Munich Summer Program "Germany, the United States, and the Atlantic World" at the University of Munich (LMU)

The University of Munich (LMU) has been consistently ranked as one of Germany's top research universities in international rankings. Its Amerika-Institut (American Studies Institute) is considered one of the best of its kind in Germany, and it by far has the largest faculty in US history who offer a wide selection of classes in cultural, political, environmental, and social history, on African and Native American history, on film, music, and architecture, and many other subjects.

Beginning in the summer term of 2023, the Amerika-Institut will regularly offer a selection of seminars for both exchange students from the US who would like to spend the summer in Munich and Europe as well as for regular students from LMU Munich. Classes will have a major focus on the US, but will also provide a comparative perspective, focus on Germany, will include visits to institutions and/or bring in experts from Munich and outside.

Students will also receive an introduction into the history of Munich and Bavaria, will take part in cultural activities and have the opportunity for recreation.

Target group: US students (MA and advanced BA levels)

Period: 8 weeks of classroom instruction from late May till mid-to late July (in-person), preceded by joint Zoom class sessions, beginning early May group activities

Language of instruction: English

Costs: (semester fee) ca. 150 Euros

Health insurance: 120 Euros/month

Housing: the university cannot guarantee dorm rooms at this point, but we will provide

support to find temporary housing

Visa: only if stay is longer than 90 days

Seminar A: Transatlantic/ German-American Relations since World War II

Seminar B: History and Memory in the United States and in Germany

Seminar C: Culture and Environment

Credits: certification of between 3 and 9 ECTS per seminar (depending on oral and written assignments)

The Amerika-Institut will support students to find an internship during the semester break.

contact: Dr. Andreas Etges (etges@lmu.de)



LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

AMERIKA-INSTITUT AMERIKANISCHE KULTURGESCHICHTE DEPARTMENT FÜR ANGLISTIK UND AMERIKANISTIK



Amerika-Institut, Schellingstr. 3/VG - 80799 München

Prof. Dr. Christof Mauch Lehrstuhl für Amerikanische Kulturgeschichte

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Postanschrift Schellingstr. 3/VG 80799 München

Summer Semester 2023

How Green are the Germans?

Culture, History, and the Environment in Transatlantic Perspective

Prof. Dr. Christof Mauch (mauch@lmu.de)

Dd. Andreas Jünger, MA (Andreas.Juenger@rcc.lmu.de)

3-6 ECTS credits

Bayerische Landesbank München

Kto. 24 868 BLZ 700 500 00

USt-IdNr. DE 811 205 325

Credit Requirements

• regular and active class participation

reading of texts

- oral presentation
- research essay (ca. 25,000 characters plus additional work for 6 credits)

Course Description

Germany is globally seen as a successful environmental leader because of its renewable energy transition, environmental and climate protection, the nuclear power phase-out in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster, and the rise of the Green Party. The US, on the other hand, has been criticized for its lax environmental regulations, high CO2 emissions and a "culture of waste". Where do the cultural imaginaries of the two countries come from? How valid are they?

This class examines the interaction between humans and the natural world in Germany in historical perspective; and it draws select comparisons with developments in the United States. We will study local and regional developments - through excursions and place-based workshops in Munich and Bayaria.

This seminar is part of a new Munich summer program offered by the Amerika-Institut during the summer term. It is open to LMU students and to students from US partner universities. The seminar is organized as a multiple-block seminar.

