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Relevance of the military leadership methodology of post WW-II Germany

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Abstract

The military leadership methodology developed in post-World War II Germany offers valuable insights for the reconstruction of military forces in post-conflict and post-standoff scenarios. This abstract provides a concise overview of the key findings and implications of the study. In the aftermath of World War II, Germany faced the daunting task of rebuilding its military forces while navigating a complex geopolitical landscape. The principles and practices adopted during this period have enduring relevance for contemporary nations seeking to reconstruct their military capabilities following conflicts or standoffs. This study highlights several key takeaways from the German experience that can inform modern military reconstruction efforts. First, a strong emphasis on professionalism and expertise among military officers is essential for building a capable and adaptable force. Second, maintaining healthy civil-military relations and democratic oversight ensures that military reconstruction aligns with broader national goals and values.

Keywords: Post World war, Germany, German Military, leadership

Introductions

The distinctive Leadership Methodology of Innere Führung was crucial to the formation (and expansion) of the German Armed Forces following WWII. The notion of Innere Führung was effective in creating an army where the soldier would vehemently and firmly defend the principles of their democratic constitution (called, the 'Basic Law' in Germany) against the background of tyranny, enormous suffering, defeat, guilt, and national humiliation. The principle of human dignity underlies the unifying concept of "Innere Führung," which determines how the armed forces are structured internally and how they interact with the state and society. The term "Innere Führung" may also refer to a leadership concept or practice that establishes codes of behavior for military personnel and their superiors.

All members of the German military are expected to adhere to the principles of Innere Führung at all times, with particular emphasis on those in positions of authority. When it comes to distinctions between the military and civilian life, innere Führung dictates that they be kept to a bare minimum. The notion of Innere Führung, on the other hand, has been unique to the German Armed Forces and, in retrospect, has fulfilled the aim of rearming Germany without the new force adopting a Nazi worldview. Its underlying idea that subordinates and enemies alike must be treated with respect as human beings humanized both soldiering and combat. Additionally, it placed the onus on every soldier to be well-versed in the political and ethical underpinnings of his or her (democratic) nation and culture, and to never engage in military action that runs counter to these underlying purposes. It is accurate to refer to World War II as "Hitler's war." The first two years of the war were so productive for Germany that Hitler was almost able to achieve hegemony in Europe. However, his successes did not contribute to a coherent strategic vision that ensured ultimate success. The first accomplishments were nevertheless remarkable. Hitler's focus shifted westward after the rapid conquest of Poland. To him, it was imperative that he first secure victory over Britain and France before refocusing his attention eastward, on the lands that would serve as the "living space" for his new empire. In the early spring of 1940, the assault on the Western Front was launched.

Literature review

Karkampasis, Georgios (2016) [1]: The conclusion of globe War II ushered in a period of

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rapid sociopolitical and economic transformation throughout Europe and the rest of the globe. The Allies won World War II, and Germany was on the losing side, therefore it was ostracized and had to pay war reparations. War reparations had far-reaching repercussions on the German economy and culture, as well as on the economies of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France. After World War II ended, Germany was hit with unprecedented war reparations because the Allies chose reparations "in kind," which were designed to completely disarm German industry and destroy its war machinery capability. As war reparations, the demolished factories were sent to the nations of the Allies. When economic and political worries escalated, the Western Allies quickly abandoned the Reparation plans. Several causes, including reparations from Germany, led to Western Europe's strong economic expansion in the years after World War II. In light of the current resurgence of discussion about whether or not Germany has paid off its whole war debt to Greece, this article provides a quick overview of the issues behind this controversy. Major results on the economic and political impacts of the Allies' restitution strategy and arguments against the constructive nature of reparations 'in kind' are presented in the latter section of this study.

Hussain, Mazher & Aqiel, Nasir & Farooq, Anwar. (2017) [2]

Most significantly, Nazism had an international influence by imposing a global war on Europe and the rest of the globe. Nations like the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, France, and the United States were allies, whereas nations like Germany, Japan, and Italy were Axis powers. While it's true that Hitler and the other top Nazis bore most of the blame for the war, other powerful figures also played key roles. Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin, Hirohito, and Mussolini were all notable examples. Hitler's activities had an impact on almost every culture, both during and after World War II. The world was shocked by his strict policies. New employment and technological advancements benefited some civilizations economically, but others, like Germany, were stricken by massive debt and economic collapse. The United Nations World Charter and the rise of Neo-Nazi parties in several nations both have repercussions on society.

Farstadvoll, Stein (2022) [3]: The effects of wars and conflicts endure long after they have ended. In this piece, we examine one such persistent heritage: the barbed wire that the Nazis left behind when they occupied Norway in WWII. Since this barbed wire is still there today, it provides an example that may demonstrate the complexities of a material legacy that is both destructive and significant in terms of providing insight and perspective into the past. This concerns the incomplete cleaning from the postwar era and the barbed wire's ongoing challenge in the management of contemporary and future cultural and natural resources. Contemporary archaeology sheds light on the aftermath of war, providing a counterweight to main historical narratives that focus on the height of armed conflicts.

