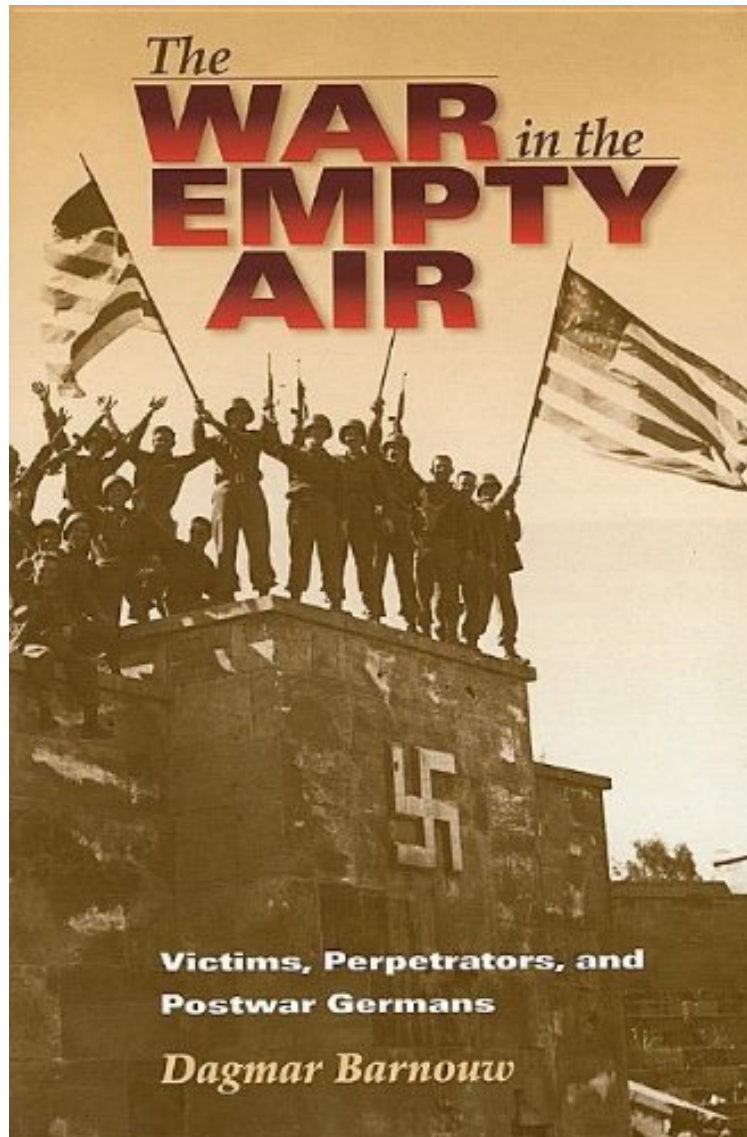


[Get free] The War in the Empty Air: Victims, Perpetrators, and Postwar Germans

# The War in the Empty Air: Victims, Perpetrators, and Postwar Germans

Von Dagmar Barnouw  
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Von Dagmar Barnouw : The War in the Empty Air: Victims, Perpetrators, and Postwar Germans before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The War in the Empty Air: Victims, Perpetrators, and Postwar Germans:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Graphic

photos, closely examined and interpreted. Von Ein Kunde The Allied invasion of Germany was accompanied by another army, of photographers, military and civilian, who took thousands of pictures of the devastated country and its inhabitants, including Displaced Persons and concentration camp inmates. Barnouw has closely examined a remarkable selection of the disturbing images, and provided more thorough and searching interpretations, showing that the victors' predispositions affected their objectivity and clouded their assessments of the Germans. The reader is warned that many corpses are depicted. (The numerical rating above is a default setting within 's format. This reviewer does not employ numerical ratings.)

Kurzbeschreibung Sixty years after the defeat of the Nazis and the discovery of Auschwitz, the impact of WWII on the German people remains a subject that is difficult to broach in public discourse. The experiences of Germans civilians were little studied, as if the memories of the defeated were not deserving of preservation. In Germany 1945, an examination of Allied photography of postwar Germany, Dagmar Barnouw demonstrated one of the means by which the victors sought to impose the burden of responsibility for World War II and the Holocaust on the German people as a whole. Now, in *The War in the Empty Air*, she demonstrates how deeply that narrative took hold and the silence it imposed. In Germany, the re-emergence of memories of wartime suffering is being met with intense public debate. In the United States, the recent translation and publication of *Crabwalk* by Gunter Grass and *The Natural History of Destruction* by W. G. Sebald offer evidence that these submerged memories are surfacing. Taking account of these developments, Barnouw examines this debate about the validity and importance of German memories of war and the events that have occasioned it. Steering her path between the notions of "victim" and "perpetrator," Barnouw seeks a place where acknowledgment of both the horror of Auschwitz and the suffering of the non-Jewish Germans can, together, create a more complete historical remembrance for postwar generations. Dagmar Barnouw is Professor of German and Comparative Literature, University of Southern California, and author of *Weimar Intellectuals and the Threat of Modernity*, *Germany 1945*, and *Naipaul's Strangers* (all Indiana University Press), among other books of cultural criticism.

Pressestimmen "In this book, decisively (and with great sensitivity) Barnouw establishes a case for creating a more complete historical remembrance for postwar generations." -*Journal of American Studies* "The willing executioners of Hitler's project... had only one experience to tell. This overwhelming silencing of Germans as executioners could not last forever. Dagmar Barnouw's book, *The War in the Empty Air*, provides evidence of Germans recovering their voice." -*Shofar* "In a deliberately polemical manner reminiscent of Arendt, Barnouw confronts the petrified, sanctified and officially approved memories of the German past..." -*German Studies* "Barnouw's articulate *War in the Empty Air*... makes for lively reading." -*German History*, V.25:2 "[Barnouw's] work is a thought-provoking addition to the flourishing literature on the politics of memory in the contemporary world." -*War in History*, Vol. 16 no. 4 (2009) "... offers an engaging, provocative outline of the political forces inhibiting the retrieval of memories [of] how the war felt to those who lived through it." -*Clio*

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