Course Schedule

Friday, June 2, 1:00-5:00 pm

Friday, June 9, 1:00-5:00 pm

Friday, June 23/24, excursion

Friday, July 14, 1:00-5:00 pm

Saturday, July 15, full day block seminar

Saturday, July 22, excursion

Recommended Reading

- Ault, Julia. Saving Nature Under Socialism: Transnational Environmentalism in East Germany, 1968 1990. Cambridge University Press, 2021.
- Blackbourn, David. *The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape, and the Making of Modern Germany*. Norton & Company, 2007.
- Bruggemeier, Franz-Josef, Mark Cioc, Thomas Zeller, and Franz-Josef Brüggemeier. *How Green Were the Nazis?: Nature, Environment, and Nation in the Third Reich*. Ohio University Press, 2005.
- Duerbeck, Gabriele, Urte Stobbe, Hubert Zapf, Evi Zemanek, Aaron Allen, Martin Bemmann, Hannes Bergthaller, et al. *Ecological Thought in German Literature and Culture*. Lexington Books, 2019.
- Kalb, Martin. Environing Empire: Nature, Infrastructure and the Making of German Southwest Africa. Berghahn Books, 2022.
- Mauch, Christof. Nature in German History. Berghahn Books, 2004.
- Mauch, Christof, and Thomas Zeller. *The World beyond the Windshield: Roads and Landscapes in the United States and Europe*. Ohio University Press, 2008.
- Mauch, Christof, and Thomas Zeller. *Rivers in History. Perspectives on Waterways in Europe and North America*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008.
- McNeill, J., and Peter Engelke. *The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene since 1945*. Harvard University Press, 2016.
- Milder, Stephen. *Greening Democracy: The Anti-Nuclear Movement and Political Environmentalism in West Germany and Beyond, 1968–1983*. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Uekotter, Frank. *The Greenest Nation?: A New History of German Environmentalism*. The MIT Press, 2014.

Detailed Overview

Friday, June 2, 1:00-5:00 pm

Nature and Industrialization around 1900

Assigned Readings

Mauch, Christof, and Kiran Patel. "Environment: Conservation vs. Exploitation." In *The United States and Germany During the Twentieth Century: Competition and Convergence*, edited by Christof Mauch and Kiran Patel, 180-193, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Uekötter, Frank. "Modern Times, Modern Problems: Controlling Smoke, 1880–1914."

In The Age of Smoke. Environmental Policy in Germany and the United States, 1880–1970, edited by Frank Uekötter, 20-66, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009.

Rohkrämer, Thomas. "The Environment and Environmentalism." In *The Ashgate Research Companion to Imperial Germany*, edited by Matthew Jefferies, 317-

332, Abingdon: Routledge, 2015.

Friday, June 9, 1:00-5:00 pm
Environment and Dictatorship: Nazi Germany and the GDR

Assigned Readings:

Radkau, Joachim. "The Desert Threatens': Environmental Fears in the Age of Crisis – the New Deal and Nazi Germany." In *The Age of Ecology. A Global History*, edited by Joachim Radkau, 46-60, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2014.

Lekan, Thomas. "It Shall Be the Whole Landscape!" The Reich Nature Protection Law and Regional Planning in the Third Reich." In *How Green Were the Nazis?*Nature, Environment, and Nation in the Third Reich, edited by Franz-Josef Brüggemeier, Mark Cioc, and Thomas Zeller, 73-100, Athens: Ohio University Press, 2005.

Kirchhof, Astrid, and John R. McNeill. "Introduction: Environmentalism, Environmental Policy, Capitalism, and Communism." In *Nature and the Iron Curtain.* Environmental Policy and Social Movements in Communist and Capitalist

Countries, 1945-1990, edited by Astrid Kirchhof and John R. McNeill, 3-14, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019.

Grady, Tim. "A Shared Environment: German-German Relations along the Border, 1945-72." Journal of Contemporary History 50, no. 3 (2015): 660–79.

Ault, Julia E. "Defending God's Creation? The Environment in State, Church and Society in the German Democratic Republic, 1975–1989."

German History, Volume 37, Issue 2, June 2019: 205–226.

Friday, June 23 (Saturday June 24) Excursion (Bavarian National Park)

National Parks

Assigned Readings

Gissibl, Bernhard. "A Laboratory for the Implementation of "Wilderness" in Central Europe—The Bavarian Forest National Park." *Environment & Society Portal, Arcadia* (2014), no. 4.

Sunseri, Thaddeus. "Exploiting the *Urwald*: German Post-Colonial Forestry in Poland and Central Africa, 1900–1960." *Past & Present*, Volume 214, Issue 1 (2012): 305–342.

