

## **History 845: Whither German Histories?**

**Spring 2015, M 11:00-12:55, 2611 Mosse Humanities**

**Instructor: R. Koshar (rjkoshar@wisc.edu)**

**Office hours: 4101 Mosse Humanities, MW 4-5**

This seminar examines recent trends in the historiography of Germanophone Europe, placing emphasis on the question of how we study modern German histories in the twenty-first century. In an era of neo-liberal economics, Europeanization, and “transnationalism,” the limitations of national historiographies have become clearer than ever. Most historians of the German experience no longer rely on a univocal narrative of “German history.” But what combination of narratives might replace older, notionally more coherent story lines? How do multiplicity and complexity also raise questions of narrative strategies? Does German history consist of fragmented and discontinuous pasts? Or are there broader continuities and coherences—cultural, economic, political, social—that demand historical attention? Where should we look for the global in the national, and the national in the global? How do such questions interplay with the study of other social identities—class, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, locale, region, generation? We approach these issues largely from the perspective of periodical literature, though we do concentrate on an important recent book-length study, Timothy Snyder’s *Bloodlands*, at one point in the course.

Requirements:

**Discussion**— Each week students discuss a common set of readings designed to highlight key historiographical and methodological issues. All students are responsible for all the readings listed for weekly meetings.

**Discussion questions**—Each week students will have a specific article or articles assigned to them. Their job is to provide a summary overview (not a blow-by-blow account of each selection) and raise questions or point to problems. At least 24 hours before class, i.e., by 11am on Sundays, students will circulate via e-mail two discussion questions pertaining to their assignment. These questions may be open-ended or they may deal with more specific aspects of the problem in question. The key is to formulate questions that engage and provoke.

**Book reviews**—Students are responsible for six brief (~750 word) reviews of books suggested by the course reading. Students have broad latitude in choosing their books for review. If in doubt about your selection, check with me via email. The review should point to the relevance of the book with respect to weekly topics, and suggest how it addresses (or fails to address) major historiographical issues. Please submit the reviews in class on the following dates: February 2, 16; March 2, 16; April 6, 20.

**Historiographical essay**—Students are required to submit a historiographical essay of 18-20 pages in length that builds on our weekly readings and discussion. Students will

preview their end-of-semester project in a brief presentation in seminar on May 4. Papers are due May 11; electronic copies only.

For those students who would like to extra background reading on the basics of modern German & European history, I can suggest the following very abbreviated list:

David Blackbourn, *History of Germany 1780-1918: The Long Nineteenth Century*  
 Thomas Childers, *The Nazi Voter: The Social Foundations of Fascism, 1919-1933*  
 Geoff Eley, *Forging Democracy: The History of the Left in Europe, 1850-2000*  
 Richard J. Evans, *The Coming of the Third Reich*  
 Idem., *The Third Reich in Power*  
 Idem., *The Third Reich at War*  
 Mary Fulbrook, *The People's State: East German Society from Hitler to Honecker*  
 William W. Hagen, *German History in Modern Times: Four Lives of the Nation*  
 Konrad Jarausch and Michael Geyer, *Shattered Past: Reconstructing Germany Histories*  
 Matthew Jefferies, *Imperial Culture in Germany, 1871-1918*  
 Tony Judt, *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945*  
 Martin Kitchen, *A History of Modern Germany*  
 Michael Mann, *Fascists*  
 Hans Mommsen, *The Rise & Fall of Weimar Democracy*  
 Wolfgang J. Mommsen, *Imperial Germany 1867-1918: Politics, Culture, and Society in an Authoritarian State*  
 Norman M. Naimark, *Fires of Hatred: Ethnic Cleansing in Twentieth Century Europe*  
 Detlev J.K. Peukert, *The Weimar Republic: The Crisis of Classical Modernity*  
 Frank B. Tipton, *A History of Modern Germany since 1815*  
 Hans-Ulrich Wehler, *Deutsche Gesellschaftsgeschichte*, 5 vols.  
 Eric Weitz, *Weimar Germany: Promise and Tragedy*

