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***Transforming Occupation in the Western Zones of Germany: Politics, Everyday Life and Social Interactions, 1945-55.* Edited by Camilo Erlichman and Christopher Knowles. London: Bloomsbury. 2018. 304 pp. £85.00 (hardback); £91.80 (ebook).**

The relationship between history and policy has been a long-contested one. The crucial question within is: to what extent can lessons from the past shape the decisions of the present? This quandary has proved especially pertinent for the deeply problematic concept of military occupation. For example, during the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, amid discussions of ‘democratisation’, ‘regime change’ and ‘nation-building’, American policymakers often claimed that they were looking to the supposedly model occupations of Germany and Japan after the Second World War as blueprints to guide them in their new endeavours. This discourse remains ongoing, which makes this edited volume especially timely. It features chapters on an impressively diverse range of topics, all of which fall under the umbrella of the Western (that is: American, British and French) occupation of Germany after the Second World War. Despite explaining how a clearer understanding of this occupation can help to guide present-day policymakers, this book also marks a move away from discussions of mere ‘high politics’ to consider some of the broader impacts of the phenomenon, especially on the occupiers and the occupied themselves. On the whole, it makes a valuable and much-needed contribution to the existing scholarship, comparing and contrasting all three zones rather than focusing on just one (and the American zone has, in the past, received the lion’s share of attention), moving beyond an emphasis on the Cold War, which has previously been unduly prominent in work on this topic, and emphasising the unique conditions of the occupation, so that it is seen not merely as an aftermath of the war nor as a prehistory of the Federal Republic of Germany, but as a discrete and interesting period in its own right.

Alongside a useful introduction by the editors, this book comprises fourteen chapters, each relatively short but each offering a window into a different element of the occupation. The chapters are divided into five parts, with titles such as ‘Doing Occupation’ and ‘Mediating Occupation’, but

there are other themes that link the individual chapters which only emerge during a closer reading. For instance, the perception of the occupation of Germany as 'benign' is challenged very effectively in both Susan Carruthers' chapter on wartime training for occupation and Andrew Beattie's on the internment of civilians. Elsewhere, the interplay between space and emotion is explored in three different contexts, adding a nuance and depth which has previously been largely absent from scholarship on the occupation – Bettina Blum explores how requisitioned homes were sources of great sadness and thus fed into the German victim narrative; Nadja Klopprogge shows how the places in which African-American GIs could mix with white German women raised a sense of hope for greater equality back in the USA; and Ann-Kristin Glöckner looks at how interactions between French soldiers (including those of Moroccan origin) and German women were part of a larger power struggle. In addition, both Heather L. Dichter and Douglas Bell demonstrate how the rebuilding of German civil society was not purely a goal of top-down 'democratisation' measures but could emerge more naturally from the resumption of leisure pursuits in Germany, such as organised sports and hunting respectively.

While it is not possible within the necessary constraints of this review to discuss each of the chapters at length, and while the quality throughout is excellent, there are three which stand out as particular highlights. Firstly, Caroline Sharples' chapter on the execution and disposal of Nazi war criminals raises some fascinating questions about how treatment of the dead plays a key role in shaping memory, but also how it can have an impact far beyond the personal, extending to diplomacy and international relations. As Sharples puts it with regard to the body of Rudolf Hess, who died in 1987, 'the Nazi corpse had become a powerful political tool' (p. 109). More generally, this chapter shows that processes of denazification and the wider reform of Germany under Allied occupation were not only concerned with the living, and thus prompts us to reconsider both the periodisation of occupation (stretching far beyond 1945-1949) and its individual timeframe (exceeding even a human lifespan).

Secondly, Daniel Cowling's chapter provides a closely zoomed-in approach, by addressing the subjective experiences of two British women who participated in different ways in the occupation. This is especially valuable because, at the individual level, the occupiers have previously received less attention than the occupied, and this is particularly true of women in the occupation. The use of ego-documents, especially diaries and letters to loved ones, gives us a rare insight into the lives of these two relatively different individuals and brings real nuance to the topic. Ultimately, their accounts show that while the experience of British occupiers was often distinct from the destruction and suffering of their surroundings, 'the two worlds of occupiers and occupied were not hermetically sealed from one another nor inherently oppositional' (p. 225).

Thirdly, in the book's final chapter, Michael Wala presents a very interesting case of collaboration between Western intelligence agencies and personnel who had served in the SS, Gestapo or Abwehr during the Third Reich, particularly with regard to the investigation of the somewhat mythic *Rote Kapelle* or 'Red Orchestra' spy ring. This truly exposes the continuities which existed across the supposed barrier of 1945 and the remarkable reconfiguration of allies and enemies which was seen not just in the intelligence community, but also in politics, science, and the civil service, and which highlights the pervasive power of the emergent Cold War mentality. As Wala puts it, the Red Orchestra was 'a valuable commodity that altered the attitudes of people on the ground, by redefining who was the enemy' (p. 279).

Those three chapters hopefully give some sense of the breadth of the book, as well as the new life which it breathes into the topic and the multitude of themes which it identifies. Certainly it is true that each of the fifteen chapters adds something valuable to the existing scholarship and ensures that studies of the post-Second World War occupation of Germany will continue to develop and diversify for the foreseeable future. Reaching an overall verdict on the book as a whole is difficult. While the introduction provides useful historiographical and thematic context, the lack of any form of conclusion means the book can feel like a slightly loose collection of essays rather than a more coherent, multi-faceted discussion. In addition, as with many edited works, the question of which subjects to include

and exclude is always a difficult one, but there are topics which feel notable in their absence here, such as the impact of colonial experiences in occupation strategies, the investigation and prosecution of war crimes, and the management of public health and medical facilities, to name just three. Moreover, while the comparative approach between the three Western occupiers is very interesting, and the move away from a USA-centric angle long overdue, the lack of the Soviet story did feel like something of an unfortunate omission, though it is true that its inclusion would have made this a very different and perhaps more unwieldy volume. Ultimately though, these are small complaints, and this book does succeed in assembling a wide and varied range of contributions (and contributors) and therefore offers an excellent summary of many of the key elements of the Allied occupation of Germany.

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