Jones, Karen. "Unpacking Yellowstone: The American National Park in Global Perspective." In Civilizing Nature: National Parks in Global Historical

Perspective, edited by Bernhard Gissibl, Sabine Höhler and Pstrick Kupper, 31–49, New York: Berghahn Books, 2013.

Friday, July 14, 1:00-5:00 pm
From the Conservation Movement to Political Ecology

Assigned Readings

Uekötter, Frank. "Getting in Motion: German Environmentalism, 1945 to 1980." In *The Greenest Nation? A New History of German Environmentalism*, edited by Frank Uekötter, 59-100, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2014.

Zelko, Frank. "The Umweltmulti Arrives: Greenpeace and Grass Roots
Environmentalism in West Germany." Australian Journal of Politics and History 61
(2015): 397-413.

Milder, Stephen. "An "Other American". Petra Kelly and the Power of Green Politic in the United States." In *Making Sense of the Americas: How Protest Related to America in the 1980s and Beyond*, edited by Jan Hansen, Christian Helm and Frank Reichherzer, 245–65, Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag, 2015.

Saturday, July 15, full day block seminar Fossil Fuels, Nuclear Power and Renewables: Germany's Contested Energy Mix in the 20th and 21st Centuries Blackbourn, David. "The Culture and Politics of Energy in Germany: A Historical Perspective." *RCC Perspectives*, no. 4 (2013): 1–31.

Trischler, Helmuth, and Astrid Mignon Kirchhof. "The Long and Winded History of West Germany's Nuclear Phase-Out.", In *Pathways into and out of Nuclear Power in Western Europe: Austria, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, and Sweden*, edited by Astrid Kirchhof, 124-169, München: Deutsches Museum Studies, 2020.

Morris, Craig, and Arne Jungjohann. "Energiewende: The Solution to More Problems Than Climate Change." In *Energy Democracy. Germany's ENERGIEWENDE to Renewables*, edited by Craig Morris and Arne Jungjohann, 1-14, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Schunz, Simon. "Transatlantic Relations and the Challenges of Climate Change and the Environment." In *Transatlantic Relations: Challenge and Resilience*, edited by Donald E. Abelson and Stephen Brooks, 79-100, London/New York: Routledge, 2022. Summer Semester 2023

Detailed Overview

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Mauch, Christof, and Kiran Patel. "Environment: Conservation vs. Exploitation." In The United States and Germany During the Twentieth Century: Competition and Convergence, edited by Christof Mauch and Kiran Patel, 180-193, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Uekötter, Frank. "Modern Times, Modern Problems: Controlling Smoke, 1880–1914." In: The Age of Smoke. Environmental Policy in Germany and the United States, 1880-1970, edited by Frank Uekötter, 20-66, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009.

Rohkrämer, Thomas. "The Environment and Environmentalism." In The Ashgate
Companion to Imperial Germany, edited by Matthew Jefferies,
317-332, Abingdon: Routledge, 2015.

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Environment and Dictatorship: Nazi Germany and the GDR

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- Radkau, Joachim. "The Desert Threatens': Environmental Fears in the Age of Crisis –
 the New Deal and Nazi Germany." In The Age of Ecology. A Global History, edited by
 Joachim Radkau, 46-60, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2014.
- Lekan, Thomas. "It Shall Be the Whole Landscape!" The Reich Nature Protection Law and Regional Planning in the Third Reich." In How Green Were the Nazis? Nature, Environment, and Nation in the Third Reich, edited by Franz-Josef Brüggemeier, Mark Cioc, and Thomas Zeller, 73-100, Athens: Ohio University Press, 2005.

Kirchhof, Astrid, and John R. McNeill. "Introduction: Environmentalism, Environmental Policy, Capitalism, and Communism." In Nature and the Iron Curtain. Environmental Policy and Social Movements in Communist and Capitalist

Countries, 1945-1990, edited by Astrid Kirchhof and John R. McNeill, 3-14,

Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019.