### **Jan 26: Sonderweg, ever and always...**

Winson Chu et al, "A Sonderweg through Eastern Europe? The Varieties of German Rule in Poland during the Two World Wars," *German History* 31, 3 (2013): 318-44.  
 Stephan Petzold, "The Social Making of a Historian: Fritz Fischer's Distancing from Bourgeois-Conservative Historiography, 1930-1960," *Journal of Contemporary History* 48, 2 (2013): 271-89.  
 Hartmut Pogge von Strandmann, "The Political and Historical Significance of the Fischer Controversy," *Journal of Contemporary History* 48, 2 (2013): 251-70.  
 Jennifer Jenkins, "Fritz Fischer's 'Programme for Revolution': Implications for a Global History of the First World War," *Journal of Contemporary History* 48, 2 (2013): 397-418.  
 Helmut Walser Smith, "When the Sonderweg Debate Left Us," *German Studies Review* 31, 2 (May 2008): 225-40.  
 George S. Williamson, "A Religious Sonderweg? Reflections on the Sacred and the Secular in the Historiography of Modern Germany," *Church History* 75, 1 (march 2006): 139-56.

- Celia Applegate, "Metaphors of Continuity: The Promise and Perils of Taking the Long View," *German History* 27, 3 (2009): 433-39.
- William W. Hagen, "Master Narratives Beyond Postmodernity: Germany's 'Separate Path' in Historiographical-Philosophical Light," *German Studies Review* 30, 1 (February 2007): 1-32.

## **Feb 2: Large Themes, Long Continuities**

### **Book review #1 due**

- Arnd Bauerkämper, "The Twisted Road to Democracy as a Quest for Security: Germany in the Twentieth Century," *German History* 32, 3 (2014): 431-55.
- H. Glenn Penny, "Ambiguities, Fractures and Myopic Histories: Recent work on German Minorities in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe," *Contemporary European History* 23 (2014): 135-49.
- H. Glenn Penny, "The Fate of the Nineteenth Century in German Historiography," *Journal of Modern History* 80 (March 2008): 81-108.
- Annemarie Sammartino, "After Brubaker: Citizenship in Modern Germany, 1848 to Today," *German History* 27, 4 (2009): 583-99.
- "Forum: The 'German Question' in the History of Science and the 'Science Question' in German History," *German History* 29, 4 (2011): 628-39.
- "Forum: History of Emotions," *German History* 28, 1 (2010): 67-80.
- Mark Fenemore, "The Recent Historiography of Sexuality in Twentieth-Century Germany," *The Historical Journal* 52, 3 (2009): 763-79.
- David F. Crew, "Visual Power? The Politics of Images in Twentieth-Century Germany and Austria-Hungary," *German History* 27, 2 (2009): 271-85.
- Konrad J. Jarausch, "Beyond the National Narrative: Implications of Reunification for Recent German History," *German History* 28, 4 (2010): 498-514.

## **Feb 9: The Spatial Turn, I**

- Larson Powell, "The Meaning of Working Through the East," *German Studies Review* 37, 3 (October 2013): 597-614.
- Gerd Schwerhoff, "Spaces, Places, and the Historians: A Comment from a German Perspective," *History and Theory* 52 (October 2013): 420-32.
- David Blackbourn, "Germany and the Birth of the Modern World," *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 51 (Fall 2012): 9-21.
- "Forum: Asia, Germany, and the Transnational Turn," *German History* 28, 4 (2010): 515-36.
- H. Glenn Penny, "German Polycentrism and the Writing of History," *German History* 30, 2 (2012): 265-82.
- Peter Polak-Springer, "Landscapes of Revanchism: Building and the Contestation of Space in an Industrial Polish-German Borderland," *Central European History* 45 (2012): 485-522.
- Eric Storm, "Nation-building in the Provinces: The Interplay between Local, Regional, and National Identities in Central and Western Europe, 1870-1945," *European History Quarterly* 42, 4 (2012): 650-63.

Brendan Karch, "Nationalism on the Margins: Silesians Between Germany and Poland, 1848-1945," *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 50 (Spring 2012): 39-55.

### **Feb 16: The Spatial Turn, II: Berlin's Longue Duree**

#### **Book review #2 due**

Eli Rubin, "From the *Grünen Wiesen* to Urban Space: Berlin, Expansion, and the *Longue Durée*. Introduction," *Central European History* 47 (2014): 221-44.

Kristin Poling, "Shantytowns and Pioneers beyond the City Wall: Berlin's Urban Frontier in the Nineteenth Century," *Central European History* 47 (2014): 245-74.

