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Revisiting Prussia's Wars against Napoleon

History, Culture, and Memory

Karen Hagemann

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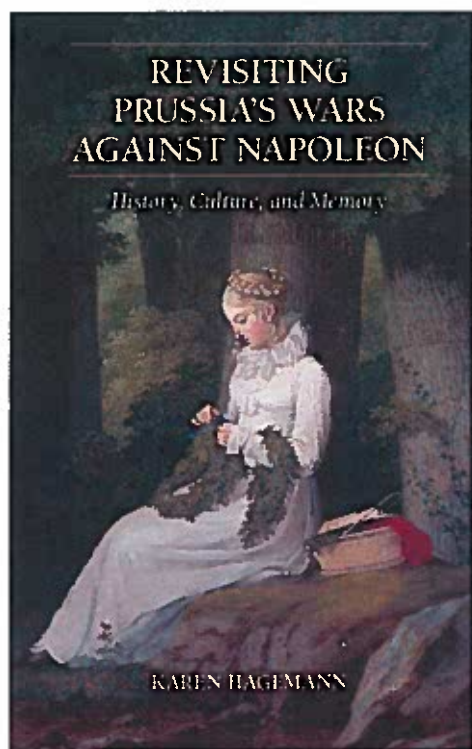
About the Book

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.

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Praise for the Book

"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

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