- Grady, Tim. "A Shared Environment: German-German Relations along the Border, 1945-72." Journal of Contemporary History 50, no. 3 (2015): 660–79.
- Ault, Julia E. "Defending God's Creation? The Environment in State, Church and Society in the German Democratic Republic, 1975–1989." German History, Volume 37, Issue 2, June 2019: 205–226.

Friday, June 23/24, excursion (Bavarian National Park)

National Parks

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Gissibl, Bernhard. "A Laboratory for the Implementation of "Wilderness" in Central Europe—The Bavarian Forest National Park." Environment & Society Portal, Arcadia (2014), no. 4.

Sunseri, Thaddeus. "Exploiting the Urwald: German Post-Colonial Forestry in Poland and Central Africa, 1900–1960." Past & Present, Volume 214, Issue 1 (2012): 305–342.

Jones, Karen. "Unpacking Yellowstone: The American National Park in Global Perspective." In Civilizing Nature: National Parks in Global Historical

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Zelko, Frank. "The Umweltmulti Arrives: Greenpeace and Grass Roots
Environmentalism in West Germany." Australian Journal of Politics and History 61
(2015): 397-413.

Milder, Stephen. "An "Other American". Petra Kelly and the Power of Green Politic in the United States." In Making Sense of the Americas: How Protest Related to America in the 1980s and Beyond, edited by Jan Hansen, Christian Helm and Frank Reichherzer, 245–65, Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag, 2015.

Saturday, July 15, full day block seminar

Fossil Fuels, Nuclear Power and Renewables: Germany's Contested Energy Mix in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Assigned Readings

Blackbourn, David. "The Culture and Politics of Energy in Germany: A Historical Perspective." RCC Perspectives, no. 4 (2013): 1–31.

Trischler, Helmuth, and Astrid Mignon Kirchhof. "The Long and Winded History of
West Germany's Nuclear Phase-Out.", In Pathways into and out of Nuclear Power in
Western Europe: Austria, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, and
Sweden, edited by Astrid Kirchhof, 124-169, München: Deutsches Museum
Studies, 2020.

Morris, Craig, and Arne Jungjohann. "Energiewende: The Solution to More Problems Than Climate Change." In Energy Democracy. Germany's ENERGIEWENDE to Renewables, edited by Craig Morris and Arne Jungjohann, 1-14, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Schunz, Simon. "Transatlantic Relations and the Challenges of Climate Change and the Environment." In Transatlantic Relations: Challenge and Resilience, edited by Donald E. Abelson and Stephen Brooks, 79-100, London/New York: Routledge, 2022.

Friday, July 21, excursion (Munich: Olympiapark and Isar River)

Urban Environments

Assigned Readings

Jochum, Georg. "Munich and Its Isar River: A Rafting Port on an Alpine River." Environment & Society Portal, Arcadia (2013), no. 18.

Schiller, Kay, and Christopher Young. "Motion and Landscape: Otl Aicher, Günther Grzimek and the Graphic and Garden Designs of the 1972 Munich Olympics." Urban History 37, no. 2 (July 6, 2010): 272–88.

Friday July 21 Excursion (Munich: Olympiapark and Isar River)

Urban Environments

Assigned Readings

Jochum, Georg. "Munich and Its Isar River: A Rafting Port on an Alpine River." Environment & Society Portal, Arcadia (2013), no. 18.

Kuen, Laura, Gesa Lüdecke, and Christof Mauch, eds., Ecopolis Munich: Stories of Discovery, Munich: Rachel Carson Center 2020

Lübken, Uwe. "Rivers and Risk in the City: The Urban Floodplain as a Contested Space." In *Urban Rivers: Remaking Rivers, Cities, and Space in Europe and North America*, edited by Stéphane Castonguay and Matthew Evenden, Lübken, Uwe. "Rivers and Risk in the City: The Urban Floodplain as a Contested Space." In Urban Rivers: Remaking Rivers, Cities, and Space in Europe and North America, edited by Stéphane Castonguay and Matthew Evenden, 130–44, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012.

Schiller, Kay, and Christopher Young. "Motion and Landscape: Otl Aicher, Günther Grzimek and the Graphic and Garden Designs of the 1972 Munich Olympics." *Urban History* 37, no. 2 (July 6, 2010): 272–88.

Guest speakers may include:

Dr. Katherine Arnold (RCC)

Prof. Dorothee Brantz TU Berlin

Prof. Tom Lekan (Visiting Professor RCC)

Dr. Steve Milder (RCC)

International Students who attend the Summer Program can also join the RCCLunchtime Colloquium: Environment and Society- International Perspectives Every Thursday 12:30-14:00

and the joint Lecture Series of the Amerika-Institut and the RCC titled Crises - Wars - Environment Every Thursday 14:15-15:45

Amerika-Institut, Amerikanische Kulturgeschichte Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

Through Good Times and Bad German-American Relations since World War II

summer term 2023

Tu afternoon

3-6 ECTS

Dr. Andreas Etges (etges@lmu.de) and Alexandra Schenke (a.schenke@amerikanistik.unimuenchen.de)

Credit Requirements

- regular and active class participation
- reading of texts
- oral presentation (12-15 minutes)
- research paper based on primary documents (ca. 25,000 characters plus additional work for 6 credits)

In May 2019, Chancellor Angela Merkel said: "The old certainties of the post-war order no longer apply." While this statement was to some degree a comment on the Trump presidency, it also alludes to the major changes in German-American relations from World War II till today. What began as occupation and reeducation turned into an important partnership, that like all long-term relationships went through good times and the bad, with the weaker partner growing more emancipated over time. The seminar will focus both on history and on more recent developments, and there will be a number of guests and a couple of additional events (e.g. a walking tour)

This seminar is part of a new Munich summer program offered by the Amerika-Institut during the summer term and is open to students from US partner universities. Regular class sessions will begin May 23, and there will be special (compact) sessions later in the term. Dates will be announced before the term starts.

late April/early May introductory session via Zoom

WWII, Postwar Planning, and Occupation

Edmund Spevack, The Allied Council of Foreign Ministers Conferences and the German Question, 1945–1947, in: Detlef Junker (ed.), The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1945–1990: A Handbook, Volume 1: 1945–1968, Cambridge 2004, 44-49

Gunther Mai, The United States in the Allied Control Council: From Dualism to Temporary Division, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 50-56

primary sources

Suggested Post-Surrender Program for Germany (Morgenthau Plan), Sept. 6, 1944

Potsdam Agreement, Aug. 1, 1945

Directive to the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Occupation Forces (JCS 1067), April 1945

James F. Byrnes, Restatement of Policy on Germany, Stuttgart, September 6, 1946

Film "Your Job in Germany, April 1945" (U:S. Signal Corps 1945)

Reeducation, the First Berlin Crisis, and the Marshall Plan, and the Founding of the Federal Republic

Hermann-Josef Rupieper, The United States and the Founding of the Federal Republic, 1948–1949, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 85-89

Gerd Hardach, The Marshall Plan, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 301-309

Michael Wala, The Marshall Plan and the Origins of the Cold War, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 73-77 primary sources

Directive to Commander in Chief of United States Forces of Occupation Regarding the Military Government of Germany (JCS 1779), July 11, 1947

State Department, Summary of Telegrams, June 28, 1948

Cornelia Rauh-Kühne, Life Rewarded the Latecomers: Denazification During the Cold War, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 65-72

Marshall Plan Films

Double Containment, German-American Security Relations 1945-1968

Wolfgang Krieger, Security Through Deterrence? German-American Security Relations, 1945–1968, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 181-196

Steven L. Rearden, The Dilemmas of Dual Containment: Germany as a Security Problem, 1945–1950, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 204-208

David Clay Large, Partners in Defense: America, West Germany, and the Security of Europe, 1950-1968, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 209-216

Bryan T. van Sweringen, Variable Architectures for War and Peace: U.S. Force Structure and Basing in Germany, 1945–1990, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 217-224

