

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

Edited by Hannes Heer, Walter Manoschek,  
Alexander Pollak and Ruth Wodak

How do democratic and pluralistic societies cope with traumatic events in their past? What discursive 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 potentially invisible? The process of reconstructing history through narratives takes place in different domains of life and in a range of genres. Such 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 traditional image(s) of the German *Wehrmacht* since 1945 and the debates in Austria and Germany surrounding two exhibitions about the war crimes of the *Wehrmacht* during World War II - exhibitions which have to be regarded as a major intervention in national historical narrative and 'myths' and which caused a huge range of political and media reactions, from scandals to critical reflection.

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

WALTER MANOSCHEK is Professor of Political Science and chairs the Department for Government at the University of Vienna, Austria. His research and publications focus on politics of the past, the political system of National Socialism, and Holocaust Studies.

ALEXANDER POLLAK is Research Manager at the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia and an external lecturer in the Department of Government at the University of Vienna, Austria. He has written extensively on the politics of memory, racism, anti-semitism and critical discourse analysis.

RUTH WODAK is Distinguished Professor of Discourse Studies, Lancaster University, UK, and was previously Professor of Applied Linguistics in the University of Vienna. She held multiple visiting professorships (Stanford, Georgetown, Minneapolis, Uppsala, UEA) and in 2008-9 will hold the Kerstin Hesselgren Chair of the Swedish Parliament. She is co-editor of the *Journal of Language and Politics* and *Critical Discourse Studies* and has many book publications in the areas of Critical Discourse Analysis, Racism, Anti-Semitism, Identity Politics, and the Politics of the Past.



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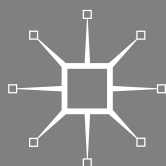
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