

Preface

A lot has changed since this book was conceived. German-American relations have been transformed yet again, especially in light of the war against Iraq and all its surrounding issues. I will refrain from commenting on these most recent developments, but I would like to thank the numerous people and institutions who supported this project even before German-American relations once again became a topic for news headlines.

Before the essays collected here took their current form, they were presented and discussed extensively during a two-day German Studies Symposium held in April 2001 at the University of South Carolina. Several sponsors of the symposium have since made transitions also. I am grateful to Margit Resch, former chair of the former Department of Germanic, Slavic, and East Asian Languages, for being the first to provide funding and for encouraging a then very junior faculty member to plan and direct an international symposium. Joan Stewart, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts, supported the event generously and thoroughly impressed all participants with her witty and eloquent remarks at the opening dinner. Financial assistance from the university's Bicentennial Commission, its Comparative Literature Program (then directed by Allen Miller, who was also an active participant), and its Richard L. Walker Institute for International Studies helped to make the event possible. Beyond the University of South Carolina, the symposium received extremely generous support from the Max Kade Foundation in New York and from the DAAD (German American Exchange Service). Despite its own budgetary constraints, the Goethe Institute Atlanta also helped with some of the costs.

Of course, none of the above would have yielded any lasting results without the exemplary attention, patience, and cooperation of all the contributors to this book. I would like to thank everyone for respond-

ing so well to my occasionally overzealous timetable and, well, impatient emails. While academics are usually paid salaries, writers generally depend on receiving compensation for their writing. Therefore, special thanks to Thomas Meinecke and Matthias Politycki for donating their pieces.

I am thrilled that the University of Michigan Press took on this book and would like to thank Geoff Eley for his enthusiasm and support. It is a pleasure to work with him and with everyone at the press. The anonymous readers took exceptional care and their suggestions both for content as well as for the overall framing of the book were most useful; I thank them for their thorough engagement with the work.

Last but not least, I received various forms of support at home while working on this project. A College of Liberal Arts Scholarship Support award from the University of South Carolina in 2002 was in part used to complete work on the manuscript. Bill Edmiston, chair of the newly formed Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, has been most supportive, as have my colleagues in the German Studies Program and my friends at the university. My husband, Nicholas Vazsonyi, not only sustains me daily as a friend and colleague, he also provided the model for the USC German Studies Symposium by organizing the first such event in 1999. And, speaking of changes, our daughter Leah, herself a German-American, has become my greatest source of inspiration.

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