Hubert Zimmermann, Occupation Costs, Stationing Costs, Offset Payments: The Conflict over the Burdens of the Cold War, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 333-340

primary sources

The North Atlantic Treaty, Washington D.C., April 4, 1949

Definition of U.S. Policy on Problems of the Defense of Europe and the German Contribution (NSC 115), Aug. 2, 1951 (excerpt)

Westbindung, the German Question, and the Second Berlin Crisis

Frank A. Ninkovich, The United States and the German Question, 1949–1968, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 118-124

Manfred Knapp, Divided Loyalties in Transatlantic Policy Toward Europe, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 125-132

Andreas Daum, Berlin, in: Marc J. Selverstone (ed.), Companion to John F. Kennedy, Hoboken 2014, 209-220

primary sources

Erste Regierungserklärung von Bundeskanzler Adenauer, 20. September 1949

NSC 5727, Dec. 13, 1957 (excerpt)

Report by Dean Acheson, Washington, June 28, 1961

John F. Kennedy, Radio and Television Report to the American People on the Berlin Crisis, July 25, 1961 (also video)

The United States, Americanization and European (Economic) Integration

Geir Lundestad, Empire by Invitation? The United States and Western Europe, 1945-1952, in: Journal of Peace Research 23.3 (1986), 263-277

Jeffrey Glen Giauque: Grand Designs and Visions of Unity: The Atlantic Powers and the Reorganization of Western Europe, 1955-1963, Chapel Hill 2002, 98-125

Jessica C. E. Gienow-Hecht, American Cultural Policy in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1949–1968, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 401-408

Axel Schildt, Americanization, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 635-642

Détente, Ostpolitik, and the GDR

Christian Hacke, The United States and the German Question, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 18-25

Gottfried Niedhart, The Federal Republic of Germany Between the American and Russian Superpowers: "Old Friend" and "New Partner," in: Handbook, vol. 2, 26-32

Werner Link, Ostpolitik: Détente German-Style and Adapting to America, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 33-39

Christian Ostermann, "Little Room for Maneuver": Relations Between the United States and the GDR, in: Handbook, vol. 1, 172-179

primary sources

Egon Bahr speech at Evangelical Academy in Tutzing, July 15, 1963

Willy Brandt, Two States, One Nation, October 28, 1969

Memorandum of Conversation (White House), October 14, 1970

Memorandum on "Berlin Negotiations: The Unresolved Issues", July 21, 1971

The NATO dual-track decision and the protest movements

Matthian Dembinski, Differences on Arms Control in German-American Relations, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 140-147

Michael Broer, The NATO Double-Track Decision, the INF Treaty, and the SNF Controversy: German-

American Relations between Consensus and Conflict, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 148-154

primary sources

Helmut Schmidt, The 1977 Alastair Buchan Memorial Lecture, October 28, 1977, in: Survival (Jan/Feb. 1978), 2-10

Special Meeting of Foreign and Defence Ministers, Brussels, December 12, 1979 (The "Double-Track" Decision on Theatre Nuclear Forces)

Krefelder Appell, November 1980

State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Assessments and Research, Western Europe: Neutralism and Anti-TNF Sentiment, 18 August 1982, 1-4

The End of the Cold War and German Unification

Richard Wiggers, Two States, One Nation: The International Legal Basis of German-American Relations from Ostpolitik to Unification, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 76-81

Stephen F. Szabo, The United States and German Unification, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 104-110

Karl Kaiser, No Unity Without Security: The Security Features of German Unification, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 178-185

primary sources

Ronald Reagan, Speech at the Brandenburg Gate, West Berlin, June 12, 1987

Helmut Kohl's Ten-Point Plan for German Unit, November 28, 1989

Memorandum of Conversation of George H.W. Bush, John Sununu, Brent Scowcroft, and Helmut Kohl, December 3, 1989

Charles Krauthammer, The German Revival, in: New Republic. March 26, 1990, 18-21

Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany, September 12, 1990

German-American Relations after the End of the Cold War and 9/11

Hans-Peter Schwarz, America, Germany, and the Atlantic Community After the Cold War, in: Handbook, vol. 2, 535-565

primary sources

Government Declaration on the Attacks in the United States of America, by Chancellor Gerhard Schröder on September 12, 2001, before the German Bundestag in Berlin

