

# A Genius For War The German Army And General Staff 1807 1945

The German Wars Germany and the Second World War The Rise of the Wehrmacht Victories are Not Enough Instrument of War Germany, Hitler, and World War II Germany at War Enduring the Whirlwind War of Extermination Channel Islands at War The German War The German War What Germany Thinks Threatened Masculinity from British Fiction to Cold War German Cinema Why the Germans Lose at War The German Way of War War and the German Mind My German Correspondence Inside the German Empire in the Third Year of the War Modelling and Painting World War II German Military Figures Michael A. Palmer Horst Boog Samuel W. Mitcham Jr. Samuel J. Newland Dennis Showalter Gerhard L. Weinberg David T. Zabecki Gregory Liedtke Hannes Heer George Forty Nicholas Stargardt Nicholas Stargardt Thomas F. A. Smith Joseph Willis Kenneth Macksey Robert M. Citino Wilhelm Karl Pfeiler Herbert Bayard Swope Michael Farnworth

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a fine survey of how a nation came to be recognized for its military supremacy despite losing two world wars midwest book review in the decades leading up to world war ii the world was in awe of the prussian german military seeking to emulate what esteemed german military

history scholar robert m citino has termed the german way of war military professionals around the globe became fluent in the tactical jargon bewegungskrieg schwerpunckt auftragstaktik fingerspitzengefühl and of course blitzkrieg at the same time german warfare would become closely associated with the bloodiest and cruelest era in the history of mankind the german wars a concise history 1859 1945 outlines the history of european warfare from the wars of german unification to the end of world war ii author michael a palmer looks at political social economic and military developments across europe and the united states during this crucial period in world history in order to demonstrate the lasting impact of the german wars on the modern age palmer has succeeded in creating an outstanding short history of the german wars that influenced the development of europe and the world in the 19th and 20th centuries it s a terrific introduction and overview of the subject armchair general a provocative look at the methods that germany used to wage war and why ultimately they failed military heritage this is an excellent book highly readable it would be an excellent addition to the library of any military historian public library university library as well as personal collection of persons with interest in european or trans atlantic history kepler s military history book reviews

this is the sixth volume in the comprehensive and authoritative series germany and the second world war it deals with the extension of a european into a global war in the period from 1941 to 1943 it focuses on the politics strategy and operations of the belligerent powers as germany lost the initiative to the allies and it represents both in content and in composition the climax and turning points of the war series description this is the sixth in the magisterial ten volume germany and the second world war series the six volumes so far published in german take the story to 1943 and have achieved international acclaim as a major contribution to historical study under the auspices of the militärgeschichtliches forschungsamt research institute for military history a team of renowned historians has combined a full synthesis of existing material with the latest research to produce what will be the definitive history of the second world war from the german point of view the comprehensive analysis based on detailed scholarly research is underpinned by a full apparatus of maps diagrams and tables intensively researched and documented germany and the second world war is an undertaking of unparalleled scope and authority it will prove indispensable to all historians of the twentieth century

the rise of the wehrmacht is the first comprehensive work to deal with the german war effort in world war ii from this point of view its

uniqueness lies in the fact that it covers the entire war effort from the point of view of the german military that actually conducted and fought the war something that has never been done before on this scale excellent books have been written about the german army navy the luftwaffe and the ss as well as about the panzer branch the parachute arm the u boat forces etc but this is the first to cover them all in depth mitcham also covers the german wehrkreise roughly translated as military district system in depth and recognizes its importance both in the formation and expansion of the german army before the war and in its continuing importance throughout the conflict he deals with the german rearmament in greater depth and detail than has been done before points out the importance of the police in the development of germany s reserves before and during world war ii and offers new insights into the evolution and development of the german military doctrine of kesselschlacht the decisive battle of encirclement and annihilation in addition the rise of the wehrmacht explains the problems the wehrmacht faced because of its too rapid expansion this expansion was far more rapid than the german generals intended and resulted in many problems especially in terms of equipment shortages and a shortage of qualified officers finally mitcham addresses the contributions of the hitler youth to the war effort where their work on farms fire and rescue crews in nursing and as postal workers for example provided essential services to german infrastructure