Marion W. Gray, "Urban Sewage and Green Meadows: Berlin's Expansion to the South 1870-1920," *Central European History* 47 (2014): 275-306.

Barry A Jackisch, "The Nature of Berlin: Green Space and Visions of a New German Capital," *Central European History* 47 (2014): 307-33.

Eli Rubin, "Amnesiopolis: From *Mietskaserne* to *Wohnungsbauserie 70* in East Berlin's Northeast," *Central European History* 47 (2014): 334-74.

### **Feb 23: Wilhelmine Germany**

Matthew Fitzpatrick, "A State of Exception? Mass Expulsions and the German Constitutional State, 1871-1914," *The Journal of Modern History* 85, 4 (December 2013): 772-800.

Robert C. Nelson, "From Manitoba to the Memel: Max Sering, inner colonization and the German East," *Social History* 35, 4 (November 2010): 439-57.

Michael Ermarth, "Recovering the Full Palette of Possibilities for Wilhelmine Germany, 1890-1914," *Modern Intellectual History*, 3, 3 (2006): 535-45.

Peter Staudenmaier, "Occultism, Race, and Politics in German-Speaking Europe, 1880-1940," *European History Quarterly* 39, 1 (2009): 47-70.

Robert Beachy, "The German Invention of Homosexuality," *Journal of Modern History* 82 (December 2010): 801-838.

Dennis Sweeney, "Reconsidering the Modernity Paradigm: Reform Movements, the Social, and the State in Wilhelmine Germany," *Social History* 31, 4 (November 2006): 405-34.

Oliver Zimmer, "Beneath the 'Culture War': Corpus Christi Processions and Mutual Accommodation in the Second German Empire," *Journal of Modern History* 82 (June 2010): 288-334.

Jens Jaeger, "Colony as Heimat? The Formation of Colonial Identity in Germany around 1900," *German History* 27, 4 (2009): 467-489.

Keith Neilson, "1914: The German War?" *European History Quarterly* 44, 3 (2014): 395-418.

### **Mar 2: Weimar Republic: Culture of Politics-Politics of Culture, I**

#### **Book review #3 due**

Andrea Meissner, "Against 'Sentimental' Piety: The Search for a New Culture of Emotions in Interwar German Catholicism," *German History* 32, 3 (2014): 393-413.

- Manuela Achilles, "With a Passion for Reason: Celebrating the Constitution in Weimar Germany," *Central European History* 43 (2010), 666–89.
- Robert Gerwarth, "The Past in Weimar History," *Journal of Contemporary History* 15, 1 (2006): 1-22.
- Benjamin Zieman, "Weimar was Weimar: Politics, Culture, and the Emplotment of the German Republic," *German History* 28, 4 (2010): 542-71.
- Kathleen Canning, "Introduction: The Politics of Symbols, Semantics, and Sentiments in the Weimar Republic," *Central European History* 43 (2010): 567–580. Special Issue: "Culture of Politics—Politics of Culture: New Perspectives on the Weimar Republic."
- Eric D. Weitz, "Germany and its Histories," *German History* 43 (2010): 581-91. Special Issue: "Culture of Politics—Politics of Culture: New Perspectives on the Weimar Republic."
- Rüdiger Graf, "Either-Or: The Narrative of "Crisis" in Weimar Germany and in Historiography," *Central European History* 43 (2010): 592–615. Special Issue: "Culture of Politics—Politics of Culture: New Perspectives on the Weimar Republic."

### **Mar 9: Weimar: Culture of Politics-Politics of Culture, II**

- Goetz Nordbruch, "Arab Students in Weimar Germany –Politics and Thought Beyond Borders," *Journal of Contemporary History* 49, 2 (2014): 275–95.
- Eric Bryden, "Heroes and Martyrs of the Republic: *Reichsbanner Geschichtspolitik* in Weimar Germany," *Central European History* 43 (2010), 639–65.
- Timothy Scott Brown, "The SA in the Radical Imagination of the Long Weimar Republic," *Central European History* 46 (2013), 238–74.
- Erin Hochman, "*Ein Volk, ein Reich, eine Republik: Großdeutsch* Nationalism and Democratic Politics in the Weimar and First Austrian Republics," *German History* 32, 1 (2014): 29-52.
- Heidi J.S. Tworek, "Journalistic Statesmanship: Protecting the Press in Weimar Germany and Abroad," *German History* 32, 4 (2014): 559-78.
- Anthony D. Kauders, "The Crisis of the Psyche and the Future of Germany: The Encounter with Freud in the Weimar Republic," *Central European History* 46 (2013), 325–45.
- Nadine Rossol, "Performing the Nation: Sports, Spectacles, and Aesthetics in Germany, 1926–1936," *Central European History* 43 (2010), 616–38.

