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0521806100 - Memory and Power in Post-War Europe: Studies in the Presence of the Past

Edited by Jan-Werner Müller

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Memory and Power in Post-War Europe

How has memory – collective and individual – influenced European politics after the Second World War and after 1989 in particular? How has the past been used in domestic struggles for power, and how have ‘historical lessons’ been applied in foreign policy? While there is now a burgeoning field of social and cultural memory studies, mostly focused on commemorations and monuments, this volume is the first to examine the connection between memory and politics directly. It investigates how memory is officially recast, personally reworked and often violently re-instilled after wars, and above all, the ways in which memory shapes present power constellations.

The chapters combine theoretical innovation in their approach to the study of memory with deeply historical, empirically based case studies of major European countries. The point of stressing memory is not to deny that interests shape policy, but, with Max Weber, to analyse the historically and ideologically conditioned formation and legitimation of these interests. The volume concludes with reflections on the ethics of memory, and the politics of truth, justice and forgetting after 1945 and 1989.

This ground-breaking book should be of interest to historians of contemporary Europe, political scientists, sociologists and anyone interested in how the political uses of the past have shaped – and continue to shape – the Europe in which we live now.

JAN-WERNER MÜLLER is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford. He is the author of *Another Country: German Intellectuals, Unification and National Identity* (2000).

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All Souls College, Oxford



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For as at a great distance of place, that which wee look at, appears dimme, and without distinction of the smaller parts; and as Voyces grow weak, and inarticulate: so also after great distance of time, our imagination of the Past is weak; and wee lose (for example) of Cities wee have seen, many particular Streets; and of Actions, many particular Circumstances. This *decaying sense*, when wee would express the thing itself, (I mean *fancy* itselfe,) wee call *Imagination*, as I said before: But when we would express the *decay*, and signifie that the Sense is fading, old, and past, it is called *Memory*. So that *Imagination* and *Memory*, are but one thing . . .

Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Contents

<i>List of contributors</i>	page ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
Introduction: the power of memory, the memory of power and the power over memory JAN-WERNER MÜLLER	1
Part 1 Myth, memory and analogy in foreign policy	
1 Memory of sovereignty and sovereignty over memory: Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine, 1939–1999 TIMOTHY SNYDER	39
2 Myth, memory and policy in France since 1945 ROBERT GILDEA	59
3 The power of memory and memories of power: the cultural parameters of German foreign policy-making since 1945 THOMAS BERGER	76
4 The past in the present: British imperial memories and the European question ANNE DEIGHTON	100
5 Europe's post-Cold War remembrance of Russia: <i>cui bono?</i> IVER B. NEUMANN	121
6 Memory, the media and NATO: information intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina MONROE E. PRICE	137

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Edited by Jan-Werner Muller

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii Contents

Part 2 Memory and power in domestic affairs

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 7 | The past is another country: myth and memory
in post-war Europe
TONY JUDD | 157 |
| 8 | The emergence and legacies of divided memory:
Germany and the Holocaust after 1945
JEFFREY HERF | 184 |
| 9 | Unimagined communities: the power of memory
and the conflict in the former Yugoslavia
ILANA R. BET-EL | 206 |
| 10 | Translating memories of war and co-belligerency
into politics: the Italian post-war experience
ILARIA POGGIOLINI | 223 |
| 11 | Institutionalising the past: shifting memories
of nationhood in German education and immigration
legislation
DANIEL LEVY AND JULIAN B. DIERKES | 244 |
| 12 | Trials, purges and history lessons: treating a difficult
past in post-communist Europe
TIMOTHY GARTON ASH | 265 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 283 |

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x List of contributors

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Cambridge University Press

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of contributors

xi

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Manufacturers, suppliers and others provide what you see here, and we have not verified it. See our disclaimer. This book is the first to examine the connection between memory and politics directly. *Memory and Power in Post-War Europe: Studies in the Presence of the Past*. Specifications. Publisher. Cambridge University Press. Book Format. Hardcover. Number of Pages. *Memory and Interest in European Integration: The 1992 Ratification Crisis Resolution*. *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, Vol. 14, Issue. 1, p. 89.Â Miller's volume is a rich collection of studies in the political uses of the past in postwar Europe.' Source: *International Affairs*. â€˜This is a timely intervention in the burgeoning fields of investigations that engage with the failures and horrors of the past century and the resuscitation of myths and growing important of memories that come along with them in the present â€˜ its innovative approach lies in the informed use of theoretical conceptions for the historical and empirical analysis of concrete political phenomena and processes.