since the early stages of world war ii militaries in general and the u s army in particular have studied the german way of war specifically as practiced in the 20th century while acknowledging that germany and before that nation came into existence prussia produced some excellent armies major problems with the german way of war must not be ignored despite the military prowess of germany it lost both of the major wars of the 20th century the author explores the reasons why a nation with such a strong military reputation was unable to win its wars and achieve its goals he emphasizes that military power tactical and operational brilliance and victories in the field can easily be squandered if a nation has failed to set achievable goals and develop strategies to reach them this failure should not be lost on modern nations as they proceed into the 21st century

drawing on more than a half century of research and teaching dennis showalter presents a fresh perspective on the german army during world war i showalter surveys an army at the heart of a national identity driven by yet also defeated by warfare in the modern age which

struggled to capitalize on its victories and ultimately forgot the lessons of its defeat exploring the internal dynamics of the german army and detailing how the soldiers coped with the many new forms of warfare showalter shows how the army s institutions responded to and how germany itself was changed by war detailing the major campaigns on the western and eastern fronts and the forgotten war fought in the middle east and africa this comprehensive volume examines the army s operational strategy the complexities of campaigns of movement versus static trench warfare and the effects of changes in warfare

reflecting on the greatest war in human history one cannot help but think about the terrible conflict as a whole its leaders its peoples and the puzzles still open about its conduct leaders on both sides realised that at stake from the very beginning was a complete restructuring of the world order more than a conflict of imperial aggression world war ii was about who would live and command the globe s resources and which peoples would disappear entirely because they were believed to be inferior or undesirable by the victor this collection of special studies in twentieth century german and world history illuminates the nature of the nazi system and its impact on germany and the world bringing together essays now widely scattered and several never previously published in english this volume examines the holocaust the connections between the european and pacific theatres of war as well as the effects leaders and research problems of world war ii by examining the effects of world war ii its leaders its problems and the holocaust this volume provides an illuminating study of the nature of the nazi system and its impact on germany and the world

written by experts for use by nonexperts this monumental work probes germany s genius for war and the unmistakable pattern of tactical and operational innovation and excellence evident throughout the nation s military history despite having the best military forces in the world some of the most advanced weapons available and unparalleled tactical proficiency germany still lost both world wars this landmark four volume encyclopedia explores how and why that happened at the same time examining germany as a military power from the start of the thirty years war in 1618 to the present day coverage includes the federal republic of germany its predecessor states and the kingdoms and principalities that combined to form imperial germany in 1871 the seven years war is discussed as are the napoleonic wars the wars of german unification including the franco prussian war world war i world war ii and the cold war in all more than 1 000 entries illuminate battles organizations

leaders armies weapons and other aspects of war and military life the most comprehensive overview of german military history ever to appear in english this work will enable students and others interested in military history to better understand the sociopolitical history of germany the complex role conflict has played in the nation throughout its history and why germany continues to be an important player on the european continent