### **Mar 16: Policing, Law, Violence (From Wilhelmine to Nazi Germany)**

#### **Book review #4 due**

- Rüdiger Bergien, "The Consensus on Defense and Weimar Prussia's Civil Service," *Central European History* 41 (2008): 179–203.
- Simon Constantine, "Particularities of Persecution. The Policing of Gypsies in Saxony 1871–1914," *Immigrants & Minorities* 32, 1 (2014): 38-61.
- Sace Elder, "The Right to Beat a Child: Corporal Punishment and the Law in Wilhelmine Germany," *Central European History* 47 (2014): 54-75.

- Sace Elder, "Murder, Denunciation and Criminal Policing in Weimar Berlin," *Journal of Contemporary History* 41, 3 (2006): 401-19.
- Christian Goeschel, "The Criminal Underworld in Weimar and Nazi Berlin," *History Workshop Journal* 75 (2013): 58-80.
- Molly Loberg, "The Fortress Shop: Consumer Culture, Violence, and Security in Weimar Berlin," *Journal of Contemporary History* 49, 4 (2014): 675-701.
- Heather Wolfram, "Crime, Clairvoyance and the Weimar Police," *Journal of Contemporary History* 44, 4 (2009): 581-601.
- Laurie Marhoefer, "Degeneration, Sexual Freedom, and the Politics of the Weimar Republic," *German Studies Review* 34, 3 (2011): 529-49.

### **Mar 23: Nazism, I**

- Maren Röger, "The Sexual Policies and Sexual Realities of the German Occupiers in Poland in the Second World War," *Contemporary European History*, 23 (2014): 1-21.
- Marjorie Lamberti "The Search for the 'Other Germany': Refugee Historians from Nazi Germany and the Contested Historical Legacy of the Resistance to Hitler," *Central European History* 47 (2014), 402-29.
- "Forum: Everyday Life in Nazi Germany," *German History* 27, 4 (2009): 560-79.
- Adelheid von Saldern, "Innovative Trends in Women's and Gender Studies of the National Socialist Era," *German History* 27, 4 (2009): 84-112.
- Moritz Föllmer, "Was Nazism Collectivistic? Redefining the Individual in Berlin, 1930-1945," *Journal of Modern History* 82 (March 2010): 61-100.
- Moritz Föllmer, "The Subjective Dimension in Nazi Germany," *The Historical Journal* 56, 4 (2013): 1107-32.
- "Forum: German History Beyond National Socialism," *German History* 29, 3 (2011): 470-84.
- "Forum: Nazi Terror," *German History* 29, 1 (2011): 79-98.

### **Spring Recess Mar 28-Apr 5**

#### **Apr 6: Nazism, II: Bloodlands**

##### **Book review #5 due**

- Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (Basic Books, 2010).
- Mark Mazower, "Timothy Snyder's *Bloodlands*," *Contemporary European History* 21, 2 (2012): 117-23.
- Dan Diner, "Topography of Interpretation: Reviewing Timothy Snyder's *Bloodlands*," *Contemporary European History* 21, 2 (2012): 125-31.
- Thomas Kühne, "Great Men and Large Numbers: Undertheorizing a History of Mass Killing," *Contemporary European History* 21, 2 (2012): 133-43.
- Jörg Baberowski, "Once and for all: The encounter between Stalinism and Nazism. Critical remarks on Timothy Snyder's *Bloodlands*," *Contemporary European History*, 21, 2 (2012): 145-48.

Timothy Snyder, "The Causes of the Holocaust," *Contemporary European History*, 21, 2 (2012): 149-68.

