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978-1-107-02469-4 - German Expansionism, Imperial Liberalism, and the United States, 1776–1945

Jens-Uwe Guettel

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German Expansionism, Imperial Liberalism, and the United States, 1776–1945

This book traces the importance of the United States for German colonialism from the late eighteenth century to 1945, focusing on American westward expansion and racial politics. Jens-Uwe Guettel argues that, from the late eighteenth century onward, ideas of colonial expansion played a very important role in liberal, enlightened, and progressive circles in Germany, which, in turn, looked across the Atlantic to the liberal-democratic United States for inspiration and concrete examples. In the early years of the twentieth century, this America-inspired and -influenced imperial liberalism dominated German colonial discourse and practice. Yet following this pre-1914 peak of liberal political influence on the administration and governance of Germany's colonies, the expansionist ideas embraced by Germany's far right after the country's defeat in World War I had little or no connection with the German Empire's liberal imperialist tradition. *German Expansionism, Imperial Liberalism, and the United States, 1776–1945* therefore shows that, for example, Nazi plans for the settlement of conquered Eastern European territories were not directly linked to pre-1914 transatlantic exchanges concerning race and expansionism.

Jens-Uwe Guettel is Senior Lecturer in the Department of History and Religious Studies at the Pennsylvania State University.

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Abbreviations

BArch	Bundesarchiv Berlin/Koblenz (German Federal Archives Berlin/Koblenz)
DDP	Deutsche Demokratische Partei (German Democratic Party, 1918–30)
DFP	Deutsche Fortschrittspartei (German Progressive Party, 1861–84)
DVP	Deutsche Volkspartei (German People's Party, 1918–33)
FSVP	Freisinnige Volkspartei (Liberal People's Party, 1893–1910)
FVP	Fortschrittliche Volkspartei (Progressive People's Party, 1910–18)
GEA	German East Africa (Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi)
GSWA	German Southwest Africa (Namibia)
NLP	Nationalliberale Partei (National-Liberal Party, 1867–1918)
NSDAP	Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (National-Socialist German Workers' Party, 1920–45)
<i>Reichstagsdebatte</i>	<i>Verhandlungen des Reichstages / Stenographische Berichte / Anlagen. Berlin: 1871–1939</i>

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RKA	Reichskolonialamt (Imperial Colonial Department, 1907–19)
RKA-B	Reichskolonialabteilung (Imperial Colonial Office, 1890–1907. Part of the Foreign Office until 1907)
SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (Social-Democratic Party of Germany, 1875–)