How do democratic and pluralistic societies cope with traumatic events in their past? What strategies and taboos are employed in reconstructing wars, revolutions, torturing, mass killings and genocide in a way that makes their contradiction of basic human rights and values invisible? The process of reconstructing history takes place in different domains of life and in a range of genres. Narratives are frequently reproduced through political speeches, films, documentaries and schoolbooks. Moreover, they are also transmitted in the private spheres of families and across generations. This interdisciplinary volume analyzes in detail, for the first time, the history and image of the German Wehrmacht and the debates in Austria and Germany surrounding two exhibitions about Wehrmacht war crimes during World War II – exhibitions which have to be regarded as a major intervention in the construction of national historical narratives and ‘myths’, and which provoked widespread political and media reaction, ranging from the scandalized to the critically reflective.
Notes on Contributors
Preface with Acknowledgements; H.Heer, W.Manoschek, A.Pollak & R.Wodak
Preface to the First Edition: 'How History Is Made' - The Origins and Aims of the Project; R.Wodak
Introduction: Collective Memory, National Narratives and The Politics of the Past; H.Heer & R.Wodak

PART 1: THE WEHRMACHT AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN THE MEMORY OF THE WAR GENERATION
The Crimes of the Wehrmacht in the Second World War; W.Manoschek
The Holocaust as Recounted in Wehrmacht Soldiers’ Letters from the Front; W.Manoschek
The Attitudes and Beliefs of Austrian Soldiers in the German Wehrmacht 1938-45: W.Manoschek
'That is What is So Terrible - That Millions of Soldiers Were There, Yet Today They All Claim They Never Saw a Thing'; H. Heer

PART 2: THE WEHRMACHT IN COLLECTIVE MEMORY AFTER 1945
Defining the Victims of Nazism; G.Sandner & W.Manoschek
The Myth of the 'Untainted Wehrmacht'; A.Pollak
'The Appalling Toll in Austrian Lives...'; S.Loitfellner
All that Remains of the Second World War; A.Pollak

PART 3: REACTION TO THE WEHRMACHT EXHIBITIONS
Crime Scene: Wehrmacht Exhibition; A.Pollak & R.Wodak
The Head of Medusa; H.Heer
Interpreting the 'War of Annihilation'; H.Uhl

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Reviews:

'Ruth Wodak and her interdisciplinary team shed light on the Wehrmacht crimes during WWII as well as their subsequent reception and representation. The volume gives an excellent overview of this important part of the history and aftermath of the Holocaust. Its specific layout and structure can also serve as a paradigm for comparable studies.' - Dirk Rupnow, Forum: Qualitative Social Research

...the questions of collective memory and public discourse raised in these empirical studies are...of the highest importance...This book, rich in detail and ethical clarity, deserves a wide readership.' - John D.H. Downing, Southern Illinois University, Discourse and Society

'...an accomplished collection of articles written on a high level with findings of scholarly interest.' - Jewish Political Studies Review

'The book under review is welcome as a contribution to the history of the exhibition in particular and thus of German "memory politics" in general, as well as to discourse analysis and historical society. It is a wide-ranging and thought-provoking volume.' - Journal of Genocide Research
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The history of construction overlaps many other fields like structural engineering and relies on other branches of science like archaeology, history and architecture to investigate how the builders lived and recorded their accomplishments. Those fields allow us to analyse constructed buildings and other structures built since prehistory, the tools used and the different uses of building materials. How do we construct national identities in discourse? Which topics, which discursive strategies and which linguistic devices are employed to construct national... Thus, the rhetorical promotion of national identification and the discursive construction and reproduction of national difference on public, semi-public and semi-private levels within a nation state are analysed in much detail and illustrated with a huge amount of examples taken from many genres (speeches, focus-groups, interviews, media, and so forth). In addition to the critical discourse analysis of multiple genres accompanying various commemorative and celebratory events in 1995, this extended and revised edition is able to draw comparisons with similar events in 2005. The study aims at analyzing the discursive construction of nations, nationalities and peoples Day commemoration in Ethiopia. 1.3.2. Specific Objective. The specific objectives of the study are to... Brief political history of Ethiopian nations, nationalities and peoples was also highlighted. Finally, Discourse theory, framing theory and political economy of mass media which serve as theoretical framework of the study were discussed in detail. 2.1. Overview of the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation.