

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

summer term 2023

Tu 2-4pm

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.”

16 May Intro – History and Memory

Jan Assmann and John Czaplicka, Collective Memory and Cultural Identity, in: *New German* 65 (1995), 125-133

Aleida Assmann, Forms of Forgetting, Lecture, October 2014

additional texts:

Jan Assmann, Communicative and Cultural Memory, in: A. Erll/A. Nünning (eds.), *Cultural Memory Studies: An International and Interdisciplinary Handbook*, Berlin 2008, 109-18

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

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

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

23 May The Lost Cause: Remembering the Civil War and Southern Monuments

Edward A. Pollard: *The Lost Cause. A New Southern History of the War of the Confederates*, New York 1866, 750-52

David W. Blight, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory: The Civil War in American Memory*, Cambridge, MA 2009, 255-299

Caroline E. Janney, *The Civil War in Public Memory*, in: Aaron Sheehan-Dean (ed.), *The Cambridge History of the American Civil War* vol 3, Cambridge 2019, 481-505

6 June Civil War Battlefields, the National Park Service, and the 100th Anniversary of the End of the Civil War

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

John Bodnar, *Remaking America: Public Memory, Commemoration, and Patriotism in the Twentieth Century*, Princeton 1991, 206-226

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

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

13 June The Nazi Past and the Two Germanys

Norbert Frei, *Adenauer's Germany and the Nazi Past. The Politics of Amnesty and Integration*, New York 2002, XI-XV, 303-312

Jeffrey Herf, *Divided Memory: The Nazi Past in the Two Germanys*, Cambridge, MA 1997, 373-394

Cornelia Rauh-Kühne, Life Rewarded the Latecomers: Denazification During the Cold War, 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, 65-72

20 June The Auschwitz Trials and “Eichmann in Jerusalem”

Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem I: Adolf Eichmann and the Banality of Evil*, in:

The New Yorker, February 16, 1963 (excerpt)

Devin O. Pendas, "Eichmann in Jerusalem", Arendt in Frankfurt: The Eichmann Trial, the Auschwitz Trial, and the Banality of Justice, in: *New German Critique* 100 (Winter, 2007), 77-109

**20 June (4-6 pm) Guided tour by NS Documentation Center
The Former "Party Quarter" of the NSDAP**

27 June The TV series *Holocaust and the Americanization of the Holocaust*

Tom Dreisbach, *Transatlantic Broadcasts: Holocaust in America and West Germany*, in: *Penn History Review* 16.2 (2009), 76-97

Peter Novick, *Is the Holocaust an American Memory?* Berlin 2002

Natan Sznajder, in: Ulrich Beck, Natan Sznajder, and Rainer Winter (eds.), *Global America? The Cultural Consequences of Globalization*, Liverpool 2004, 174-187

30 June Dachau Memorial Site

Extended tour (ca. 3 hours) plus special session with Uli Unseld of the educational Department about the presentation of history at Dachau

1 July Nuremberg

Guided tour of Memorium (site of the Nuremberg Trials on war crimes)

Visit to the Documentation Center Nazi Party Rally Grounds

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

Forever in the Shadow of Hitler? Original Documents of the Historikerstreit, the Controversy Concerning the Singularity of the Holocaust. Atlantic Highlands, N.J 1993, 16-23, 34-44, 130-134

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

Hannes Heer, The Head of Medusa: The Controversy Surrounding the Exhibition "War of Annihilation: Crimes of the Wehrmacht, 1941-1944," in: Hannes Heer et al. (eds.), *The Discursive Construction of History: Remembering the Wehrmacht's War of Annihilation*, New York 2008, 227-250

11 July Confederate Monuments and their Removal

Karen L. Cox: *No Common Ground. Confederate Monuments and the Ongoing Fight for Racial Justice*, Chapel Hill 2021, 22-26, 121-174

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

18 July Learning from the Germans or Learning from the Americans?

Susan Neiman, *Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil*, New York 2019, 17-29

How to Confront a Racist National History, Interview with Susan Neiman, *New Yorker*, July 6, 2020

Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *Culture of Defeat: On National Trauma, Mourning and Recovery*, New York 2003 57-60, 98-101