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The Discursive Construction of History Remembering the Wehrmacht's War of Annihilation

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HANNES HEER works in Hamburg, Germany as a historian, writer and exhibition producer. From 1993 to 2000 he worked at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research, directing the first Wehrmacht Exhibition. He has written numerous publications on National Socialism, the Wehrmacht and post-war recollection.

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How do democratic and pluralistic societies cope with traumatic events in their past? What strategies and taboos are employed in reconstructing wars, revolutions, torturing, mass killings and genocide in a way that makes their contradiction of basic human rights and values invisible? The process of reconstructing history takes place in different domains of life and in a range of genres. Narratives are frequently reproduced through political speeches, films, documentaries and schoolbooks. Moreover, they are also transmitted in the private spheres of families and across generations. This interdisciplinary volume analyzes in detail, for the first time, the history and image of the German Wehrmacht and the debates in Austria and Germany surrounding two exhibitions about Wehrmacht war crimes during World War II – exhibitions which have to be regarded as a major intervention in the construction of national historical narratives and 'myths', and which provoked widespread political and media reaction, ranging from the scandalized to the critically reflective.

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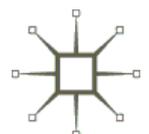
Reviews:

'Ruth Wodak and her interdisciplinary team shed light on the Wehrmacht crimes during WWII as well as their subsequent reception and representation. The volume gives an excellent overview of this important part of the history and aftermath of the Holocaust. Its specific layout and structure can also serve as a paradigm for comparable studies.' - Dirk Rupnow, *Forum: Qualitative Social Research*

...the questions of collective memory and public discourse raised in these empirical studies are...of the highest importance...This book, rich in detail and ethical clarity, deserves a wide readership.' - John D.H. Downing, Southern Illinois University, *Discourse and Society*

'...an accomplished collection of articles written on a high level with findings of scholarly interest.' - *Jewish Political Studies Review*

'The book under review is welcome as a contribution to the history of the exhibition in particular and thus of German "memory politics" in general, as well as to discourse analysis and historical society. It is a wide-ranging and thought-provoking volume.' - *Journal of Genocide Research*



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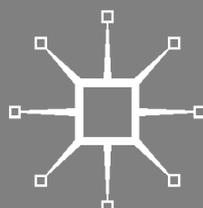
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How do we construct national identities in discourse? Which topics, which discursive strategies and which linguistic devices are employed to construct national sameness and uniqueness on the one hand, and differences to other national collectives on the other hand? The Discursive Construction of National Identity analyses discourses of national identity in Europe with particular attention to Austria. In the tradition of critical discourse analysis. Interdisciplinarity (cultural studies, discourse analysis, history, political science). Multi-method, multi-genre. Qualitative case studies". The Discursive Construction of National Identity. 2nd Edition. Ruth Wodak, Rudolf de Cillia, Martin Reisigl, and Karin Liebhart. This paper investigates the discursive construction of co-ethnic migration in German society. Taking a biographical study on ethnic Germans from the former Soviet Union as a starting point, the author traces co-ethnic immigrant pathways in German society and analyzes the legal frameworks, institutions, and organizations encountered by these migrants. The author employs a critical discourse analysis approach to texts relating to a camp where newly arriving immigrants live and undergo registration. This study combines biographical methods in sociology with critical discourse analysis to tackle the issue of co-ethnic migrant identity construction in Germany. The aims of this study are threefold. The History of Discourse as Literary History. circumferentiam sint aequales, centrum non potest coincidere cum circumferentia." (Nicolaus Cusanus), In 1516 Niccolo Machiavelli wrote the Discourses Upon The First Ten Books of Titus Livy dedicated to Zanobi Buondelmonti and to Cosimo Machiavelli. Milton used the term 'discourse' for speech in Paradise Lost (Book 9): Hee, after EVE seduc't, unminded slunk Into the Wood fast by, and changing shape To observe the sequel, saw his guileful act By EVE, though all unweeting, seconded Upon her Husband, saw thir shame that sought Vain