despite the best efforts of a number of historians many aspects of the ferocious struggle between nazi germany and the soviet union during the second world war remain obscure or shrouded in myth one of the most persistent of these is the notion largely created by many former members of its own officer corps in the immediate postwar period that the german army was a paragon of military professionalism and operational proficiency whose defeat on the eastern front was solely attributable to the amateurish meddling of a crazed former corporal and the overwhelming numerical superiority of the red army a key pillar upon which the argument of german numerical weakness vis à vis the red army has been constructed is the assertion that germany was simply incapable of providing its army with the necessary quantities of men and equipment needed to replace its losses in consequence as their losses outstripped the availability of replacements german field formations became progressively weaker until they were incapable of securing their objectives or eventually of holding back the swelling might of the red army this work seeks to address the notion of german numerical weakness in terms of germany s ability to replace its losses and regenerate its military strength and assess just how accurate this argument was during the crucial first half of the russo german war june 1941 june 1943 employing a host of primary documents and secondary literature it traces the development and many challenges of the german army from the prewar period until the invasion of the soviet union in june 1941 it continues on to chart the first two years of the struggle between germany and the soviet union with a particular emphasis upon the scale of german personnel and equipment losses and how well these were replaced it also includes extensive examinations into the host of mitigating factors that both dictated the course of germany s campaign in the east and its replacement and regeneration capabilities in contrast to most accounts of the conflict this study finds that numerical weakness being the primary factor in the defeat of the ostheer specifically as it relates to the strength and condition of the german units involved has been overemphasized and frequently exaggerated in fact germany was actually able to regenerate its forces to a remarkable degree with a steady flow of fresh men and equipment and german field divisions on the eastern front were usually far stronger

than the accepted narratives of the war would have one believe

this volume contains the most important contributions by distinguished historians who have thoroughly demolished this wehrmacht myth the picture that emerges from this collection is a depressing one and raises many questions about why ordinary men got involved as perpetrators and bystanders in an unprecedented program of extermination of racially inferior men women and children in eastern europe and the soviet union during the second world war pub desc

drawing upon first hand reminiscences and a superb collection of historic photographs from a wide variety of sources including private collections the book details the history of wartime years then brings it up to date with a succinct survey of the surviving relics of the nazi occupation which can still be seen today channel islands at war originally published in hardback in 1999 and now reprinted in paperback to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the islands liberation in 1945 presents a graphic portrait of this fascinating aspect of recent british history it will undoubtedly be of considerable interest to all those who study world war 2 in general and northwest europe in detail and also be of particular interest to those who specialise in the employment of the armed forces of nazi germany in a very different environment to that of the usual world war 2 battlefields book jacket

drawing on a wealth of first hand testimony the german war is the first foray for many decades into how the german people experienced the second world war told from the perspective of those who lived through it soldiers school teachers and housewives nazis christians and jews its masterful historical narrative sheds fresh and disturbing light on the beliefs hopes and fears of people who embarked on continued and fought to the end a brutal war of conquest and genocide

the second world war was a german war like no other the nazi regime having started the conflict turned it into the most horrific war in european history resorting to genocidal methods well before building the first gas chambers over its course the third reich expended and exhausted all its moral and physical reserves leading to total defeat in 1945 yet 70 years on despite whole libraries of books about the war s origins course and atrocities we still do not know what germans thought they were fighting for and how they experienced and sustained the

war until the bitter end when war broke out in september 1939 it was deeply unpopular in germany yet without the active participation and commitment of the german people it could not have continued for almost six years what then was the war germans thought they were fighting how did the changing course of the conflict the victories of the blitzkrieg the first defeats in the east the bombing of germany s cities change their views and expectations and when did germans first realise that they were fighting a genocidal war drawing on a wealth of first hand testimony the german war is the first foray for many decades into how the german people experienced the second world war told from the perspective of those who lived through it soldiers schoolteachers and housewives nazis christians and jews its masterful historical narrative sheds fresh and disturbing light on the beliefs hopes and fears of a people who embarked on continued and fought to the end a brutal war of conquest and genocide

