

History 415:
History of National Socialism
Semester I, 2002-03
TR 2: 30-3: 45, 1641 Humanities
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In twentieth-century totalitarian societies, argued George Orwell, people succumbed to the "tom-tom beat of a latterday tribalism." German National Socialism was a most horrific example of what Orwell had in mind. Swept into power by a disgruntled electorate, the Nazi regime erected a brutal political system that divided not only the German people but also the world into "races," some of which deserved to lead, while others were to be marginalized or eliminated. According to historian Michael Burleigh, "Aryan" Germans had access to a "racial meritocracy" in which violence, sentimentalized identity politics, and the blandishments of modern consumer society prevailed. But Jews, Sinti and Roma, "Bolsheviks," and religious and political dissidents were excluded, just as many nationality groups under German occupation were exploited or killed in World War II. More than fifty million people died as a result of Nazi tribalism; the shadow of National Socialist crimes has never quite faded, for Germans or for other nations and peoples. Historians continue to puzzle over the strange mixture of prosperity and pain, "normality" and "abnormality," that constituted German society under Nazi rule.

The course is designed to give advanced undergraduates a comprehensive overview of the origins, development, and outcome of National Socialism. It consists of lectures, films, readings, discussions, and writing assignments. It is based on the premise that historical questions are complex and contentious, requiring critical reading and thinking as well as an active rather than passive approach to gaining knowledge. Students are urged to attend all lectures, keep up with weekly reading, hand in all assignments on time, and participate actively in each weekly discussion session. Course assignments include two formal essays on precirculated questions (one double-spaced, 3-5 page essay, and one double-spaced 8-10 page essay) and three one-page, double-spaced synopses of readings and/or lectures. There are also two exams, a midterm and a final, each requiring short-answer identifications and essays. Additional reading and/or writing exercises may be assigned in discussion sections. Course grades will be determined as follows: Synopses=10%; Short paper=10%; Discussion=15%; Long paper=20%; Midterm=20%; Final=25%.

The required text for the course (Michael Burleigh, *The Third Reich*) is available for purchase at the Underground Textbook Exchange on State Street. In addition, a required course packet is available for purchase at the Mosse Humanities Building Copy Center. Both the text and course packet will be placed on reserve at Helen C. White.

Required text:
Michael Burleigh, *The Third Reich: A New History* (Hill and Wang)

Required course pack:
Ruth Andreas-Friedrich, *Battleground Berlin: Diaries 1945-1948* (Paragon House) pp. 1-35

Gisela Bock, "Antinatalism, Maternity and Paternity in National Socialist Racism," and Adelheid von Saldern, "Victims or Perpetrators? Controversies about the Role of Women in the Nazi State," in David Crew, ed., *Nazism and German Society 1933-1945* (Routledge), pp. 110-165

William Brustein, "The Nazi Party and the German New Middle Class, 1925-1933," *American Behavioral Scientist* 41, 9 (June/July 1998): 1237-1261.

Thomas Childers, "The Limits of National Socialist Mobilization: The Elections of 6 November 1932 and the Fragmentation of the Nazi Constituency," in T. Childers, ed., *The Formation of the Nazi Constituency 1919-1933* (Croom Helm), pp. 232-259

Atina Grossman, *Reforming Sex: The German Movement for Birth Control and Abortion Reform, 1920-1950* (Oxford), pp. 78-106

John Heskett, "Modernism and Archaism in Design in the Third Reich," in B. Taylor and W. van der Will, eds., *The Nazification of Art: Art, Design, Architecture, and Film in the Third Reich* (Winchester), pp. 110-27.

