

Over the last two centuries, Germans and Americans have been rivals, friends, opponents, and, most recently, allies. This cross-disciplinary collection of essays analyzes how German and American views of each other developed and periodically shifted, providing a fresh analysis of the often complex German-American relationship. The images that resulted from encounters between the two countries frequently reflected significant cross-currents of the contemporary relations, and often foreshadowed important trends. The nine German and eight American contributors to this volume analyzed travelogs, private letters, diaries, diplomatic reports, and newspaper articles from the wake of U.S. independence through the reunification of Germany, and also post-1945 movies, which reflect these cross-cultural encounters and illustrate how political agendas, prejudices, stereotypes, and pragmatic forces influenced individual, group, and mass perceptions of the other society.



PUBLICATIONS OF THE GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE WASHINGTON, D.C.

Edited by Detlef Junker with the assistance of Daniel S. Mattern

Transatlantic Images and Perceptions



### THE GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The German Historical Institute is a center for advanced study and research whose purpose is to provide a permanent basis for scholarlycooperation between historians from the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States. The Institute conducts, promotes, and supports research into both American and German political, social, economic, and cultural history, into transatlantic migration, especially in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and into the history of international relations, with special emphasis on the roles played by the United States and Germany.

### Other books in the series

- Hartmut Lehmann and James J. Sheehan, editors, An Interrupted Past: German-Speaking Refugee Historians in the United States after 1933
- Carol Fink, Axel Frohn, and Jürgen Heideking, editors, Genoa, Rapallo, and European Reconstruction in 1922
- David Clay Large, editor, Contending with Hitler: Varieties of German Resistance in the Third Reich
- Larry Eugene Jones and James Retallack, editors, Elections, Mass Politics, and Social Change in Modern Germany
- Hartmut Lehmann and Guenther Roth, editors, Weber's Protestant Ethic: Origins, Evidence, Contexts
- Catherine Epstein, A Past Renewed: A Catalog of German-Speaking Refugee Historians in the United States after 1933
- Hartmut Lehmann and James Van Horn Melton, editors, Paths of Continuity: Central European Historiography from the 1930s to the 1950s
- Jeffry M. Diefendorf, Axel Frohn, and Hermann-Josef Rupieper, editors, American Policy and the Reconstruction of West Germany, 1945–1955
- Henry Geitz, Jürgen Heideking, and Jurgen Herbst, editors, German Influences on Education in the United States to 1917
- Peter Graf Kielmansegg, Horst Mewes, and Elisabeth Glaser-Schmidt, editors, Hannah Arendt and Leo Strauss: German Emigrés and American Political Thought after World War II
- Dirk Hoerder and Jörg Nagler, editors, People in Transit: German Migrations in Comparative Perspective, 1820-1930
- R. Po-chia Hsia and Hartmut Lehmann, editors, In and Out of the Ghetto: Jewish-Gentile Relations in Late Medieval and Early Modern Germany
- Sibylle Quack, editor, Between Sorrow and Strength: Women Refugees of the Nazi Period
- Mitchell G. Ash and Alfons Söllner, editors, Forced Migration and Scientific Change: Emigré German-Speaking Scientists and Scholars after 1933
- Stig Förster and Jörg Nagler, editors, On the Road to Total War: The American Civil War and the German Wars of Unification, 1861-1871
- Norbert Finzsch and Robert Jütte, editors, Institutions of Confinement: Hospitals, Asylums, and Prisons in Western Europe and North America, 1500-1950
- Manfred Berg and Geoffrey Cocks, editors, Medicine and Modernity: Public Health and Medical Care in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Germany



# Transatlantic Images and Perceptions

GERMANY AND AMERICA SINCE 1776

Edited by

DAVID E. BARCLAY

and

ELISABETH GLASER-SCHMIDT

GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

Washington, D.C.

and





## PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK 40 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011–4211, USA 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

http://www.cambridge.org

© The German Historical Institute 1997

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

Typeset in Bembo

First paperback edition 2003

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
Transatlantic images and perceptions: Germany and America since 1776 / edited by
David E. Barclay, Elisabeth Glaser–Schmidt.
p. cm. – (Publications of the German Historical Institute)