the impact of the cold war on german male identities can be seen in the nation s cinematic search for a masculine paradigm that rejected the fate centered value system of its national socialist past while also recognizing that german males once again had become victims of fate and fatalism but now within the value system of the soviet and american hegemonies that determined the fate of cold war germany and central europe this monograph is the first to demonstrate that this cold war cinematic search sought out a meaningful masculine paradigm through film adaptations of late victorian and edwardian male writers who likewise sought a means of self determination within a hegemonic structure that often left few opportunities for personal agency in contrast to the scholarly practice of exploring categories of modern masculinity such as victorian imperialist manliness or german cold war male identity as distinct from each other this monograph offers an important comparative corrective that brings forward an extremely influential century long trajectory of threatened masculinity for german cold war masculinity lessons were to be learned from history namely from late victorian and edwardian models of manliness cold war germans like the victorians before them had to confront the unknowns of a new world without fear or hesitation in a cold war mentality where nuclear technology and geographic distance had trumped face to face confrontation between east and west cold war german masculinity sought alternatives to the insanity of mutual nuclear destruction by choosing not just to confront threats but to resolve threats directly through personal agency and self determination

the german armed forces suffered crushing defeat in the last century kenneth macksey examines the reasons behind these catastrophic military failures the random fortunes of war or the inevitable result of a particular structure leadership and history a nation with few natural defensive boundaries germany traditionally had to struggle to survive and developed an aggressive and militant outlook its great strengths were the brilliance of individual generals and military thinkers the innovative development of the military forces and the skill and tenacity of the fighting men set against all this was a short term war policy a tendency to underestimate the enemy and believe its own propaganda and the politicisation of the military staffs these and many other factors were to lead germany from nineteenth century success and dreams of world domination to twentieth century defeat author kenneth macksey s other books include guderian panzer general rommel campaigns and battles and the alternate history invasion the german invasion of england july 1940 selling points a masterly account of the flawed brilliance of german generalship the reasons for actions that have shaped world history reviews this book is a brilliant and knowledgeable account of german military history which makes for thought provoking reading military modelcraft international a lucid and knowledgeable military history with informative insights on the interactions between the various areas of german army operations rusi journal

for frederick the great the prescription for warfare was simple kurz und vives short and lively wars that relied upon swift powerful and decisive military operations robert citino takes us on a dramatic march through prussian and german military history to show how that primal theme played out time and time again citino focuses on operational warfare to demonstrate continuity in german military campaigns from the time of elector frederick wilhelm and his great sleigh drive against the swedes to the age of adolf hitler and the blitzkrieg to the gates of moscow along the way he underscores the role played by the prussian army in elevating a small vulnerable state to the ranks of the european powers describes how nineteenth century victories over austria and france made the german army the most respected in europe and reviews the lessons learned from the trenches of world war i through this long view citino reveals an essential recurrent pattern characterized by rapid troop movements and surprise attacks maneuvers to outflank the enemy and a determination to annihilate the opposition that made it possible for the germans to fight armies often larger than their own he highlights the aggressiveness of prussian and german commanders trained simply to find the enemy and keep attacking and destroys the myth of auftragstaktik flexible command replacing it with the independence of subordinate commanders he also brings new interpretations to well known operations such as moltke s 1866 campaign and

the opening campaign in 1914 while introducing readers to less familiar but important battles like Langensalza and the Annaberg the German way of war as Citino shows was fostered by the development of a widely accepted and deeply embedded military culture that supported and rewarded aggression his book offers a fresh look at one of the most remarkable respected and reviled militaries of the past half millennium and marks another sterling contribution to the history of operational warfare

the step by step building and painting guides in this book illustrate figures in scales from 1/150 to 1/32 which equates to wargame figures sizes from 10mm to 54mm there are painting recipes featured for twenty five uniforms covering the main branches of the Wehrmacht these are Afrika Korps Fallschirmjäger parachutists Feldgendarmerie military police Gebirgsjäger mountain troops Heer army Panzer tank crews Waffen SS and U-boat crew preparation and assembly of white metal and plastic figures is covered in detail and tutorials include techniques for building a wargames army quickly foreword by Rick Priestley it will appeal to all historical wargamers particularly those interested in WWII and those interested in diorama making and figure modelling gives painting recipes for twenty five uniforms covering the main branches of the Wehrmacht the latest materials and techniques are covered which will benefit beginners as well as experienced modellers superbly illustrated with 291 colour images

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