David Hull, *Film in the Third Reich* (California), pp. 68-86, 126-56

"Imagining America: Fordism and Technology," in Anton Kaes et al, eds., *Weimar Republic Sourcebook* (California) pp. 393-411

Larry Jones, "Generational Conflict and the Problem of Political Mobilization in the Weimar Republic," in L. Jones and J. Retallack, eds., *Elections, Mass Politics and Social Change in Modern Germany* (Cambridge) pp. 347-369

Victor Klemperer, *I Will Bear Witness: A Diary of the Nazi Years 1933-1941* (Random House), pp. 289-324

Rudy Koshar, "Germans at the Wheel: Cars and Leisure Travel in Interwar Germany," in R. Koshar, ed., *Histories of Leisure*, (Berg), pp. 215-230

Barbara Miller Lane, *Architecture and Politics in Germany* (Harvard), pp. 185-216

Kurt Möser, "World War I and the Creation of Desire for Automobiles in Germany," in Susan Strasser, et al, eds., *Getting and Spending: European and American Consumer Societies in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge), pp. 195-222

Nancy Nenno, "Feminity, the Primitive, and Modern Urban Space: Josephine Baker in Berlin," in Katharina von Ankum, ed., *Women in the Metropolis: Gender and Modernity in Weimar Culture* (California) pp. 145-161

R.J. Overy, "Cars, Roads, and Economic Recovery in Germany, 1932-1938," in Overy, ed., *War and Economy in the Third Reich* (Oxford), pp. 68-89

Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Assignments

Week 1

September 3: Course Introduction

September 5: Concepts and Contexts

Reading: Burleigh, 1-23

Week 2

September 10: World War I: Hitler's First "Home"

September 12: Germany Tries Democracy

Reading: Burleigh, 27-145

Week 3

September 17: Political Landscape of Weimar

September 19: Youth Cultures and Women

Reading: Jones, 347-69; Grossman, 78-106; Nenno, 145-61

September 19: Reading Synopsis Due

Week 4

September 24: An (Almost) Motorized Nation

September 26: Fordist Dreams and The People's Car

Reading: Möser, 195-222; "Imagining America," in Kaes, et al, 393-411

Week 5

October 1: Nazi Mobilization, 1919-1930

October 3: Nazi Mobilization: The Breakthrough, 1930-1933

Reading: Brustein, 1237-1261; Childers, 232-59

October 3: Essay #1 Due

Week 6

October 8: From the Reichstag Fire to the "Night of the Long Knives"

October 10: Film: "Triumph of the Will"

Reading: Burleigh, 149-215; Hull, 68-86, 126-56

Week 7

October 15: The Nazi Social Revolution

October 17: Film: "Olympia," Part 1: "Festival of the People"

Reading: Burleigh, 219-277, Bock & von Saldern (D.Crew), 110-65

Week 8

October 22: Midterm exam

October 24: The Therapeutic Dictatorship?

Reading: Burleigh, 345-404

Week 9

October 29: "Granite and Heart": The Autobahns

October 31: Hitler's Car Realized?

Reading: Koshar, 215-230; Overy, 68-89

Week 10

November 5: "The Beautiful Look of the Third Reich": Architecture and Design

November 7: French Comparisons (Guest lecture by Rob Lewis)

Reading: Lane 185-216; Heskett, 110-27

November 7: Lecture Synopsis Due

Week 11

November 12: Origins and development of World War II

November 14: First stages of the Holocaust

Reading: Burleigh, 281-342, 571-662; Klemperer, 289-324

Week 12

November 19: Mass Killing and the Camps

November 21: Occupation, Resistance, and Collaboration

Reading: Burleigh, 407-481, 665-728

Week 13

November 26: The End of World War II

Reading: Burleigh, 485-567

November 26: Essay #2 Due

Thanksgiving Recess: November 28-December 1

Week 14

December 3: Defeat and Occupation of Germany

December 5: "Hitler's Car" and the Rebirth of Germany

Reading: Burleigh, 731-812, Andreas-Friedrich, 1-35

December 5: Reading Synopsis Due

Week 15

December 10: Memories of Trauma: The Past Conquered?

December 12: Conclusion and Review

December 15: Final Exam, 5:05 PM