Includes index.
ISBN 0 521 58091 9 (hardcover)

1. United States – Relations – Germany. 2. Germany – Relations – United States.

3. United States – Foreign public opinion, German.

4. Germany – Foreign public opinion, American.

5. Public opinion – United States – History. 6. Public opinion – Germany – History.

I. Barclay, David E., 1948- . II. Glaser-Schmidt, Elisabeth. III. Series.

E183.8.G3T68 1997 303.48'273043 – dc20 96-31667 CIP

ISBN 0 521 58091 9 hardback ISBN 0 521 53442 9 paperback



## **Contents**

List of Contributors	page VII
Introduction David E. Barclay and Elisabeth Glaser-Schmidt	1
1 "Through a Glass, Darkly": Changing German Ideas of American Freedom, 1776–1806 A. Gregg Roeber	19
2 "Germans Make Cows and Women Work": American Perceptions of Germans as Reported in American Travel Books, 1800–1840 Hermann Wellenreuther	41
3 Weary of Germany – Weary of America: Perceptions of the United States in Nineteenth-Century Germany Hans-Jürgen Grabbe	65
4 "Auch unser Deutschland muss einmal frei werden": The Immigrant Civil War Experience as a Mirror on Political Conditions in Germany Walter D. Kamphoefner	87
5 Different, But Not Out of This World: German Images of the United States Between Two Wars, 1871–1914 Wolfgang Helbich	109
6 From Culture to Kultur. Changing American Perceptions of Imperial Germany, 1870–1914 Jörg Nagler	131
7 The Reciprocal Vision of German and American Intellectuals: Beneath the Shifting Perceptions  James T. Kloppenberg	155
8 Germany and the United States, 1914–1933: The Mutual Perception of Their Political Systems Peter Krüger	171

V



vi	Contents	
9	Between Hope and Skepticism: American Views of Germany, 1918–1933 Elisabeth Glaser-Schmidt	191
10	"Without Concessions to Marxist or Communist Thought": Fordism in Germany, 1923–1939 <i>Philipp Gassert</i>	217
11	The Continuity of Ambivalence: German Views of America, 1933–1945 Detlef Junker	243
12	Cultural Migration: Artists and Visual Representation Between Americans and Germans During the 1930s and 1940s Marion F. Deshmukh	265
13	Representations of Germans and What Germans Represent: American Film Images and Public Perceptions in the Postwar Era Beverly Crawford and James Martel	285
14	Chancellor of the Allies? The Significance of the United States in Adenauer's Foreign Policy Hans-Jürgen Schröder	309
15	American Policy Toward German Unification: Images and Interests Konrad H. Jarausch	333
16	Unification Policies and the German Image: Comments on the American Reaction Frank Trommler	353
Ind	lex	363



### **Contributors**

David E. Barclay is a professor of history at Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Beverly Crawford is a professor of political economy and the research director of the Center for German and European Studies at the University of California at Berkeley.

Marion F. Deshmukh is a professor of history at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Philipp Gassert is a research fellow at the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

Elisabeth Glaser-Schmidt is a research fellow at the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

Hans-Jürgen Grabbe is a professor of history at the Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg.

Wolfgang Helbich is a professor of history at Ruhr University, Bochum.

Konrad H. Jarausch is a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Detlef Junker is director of the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

Walter D. Kamphoefner is a professor of history at Texas A & M University.

James T. Kloppenberg is a professor of history at Brandeis University.

Peter Krüger is a professor of history at Philipps University, Marburg.

James Martel is an instructor of political economy at the University of California at Berkeley.

vii



More information

viii Contributors

Jörg Nagler is director of the John F. Kennedy House, Kiel, and guest lecturer at the University of Kiel.

A. Gregg Roeber is a professor of history at The Pennsylvania State University.

Hans-Jürgen Schröder is a professor of history at the Justus-Liebig University, Giessen.

Frank Trommler is a professor of German literature at the University of Pennsylvania.

Hermann Wellenreuther is a professor of history at the University of Göttingen.