

Preface

This issue of the *Bulletin* begins with a roundtable conversation about “New Research on Social Movements in Cold War Germany” that the GHI Washington hosted, in a virtual format, in 2022. The last few years have seen a burst of new scholarship on social movements in 1970s and 1980s East and West Germany, including gay and lesbian movements, new visions of conservatism, and antiracist activism. The GHI invited four authors of recent books on postwar social movements – Tiffany Florvil, Craig Griffiths, Samuel Huneke, and Anna von der Goltz – to discuss how recent research has led to a rethinking of the contours of social movements, how different movements were connected to one another, how to think about the relationship between social movements in East and West Germany, and how this research on social movements might change the larger narratives of postwar history.

This issue’s next article addresses a different aspect of postwar Germany history, namely the influence of three German-speaking emigré historians – Adolf Leschnitzer, George Mosse, and Henry Friedlander – on the development of the historiography of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust and, in particular, the reception of their scholarship in West Germany. The author, Anna Corsten (University of Jena), won the 2021 Franz Steiner Prize for Transatlantic History for her book manuscript, published earlier this year in the German Historical Institute’s book series “Transatlantische Historische Studien” series, under the title *Unbequeme Erinnerung: Emigrierte Historiker in der deutschen und US-amerikanischen NS- und Holocaust-Forschung, 1945–1998*. In her feature article Corsten examines the reasons why the research and publications of these emigré historians were sidelined by the West German historical profession for many years before achieving belated recognition beginning in the 1980s. Prominent among these reasons was the opinion of West German

historians that Jewish emigré historians lacked the necessary objectivity that non-Jewish West German historians supposedly brought to the task of writing the history of a regime in which many of their number had been complicit.

The next section of this *Bulletin* is a thematic *Forum* on one of the most horrific – and still relatively neglected – aspects of Nazi Germany, its treatment of Soviet prisoners of war during the Second World War. The forum grew out of a symposium on the same topic that the GHI co-organized with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) last fall. The occasion for this symposium was the publication of the fourth volume of the *USHMM Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos*, which covers *Camps and Other Detention Facilities under the German Armed Forces*.

The Forum's first article, by Dallas Michelbacher (USHMM), highlights the key findings of the new *Encyclopedia* volume, which provides comprehensive information about the structure and organization of the German prisoner of war (POW) camp system, the experiences of prisoners of war in German captivity, and the role of the Wehrmacht in the persecution of civilian populations. With regard to Soviet POWs, the volume illustrates the mistreatment of Soviet prisoners of war in German captivity at a level of detail that is unprecedented in the English-language literature. The following article, coauthored by Andreas Hilger (Max Weber Foundation's Georgia Branch Office) and Esther Meier (Max Weber Network Eastern Europe & EurAsia), presents new research on the forced labor of Soviet POWs that has come out of the project "Soviet and German Prisoners of War and Internees," which was initiated in 2016 and was, until recently, associated with the German Historical Institute in Moscow. Hilger and Meier reveal the contradictions of a policy that ordered the widespread use of Soviet POWs for labor but, at the same time, followed the logic of a war of extermination. Far from benefiting from this contradiction, Soviet POWs got the worst of both worlds. Their poor treatment

and merciless exploitation resulted in the deaths of 3.3 million Soviet POWs, about 60% of those captured. The Forum's final article, by Edward Westermann (Texas A&M University, San Antonio), places the treatment of Soviet POWs in the larger context of the Wehrmacht's war in the East, arguing that Nazi Germany's previous military campaigns in Poland and Serbia established the murderous "practices and precedents that became part and parcel of the German way of war in the East, especially with regard to POWs and hostages."

The Conference Reports section looks back on GHI conferences that took place in the first half of this year covering a wide variety of topics ranging from the everyday history of airports to material culture in German-Jewish history to the production of knowledge by refugees. Please turn to our news section for recent GHI news. For up-to-date information on upcoming events, publications, fellowships, and calls for papers, please consult the GHI website at <http://www.ghi-dc.org>, check our twitter account at <https://twitter.com/GHIWashington>, or sign up for our digital newsletter on our website. We look forward to welcoming you at upcoming events in both Washington and Berkeley.

**Simone Lässig (Director) and
Richard F. Wetzell (Editor)**

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Features