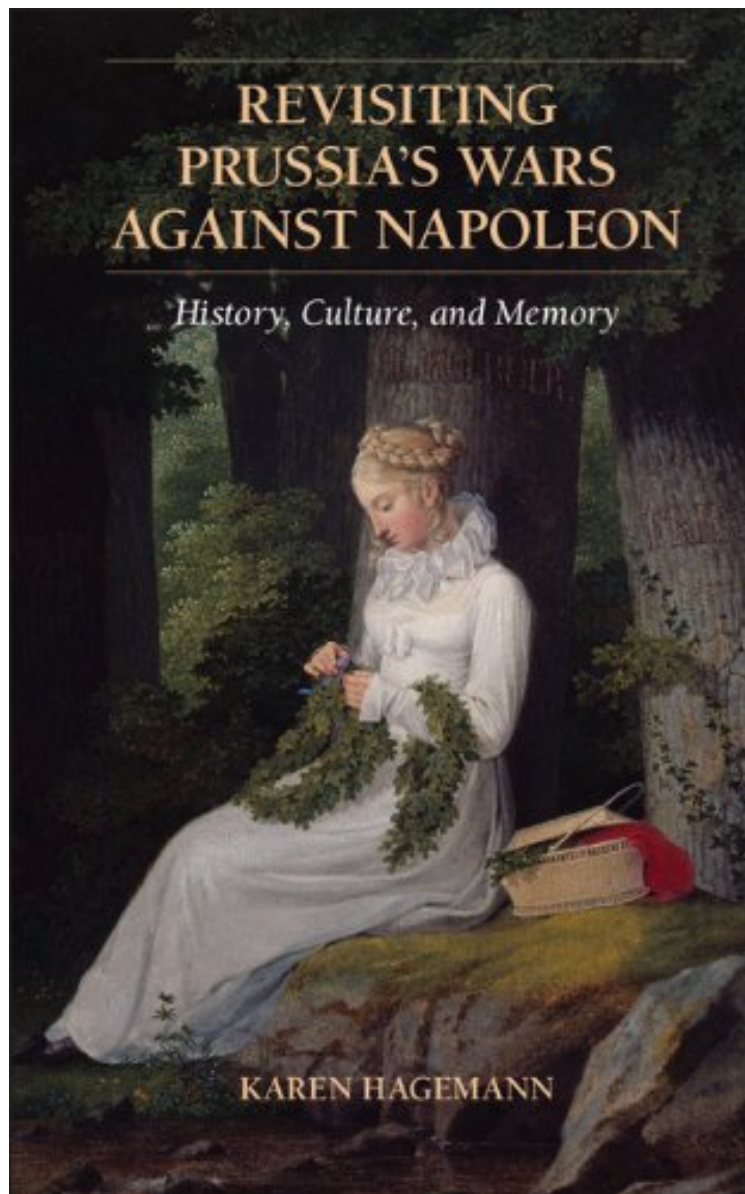


(Free pdf) Revisiting Prussia's Wars against Napoleon: History, Culture, and Memory

Revisiting Prussia's Wars against Napoleon: History, Culture, and Memory

Karen Hagemann

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Karen Hagemann : Revisiting Prussia's Wars against Napoleon: History, Culture, and Memory before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revisiting Prussia's Wars against Napoleon: History, Culture, and Memory:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Weak, needed a better editor and reviewerBy Jeffery E. McCullohUnfortunately, while there is much solid research within this book, the modern interpretation and analysis is too often manipulated to fit the preconceived conceptual narrative arc. Hagemann does a good job in summarizing earlier material on this subject, but there are dozens of glaring minor errors that compound to create a false history. For example, the section on the Iron Cross medal is a rewriting of earlier books, notably Williamson and Boelke, but then degenerated into nonsense as the author attempted to cram factoids into her analytical template. To be very clear, the battle bars she ascribes to the iron cross award were in fact for the Prussian campaign medal, were privately purchased and only the certificates allowing their wear were awarded by the federal Chancellory. Ascribing these bars as an example of promoting the nationalist symbol of Prussian glory is simply wrong. In fact, these bars were a direct result of lobbying by the Officers' Associations following a series of articles in the *Militärwochenblatt* about British campaign medals and their iconic "battle bars". A small thing to be sure, but the lobbyists directly appealed to Germany's rising sense of nascent world power status in their appeals ("We must adopt the British example in this matter, for to do less implies we are less and our beloved old soldiers are not worthy" etc.). The campaign medals were imperial awards, not Prussian ones and that spoke volumes in Wilhelminian Germany, as their precedence directly demonstrated dominant political power was located in Berlin, not elsewhere. This is just one example, but I can list dozens of other errors and misinterpretations.

