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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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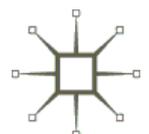
**Reviews:**

'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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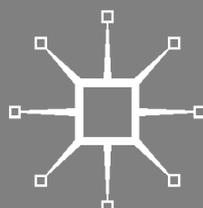
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discursive construction of national identities in general and of Austrian identities in comparisons with. 19. 5. First, we collected an extensive corpus of public discourse. ii. Thus, two separate generations expressed their points of view on Austrian history and identity. To allow comparison with the 1995 study, the focus group questions remained largely unchanged. In the following section we summarise several salient results from the 2005 study, and focus particularly on commemoration. We examine continuities but also. The Discursive Construction of History: Remembering the German Wehrmacht's War of Annihilation. Save to Library. Download. The Encyclopaedia of Historical Archaeology. London, Routledge: 379-80. In the last two centuries, nationalism has been an important factor in the professionalisation of the study of the past. Although, to begin with, the appropriation of the past of the Great Civilisations "Egypt, Greece and Rome" was more significant, interest in the prehistoric and 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.