Richard Bernstein, The German Question, in: New York Times Magazine, May 2, 2004

Transatlantic Relations during the Obama and Trump Presidencies

German Marshall Fund, Transatlantic Trends, Key Findings 2014, 13-24

Josef Joffe, The NSA has harmed transatlantic relations more than any al-Qaida operative could, in: The Guardian, Nov. 1, 2013

Henry Farrell and Abraham Newman, The Transatlantic Data War: Europe Fights Back Against the NSA, in: Foreign Affairs, January/February 2016

U.S. Embassy, T-TIP Myths and T-TIP Realities: T-TIP Myths Busters

The Current State and the Future of Transatlantic Relations

guest speaker

possible presentation topics (selection)

German-American Relations in WWI and in the interwar period

Reeducation and Public Diplomacy (e.g. Amerikahäuser)

West Germans and American Culture (e.g. movies and TV, Rock Music, Elvis)

controversies over burden sharing (till today)

America's Berlin (both during and after the Cold War)

Americanization or Coca-Colonization (impact of American culture and consumer products)

East Germany and the United States (perceptions, popular culture)

Protest Movements and Anti-Americanism (against the Vietnam War and against the Euromissiles)

The US and (West) German Sovereignty (both during and after the Cold War)

Perceptions of Germany in the United States and vice versa

Germany and the NSA Spying Scandal

possible guest speakers:

representative of US Embassy Berlin/General Consulate Munich

Andrea Rotter, Head of Division Foreign and Security Policy at the Academy for Politics and Current Affairs of the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (HSS) in Munich

expert from the Aspen Institute in Berlin

representative from the Munich Security Conference

additional program

- visit of the Amerikahaus in Munich
- walking tour "America in Munich"

Amerika-Institut, Amerikanische Kulturgeschichte Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

History, Memory, and Forgetting of Defeat and Guilt: The United States and Germany

summer term 2023

Tu afternoon

3-6 ECTS

Dr. Andreas Etges (etges@lmu.de)

Credit Requirements

- regular and active class participation
- reading of texts
- oral presentation (that will
- research paper based on primary documents (ca. 25,000 characters plus additional work for 6 credits)

This seminar takes a comparative look at how the United States and Germany have dealt with their difficult pasts. For the US, the focus will be on slavery, the Civil War, and racism, for Germany on World War II and the Holocaust. In her widely discussed book "Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil" (2019), the philosopher Susan Neiman argues that the United States much more than Germany failed "to confront its own history."

The seminar is part of a new Munich summer program offered by the Amerika-Institut during the summer term and is open to students from US partner universities. Regular class sessions will begin on May 23, and there will be special (compact) sessions later in the term. In addition, an accompanying seminar is offered that will provide a deeper look at the memorial landscape in Bavaria regarding National Socialism, World War II, and the Holocaust (e.g. Munich, Dachau, Nuremberg) through tours and excursions. Dates will be posted at the beginning of the term.

late April/early May introductory session via Zoom

History and Memory

Maurice Halbwachs, The Collective Memory, New York 1980 (orig. 1950), 22-30, 44-55

Jan Assmann, Communicative and Cultural Memory, in: Astrid Erll/ Ansgar Nünning (eds.), Cultural Memory Studies: An International and Interdisciplinary Handbook, Berlin 2008, 109-118

Pierre Nora, Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Memoire, in: Representations 26 (1989), 7-24

John Connerton, Seven Types of Forgetting, in: Memory Studies 1.1 (2008), 59-71

Aleida Assmann, Forms of Forgetting, Lecture, October 2014, http://castrumperegrini.org/2014/10/30/forms-of-forgetting/

The Lost Cause: Remembering the Civil War

Edward A. Pollard: The Lost Cause. A New Southern History of the War of the Confederates, New York 1866 (excerpt)

W. Stuart Towns: Enduring Legacy: Rhetoric and Ritual of the Lost Cause, Tuscaloosa 2012 (excerpt)

The Legacy of the Civil War: Meditations on the Centennial, New York: Random House 1961