In 2013, Germany celebrated the bicentennial of the so-called Wars of Liberation (1813-1815). These wars were the culmination of the Prussian struggle against Napoleon between 1806 and 1815, which occupied a key position in German national historiography and memory. Although these conflicts have been analyzed in thousands of books and articles, much of the focus has been on the military campaigns and alliances. Karen Hagemann argues that we cannot achieve a comprehensive understanding of these wars and their importance in collective memory without recognizing how the interaction of politics, culture, and gender influenced these historical events and continue to shape later recollections of them. She thus explores the highly contested discourses and symbolic practices by which individuals and groups interpreted these wars and made political claims, beginning with the period itself and ending with the centenary in 1913.

"As one of the leading historians of gender and war, Karen Hagemann writes a masterful account of the Germanic wars against Napoleon in the era 1806-1815 and their place in subsequent collective memories. Weaving archival evidence on daily life experiences with interpretive sophistication of cultural artifacts, she assesses the place of the Napoleonic wars in the construction of Prussian-German nationalism and gendered citizenship. [This book] ... will enthrall all readers interested in the play of history and memory in one of Europe's most consequential nation-states." Jean H. Quataert, Binghamton University "Karen Hagemann has written a pathbreaking book that reveals, in lushly rich detail, how the Germans of the 'long nineteenth century' understood and interpreted Prussia's wars against Napoleon. Applying methods drawn from military history, memory studies, gender studies, art history, and much else, this is interdisciplinary scholarship at its best." David A. Bell, Princeton University "War is the mere continuation of politics ...', Clausewitz asserted, distilling the experience of the Napoleonic Wars. He passed over the fact that in Prussia, as in all of the German lands, politics was a battlefield of contending interests, norms, and values as well as of competing political projects. This latter conflict over competing war cultures and war is the subject of the present book. The divisiveness of war cultures arose amid a novel configuration of war, in which the full force of public opinion underwrote the efforts to mobilize a people only to be confronted with fatal choices. Was the war against Napoleon to be a 'War of Liberty' or a 'War of Liberation'? Karen Hagemann concludes that it was waged by contemporaries for the liberty of the German nation, but won by historians and novelists for Prussia's liberation. Of course, it was a mere paper victory, but the price was paid in blood." Michael Geyer, University of Chicago "Hagemann is a leading authority on the Napoleonic Wars in Germany, and this volume represents a capstone of her research over the past two decades. In effect, this is two books in one. The first half is a vivid account of Prussia's defeat in 1806 and the mobilization against Napoleon from 1813-15. The author studies songs, sermons, and ceremonies to show how German nationalist intellectuals and Prussian civil servants prepared society for war. Sophisticated gender analysis sets this account apart from Christopher Clark's *Iron Kingdom*. The second half is billed as a study of memory, yet its main emphasis is print culture - novels, memoirs, and historical works. Hagemann presents an ambitious quantitative analysis of authors (class, gender, profession, region) and the book market (publishers, booksellers, degrees of censorship). Summing up: recommended. Graduate students and faculty." W. G. Gray, Choice About the Author Karen Hagemann is the James G. Kenan Distinguished Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She has published widely in Modern German and European history, gender history and the history of military and war (19th-20th centuries) combining approaches from social, political and cultural history. Her books include: *Frauenalltag und Männerpolitik. Alltagsleben und gesellschaftliches Handeln von Arbeiterfrauen in der Weimarer Republik* (1990); *'Männlicher Mut und Deutsche Ehre'. Nation, Militär und Geschlecht zur Zeit der Antinapoleonischen Kriege Preußens* (2002); *Home/Front: The Military, War and Gender in Twentieth-*

Century Germany (edited with S. Schüler-Springorum, 2002); *Masculinities in Politics and War: Gendering Modern History* (edited with S. Dudink and J. Tosh, 2004); *Gendering Modern German History: Rewriting Historiography* (edited with J. Quataert, 2007); *Representing Masculinity: Male Citizenship in Modern Western Culture* (edited with S. Dudink and A. Clark, 2007); *Gender, War, and Politics: Transatlantic Perspectives, 1775-1830* (edited with G. Mettele and J. Rendall, 2010); and *War Memories: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars in Modern European Culture* (edited with A. Forrest and E. François, 2012).