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**Allied Internment Camps in Occupied Germany: Extrajudicial Detention in the Name of Denazification, 1945-1950.** By Andrew H. Beattie. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2020. xii+248pp. £75.00 (hardback).

The period of allied occupation, political change and transition at the end of the Second World War continues to fascinate historians of modern Germany and Europe, as well as those interested in the emerging divisions between the occupying powers which would set the stage for Cold War politics. Beattie's book intersects with research on the occupation and its goals, which, as Beattie notes, examines 'varying sets of three, four, and even five "ds"', including disarmament, demilitarization, decentralization, deindustrialisation, decartelisation, dismantling, denazification and democratisation. But this book also chimes with emerging research on post-war population movement and captivity, as well as existing literatures on transitional justice.

In this powerfully-argued book, Beattie calls for the internment of 400,000 Germans without trial by the occupying powers to be placed more firmly at the heart of post-war German history, in all its complexity. Other historians have explored this internment before, including Kathrin Meyer, Christa Horn and others, as well as Bettina Greiner's work on Soviet 'Special Camps', but Beattie purposefully bases his study on international comparison, drawing parallels and connections between the internment policies and camps of the different allied nations. He argues that though this approach might seem controversial (particularly when the death rates and conditions of Soviet camps are compared with others), such 'comparison does not entail equation, but can identify differences and similarities'. Beattie thus draws meticulous comparisons between the aims, policies, delivery and outcomes of occupying powers' internment of Nazis and other Germans, arguing that efforts to eradicate Nazism were both more severe and variegated than assumed.

Furthermore, Beattie argues that the common focus on 'guilt', whether collective or individual, misses the point of some internment measures, which had a more radical aim to 'restructure Germany society, not just to achieve "justice"', across *all* occupying zones between 1943 and 1950. Internment was regarded as a political measure by all the allies, not just the Soviet Union, and led to a 'clearing of the decks that allowed a new German political class to take over'. In doing so, Beattie highlights the importance of internment in its own right, not simply as a corollary of international justice, occupation politics or denazification. The book is diligently researched and well-grounded in the scholarly debates, making some deliberately decisive interventions at points. It also makes use of a range of German archival sources (particularly *Landeskirchen* archives from across the zonal areas), as well as archival material from the British Foreign Office and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The first chapter charts internment and arrest policies, whilst the second (the most substantial of the four chapters) examines those policies in practice and how internees were categorized, processed and released across the zones. Beattie maintains that, in the hands of *all* the allied powers, 'internment retained its largely extrajudicial character', though points out that simply comparing how many internees had their day 'in court' is misleading. The third chapter uses detailed quantitative analysis to describe *who* the internees were, in terms of nationality, gender, age and their former position within the Nazi pyramidal hierarchy. Beattie uses this data to argue against 'assumptions' that Western zones largely imprisoned 'senior Nazi officials' and that the Soviet Union interned large numbers of non-Nazis to suppress anti-Communism as much as Nazism.

The *experience* or voices of internment are not key themes in this book, though the final chapter does explore issues such as isolation, family contact, work, education, leisure, violence and death. It also examines the functional variation between camps, and refutes or nuances claims that Soviets made more use of former Nazi concentration camps in their internment practices. Throughout the book, parallels are also drawn between Allied policies in Germany and Austria, which specialists will find helpful.

The comparison made in the final chapter between the treatment of internees across the zone remains one of the most controversial issues raised by the book, as Beattie acknowledges. Where others scholars reject international comparisons, arguing that the Soviet case was uniquely terrible, their camps neither temporary nor based on the democratic rule of law, Beattie argues that such interpretations depict internment, by comparison, as a far more positive measure than it ever was. He uses this book to show that internment *across* the zones could involve mistreatment and suspension of justice. It is this aspect of Beattie's book that specialists will perhaps find most interesting to explore further. The book is hesitant in making broader claims to wider historical trends though, such as the growing literature on the global history of internment and prisoners of wars (an overlapping category in this post-war context, as Beattie shows). Much of this work, by historians including Clare Anderson, Renaud Morieux, Jordanna Bailkin and Elodie Duché, to name a few, explores how spaces of internment can themselves be transnational, or part of wider transnational systems of ideas, political ideologies or exchange. Whilst this book is not framed as transnational history, rather as a detailed comparative history, its claim to place Allied internment within the 'global history of encampment' is perhaps unmet.

Nevertheless, the depth and insight of this book, written by an expert in post-war Germany history, make it highly valuable reading for those interested in the allied occupations, transitional justice and the legacies and aftermath of Nazism.

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