



The History of Everyday Life: Reconstructing Historical Experiences and Ways of Life

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Alltagsgeschichte, or the history of everyday life, emerged during the 1980s as the most interesting new field among West German historians and, more recently, their East German colleagues. Partly in reaction to the modernization theory pervading West German social history in the 1970s, practitioners of *alltagsgeschichte* stressed the complexities of popular experience, paying particular attention, for instance, to the relationship of the German working class to Nazism. Now the first English translation of a key volume of essays (*Alltagsgeschichte: Zur Rekonstruktion historischer Erfahrungen und Lebensweisen*) presents this approach and shows how it cuts across the boundaries of established disciplines. The result is a work of great methodological, theoretical, and historiographical significance as well as a substantive contribution to German studies.

Introduced by Alf Lüdtke, the volume includes two empirical essays, one by Lutz Niethammer on life courses of East Germans after 1945 and one by Lüdtke on modes of accepting fascism among German workers. The remaining five essays are theoretical: Hans Medick writes on ethnological ways of knowledge as a challenge to social history; Peter Schöttler, on mentalities, ideologies, and discourses and *alltagsgeschichte*; Dorothee Wierling, on gender relations and *alltagsgeschichte*; Wolfgang Kaschuba, on popular culture and workers' culture as symbolic orders; and Harald Dehne on the challenge *alltagsgeschichte* posed for Marxist-Leninist historiography in East Germany.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The book will be valuable to those interested in new approaches in social history, social science history, and the sociology of popular culture."--*American Journal of Sociology*

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From the Back Cover

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