

FORTHCOMING

Volume 38

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From the Editors

Kenneth F. Ledford

Kenneth Barkin: An Appreciation

Roger Chickering

ARTICLES

GERMANS AS VICTIMS DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Air Wars, Memory Wars

Mary Nolan

Gender, Sexuality, and Coming to Terms with the Nazi Past

Elizabeth Heineman

"*Facilis descensus averni est*": Allied Bombing and the Issue of German Suffering

Thomas C. Childers

BOOK REVIEWS

Das Würzburger Ratsprotokoll des 15. Jahrhunderts: Eine historisch-systematische Analyse, by Rolf Spranghel

(*Jay Goodale*)

Gerichtspraxis in der ländlichen Gesellschaft: Eine mikrohistorische Untersuchung am Beispiel eines altmärkischen Patrimonialgerichts um 1700, by Jenny Thauer

(*David M. Luebke*)

Deutsche Geschichte-keine Nationalgeschichte: Staatliche Einheit und Mehrstaatlichkeit, Volkszugehörigkeit und Nation in der deutschen Geschichte, by Jürgen Mirow

(*Philipp Ther*)

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Reinhard Rürup

(*Geoff Eley*)

FORTHCOMING (cont.)

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(Michael Ermarth)

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(Reinhold Grimm)

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(Alexander Grab)

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(Johan van der Zande)

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(Kirsten Belgum)

Budweisers into Czechs and Germans: A Local History of Bohemian Politics, 1848–1948, by Jeremy King
(Nancy M. Wingfield)

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(William W. Hagen)

The Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town, by Helmut Walser Smith
(Celia Applegate)

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(Richard S. Levy)

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(Robert E. Lerner)

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(Young-sun Hong)

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edited by Greg Eghigian and Matthew Paul Berg
(Helmut Walser Smith)

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by Reinhard R. Doerries
(William Mulligan)

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(Marjorie Lamberti)

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(James C. Albisetti)

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by Charles Bambach
(Suzanne Marchand)

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zentraler Politik im NS-Staat (1933–1942)*, by Wolf Gruner
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hauptamtes*, by Michael Wildt
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(Eric D. Weitz)

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(Irwin Wall)

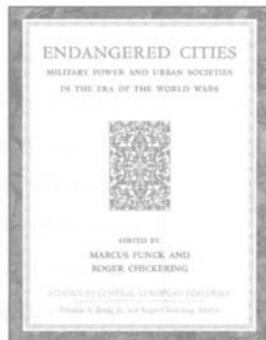
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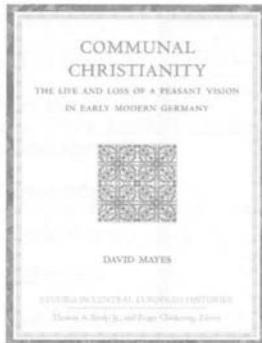
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COMMUNAL CHRISTIANITY

The Life and Loss of a Peasant Vision in Early Modern Germany

BY DAVID MAYES



David Mayes proposes a new religious paradigm in early modern rural Germany. "Communal Christianity," the religious practice prevalent among peasants in mid-sixteenth-century rural Upper Hesse is juxtaposed with the more formally organized "Confessional" sects (e.g. Lutheran, Calvinist). The author describes

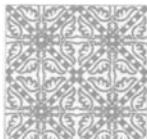
Communal Christianity's characteristics and persistence in the face of attempts at confessionalization during the period of 1576–1648 and links its success in part to the decree of the 155 Religious Peace of Augsburg that only one confessionalized Christian sect be officially recognized in a territory. Confessional sects became marginalized, and more locally well-established peasant communes retained power. The 1648 Peace of Westphalia encouraged reconciliation of confessionalized Christian sects, paradoxically spurring the decline of Communal Christianity in certain locales

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Thoughts on Thirteen Years of Editing *CEH*

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Tara Zahra

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Subversiveness in Eighteenth-century Prussia

Michael J. Sauter

The Rise of Confessional Tension in Brandenburg's Relations
with Sweden in the Late-seventeenth Century

Daniel Riches

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