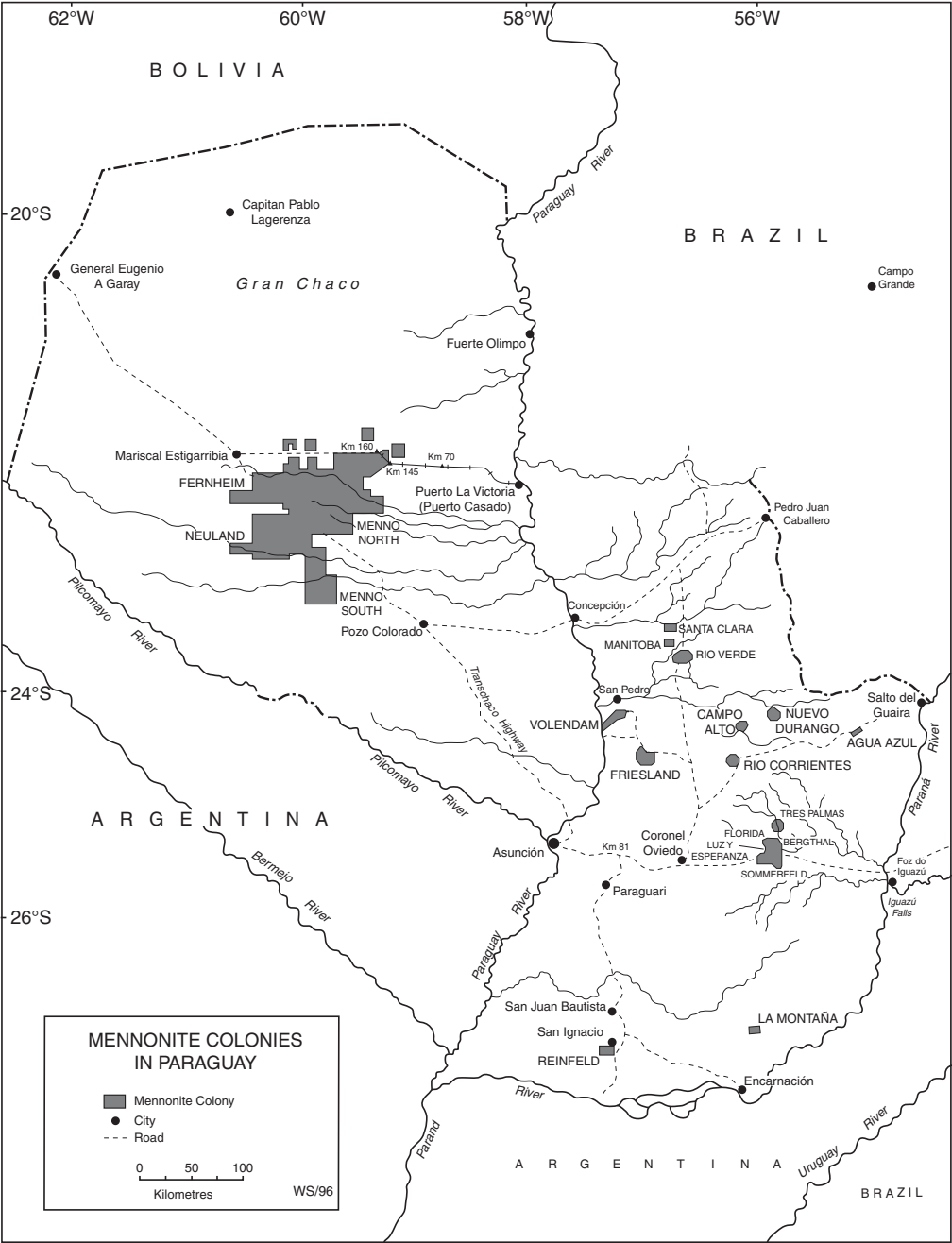
MAP 0.2 Mennonite settlements in Manitoba 1874-1878

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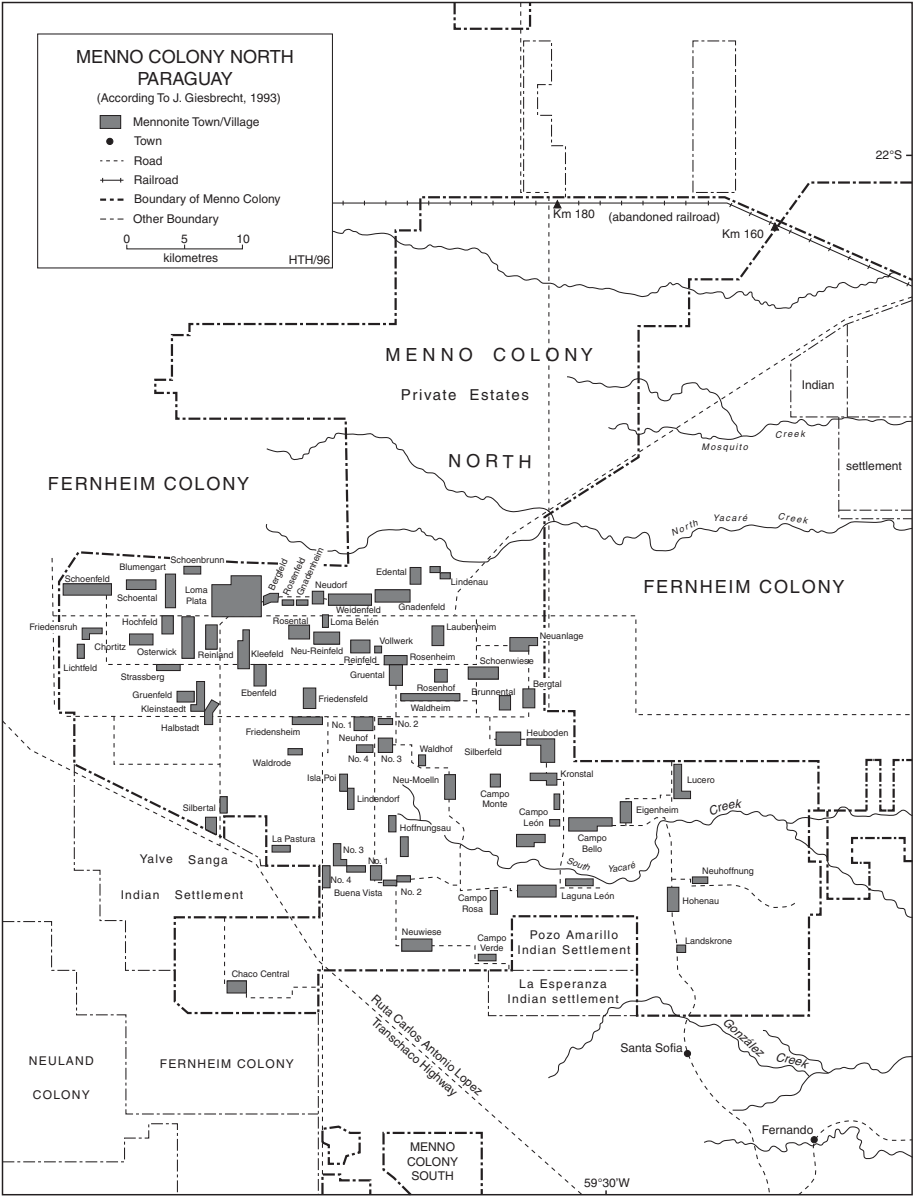
MAP 0.3 Saskatchewan Mennonite reserves

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MAP 0.4 Mennonite colonies in Paraguay

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MAP 0.5 Menno Colony North Paraguay