### **Apr 13: Postwar Occupations: Displacements and Transitions**

#### **Book review #4 due**

- Jans-Hinnerk Antons, "Displaced Persons in Postwar Germany: Parallel Societies in a Hostile Environment," *Journal of Contemporary History*, 49, 1 (2014): 92-114.
- Henry Lustiger Thaler, "History and Memory: The Orthodox Experience in the Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp," *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 27, 1 (2013): 30-56.
- Robert Knight, "National Construction Work and Hierarchies of Empathy in Postwar Austria," *Journal of Contemporary History* 49, 3 (2014): 491-513.
- Nicholas J. Schlosser, "Creating an 'Atmosphere of Objectivity': Radio in the American Sector, Objectivity and the United States' Propaganda Campaign against the German Democratic Republic, 1945-1961," *German History* 29, 4 (2011): 610-27.
- Laura J. Hilton, "The Black Market in History and Memory: German Perceptions of Victimhood from 1945 to 1948," *German History* 28, 4 (2010): 479-97.
- Atina Grossman, "Grams, Calories, and Food: Languages of Victimization, Entitlement, and Human Rights in Occupied Germany, 1945-1949," *Central European History* 44 (2011): 118-48.
- Tara Zahra, "The Psychological Marshall Plan: Displacement, Gender, and Human Rights after World War II," *Central European History* 44 (2011): 37-62.
- Ulrike Weckel, "Disappointed Hopes for Spontaneous Mass Conversions" German Responses to Allied Atrocity Film Screenings, 1945-46," *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 51 (Fall 2012): 39-53.

### **Apr 20: West Germany**

#### **Book review #6 due**

- Pertti Ahonen, "On Forced Migrations: Transnational Realities and National Narratives in Post-1945 (West) Germany," *German History* 32, 4 (2014): 599-614.
- Patrice Poutrus, "Asylum in Postwar Germany: Refugee Admission Policies and Their Practical Implementation in the Federal Republic and the GDR Between the Late 1940s and the Mid-1970s," *Journal of Contemporary History* 49, 1 (2014): 115-33.
- Hans Kundnani, "Perpetrators and Victims: Germany's 1968 Generation and Collective Memory," *German Life and Letters* 64, 2 (2011): 272-82.
- Alfred Rosenfeld, "Militant Democracy: The Legacy of West Germany's War on Terror in the 1970s," *The European Legacy* 19, 5 (2014): 568-89.
- Till van Rahden, "Clumsy Democrats: Moral Passions in the Federal Republic," *German History* 29, 3 (2011): 485-504.
- Frank Biess, "'Everybody has a Chance': Nuclear Angst, Civil Defense, and the History of Emotions in Postwar West Germany," *German History* 27, 2 (2009): 215-43.
- Monica Black, "Miracles in the Shadow of the Economic Miracle: The 'Supernatural' in West Germany," *Journal of Modern History* 84, 4 (December 2012): 833-60.

Jörg Arnold, “‘Once Upon a Time There Was a Lovely Town’: The Allied Air War, Reconstruction, and Nostalgia in Kassel (1943-2000),” *German History* 29, 3 (2011): 445-69.

**Apr 27: East Germany**

A. James McAdams, “The Last East German and the Memory of the German Democratic Republic,” *German Politics and Society* 28, 1 (2010): 30-41.

Timothy S. Brown, “‘1968’ East and West: Divided Germany as a Case Study in Transnational History,” *American Historical Review* (February 2009): 69-96.

Alexander Burdumy, “Reconsidering the Role of the Welfare State Within the German Democratic Republic’s Political System,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 48, 4 (2013): 872–89.

Peter Monteath, “A Day to Remember: East Germany’s Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Fascism,” *German History* 26, 2 (2008): 195-218.

Andrew I. Port, “Love, Lust, and Lies Under Communism: Family Values and Adulterous Liaisons in Early East Germany,” *Central European History* 44 (2011): 478-505.

Paul Betts, “The Twilight of the Idols: East German Memory and Material Culture,” *Journal of Modern History* 72, 3 (September 2000): 731-65.

Jonathan R. Zatlín, “Unifying Without Integrating: The East German Collapse and German Unity,” *Central European History* 43 (2010): 484-507.

Oana Godeanu-Kenworthy, “Deconstructing Ostalgia: The National Past Between Commodity and Simulacrum in Wolfgang Becker’s *Good Bye Lenin!*” *European Studies Quarterly* 41, 2 (2011): 161-77.

**May 4: Student Presentations**

**May 11: Final papers due**