The National Park Service and Civil War Battlefields

Robert E. Weir, The Graying of Gettysburg National Military Park: Race, Erasure, Ideology, and Iconography, in: Lawrence A. Kreiser Jr./ Randal Allred (eds.), The Civil War in Popular Culture: Memory and Meaning, Lexington, KY 2014, 61-82

J. Christian Spielvogel, Interpreting Sacred Ground: The Rhetoric of National Civil War Parks and Battlefields, Tuscaloosa: 2013, 152-158

Dwight T. Pitcaithley, Public Education and the National Park Service: Interpreting the Civil War, in: Perspectives (Nov. 2007)

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The Historians Debate and the exhibit on the Crimes of the German Wehrmacht

Rudolf Augstein et al., Forever in the Shadow of Hitler? Original Documents of the Historikerstreit, the Controversy Concerning the Singularity of the Holocaust. Atlantic Highlands, N.J 1993 (excerpt)

Norbert Frei et al., The Historikerstreit Twenty Years On, in: German History 24 (2006) 587-607

Hamburg Institute for Social Research, Crimes of the Wehrmacht: Dimensions of a War of Annihilation. An Outline of the Exhibit, Hamburg 2004

Hannes Heer, et al., The Discursive Construction of History: Remembering the Wehrmacht's War of Annihilation. New York 2008 (excerpt)

German History Politics and Memorial Culture since the 1980s

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Uwe Neumärker, Germany's Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe: Debates and Reactions, in: Filozofija i drustvo 23.4 (2012), 139-147

Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation in German History and Memory

guest speaker from the Documentation Centre for Displacement, Expulsion, Reconciliation in Berlin

"Honorable Men": Robert E. Lee and Erwin Rommel

Thomas L. Connelly: The Marble Man. Robert E. Lee and His Image in American Society, New York 1977 (excerpt)

John Reeves: The Lost Indictment of Robert E. Lee: The Forgotten Case Against an American Icon, Lanham 2018 (excerpt)

Patrick Major: "Our Friend Rommel": The Wehrmacht as "Worthy Enemy" in Postwar British Popular Culture«, in: German History 26.4 (2008), 520–535

Daniel Allen Butler: Field Marshall. The Life and Death of Erwin Rommel, Philadelphia 2017 (excerpt)

Confederate Monuments and their Removal

Karen L. Cox: No Common Ground. Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press 2021 (excerpt)

James Gill und Howard Hunter. Tearing Down the Lost Cause. The Removal of New Orleans's Confederate Statues, Jackson: University Press of Mississippi 2021 (excerpt)

Nicole Maurantonio: Confederate Exceptionalism. Civil War Myth and Memory in the Twenty-first Century, Lawrence: University Press of Kansas 2019 (excerpt)

Southern Poverty Law Center: Whose Heritage? Public Symbols of the Confederacy 2022

Memory Wars: A podcast exploring how society confronts sin.

Discussion with Mallory Noe-Payne (Radio IQ's, Richmond, VA, a National Public Radio affiliate)

Learning from the Germans or Learning from the Americans?

Susan Neiman, Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil, New York 2019 (excerpt)

Wolfgang Schivelbusch, Culture of Defeat: On National Trauma, Mourning and Recovery, New York 2003 (excerpt)

David W. Blight, Healing and History: Battlefields and the Problem of Civil War Memory, in: id. Beyond the Battlefield: Race, Memory, and the American Civil War, Amherst 2002, 170-190

planned visits and tours of the accompanying seminar

- Munich Documentation Center for the History of National Socialism
- National Socialism in Munich (permanent exhibit of the museum of the history of Munich Münchner Stadtmuseum)
- Jewish Museum Munich
- The White Rose memorial exhibition (University of Munich)
- walking tour Munich and National Socialism
- Sudeten German Museum (Munich)
- Forced Labor Camp Memorial Site Neuaubing
- Dachau Concentration Camp
- Memorium Nuremberg Trials
- Documentation Center Nazi Party Rally Grounds (Nuremberg)
- also: film screenings