Bigombe, Betty (2021) [4]: Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) and other post-conflict reconstruction interventions have largely ignored the vast majority of victims in communities who have suffered just

as much as, if not more than, the active fighters themselves. When the consequences of conflict are disregarded, civilians are "punished twice." This chapter draws heavily on the author's experience as a leader of DDR initiatives in Uganda and Burundi, and it aims to highlight the many ways in which paying more attention to the forgotten non-combatants of war is crucial to healing societies, fostering reconstruction and development, and preventing a recurrence of conflict.

Stengel, Frank (2020) [5]: The Politics of Military Force delves into the roots of German antimilitarist culture to analyze the mechanics of discursive transformation that allowed for involvement in military operations. So-called out-of-area activities were formerly strictly forbidden, but are now largely accepted as inevitable by German politicians. The book uses the framework of Essex School discourse theory to explain how language may influence attitudes and behaviors, and it goes into detail on how this might normalize policies that were previously unfathomable. The Politics of Military Force analyzes 25 years of parliamentary debates in Germany to explain three phenomena. The Politics of Military Force: An Introduction is available for purchase at. Discount of 30% with coupon Umstengel

Methodology

During World War II, American and German ground division generals spent time in command in North Africa, Italy, and Western Europe, 1941–1945. Our attention is on the divisional level generals (henceforth, generals) who were responsible for anything from 10,000 to 30,000 men. Divisions are intermediate in size between armies and corps. They are bigger than regiments but less than brigades, battalions, companies, platoons, and squads. We have fewer missing data on divisional performance during WWII than we have on the performance of smaller units, thus utilizing divisions is preferred. During World War II, there were hundreds of divisions, but only a few dozen corps and tens of thousands of armies, thus studying divisions provides a more robust sample size. Rather of focusing on navy and air force generals, we look at those in charge of ground forces. For a number of reasons, we'll be concentrating on WWII. To begin, the scale and depth of its historiography provide for information that is both comprehensive and of high quality when compared to that of previous conflicts.

Data analysis

Germany's Military Turnaround

2016 is an unsettling year for the globe. The effects of limited liberty and ongoing wars and conflicts are being felt here in Germany and throughout Europe. We are learning the hard way that even in Europe, peace and stability are not guaranteed. Given the new security environment, the federal government must properly expand our security policy's interests, goals, and objectives. (Berlin, July 13, 2016, Dr. Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor)

Reunified Germany has said repeatedly since 1990 that it feels "surrounded by friends." What, therefore, could cause a country like Germany, which is widely seen to be a pacifist state, to drastically alter its foreign and security policies? Why did it send such a strong message to its friends and neighbors, and most importantly, to its potential enemies? Germany's decision to reevaluate its place in

international military and security was motivated by a number of factors. Germany's motivations for beginning a military expansion at this precise moment despite its internal restrictions, as well as the role that NATO played, are crucial to understanding the answers to these issues. Because of their significance in setting the framework for Germany's current military development, this chapter concentrates on the two NATO summits in Wales in 2014 and Warsaw in 2016. This subject has not been well explored as of yet due of its topicality and the classification period of most of its underlying materials, despite the fact that the area of NATO allies tends to be widely examined in general. Therefore, the following analysis is based mostly on freely accessible primary materials and current perspectives on the topic from academic studies and the media.

Domestic Politics and Social Constraints

The German government and the federal ministry of defense were able to resurrect the dormant security policy discussion with the release of their white paper in 2016. It was also the first time the German federal government as a whole produced a white paper, rather than just the Federal Ministry of Defense. For Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen, welcoming and including her detractors was of the highest importance. This is why she made sure that the 2016 white paper was "fostered by participation, contributions, and critical suggestions from the worlds of politics, science, and

civil society, as well as industry, the interested public, and international partners."

With the globe in flux, "Germany's security environment has become even more complex, volatile, dynamic, and thus increasingly unpredictable." Historically, German society has been slow to pay attention to matters of foreign and security policy. However, as a result of increasing globalization, the lines between foreign and security policies have begun to blur, attracting the attention of Germans. Recently, two major issues - the migrant crisis and how to understand a revitalized Russia led by President Putin who is threatening the liberal international order - have dominated the discussion in both the media and political sectors. There seems to be a peculiar and scary interdependence between these two problems that strengthens each other.

The question of how to deal with this challenge, especially in light of Germany's burdensome history, led to severe radicalization of the fringes of the political spectrum in 2015 and 2016 during the height of the migration crisis (see Fig 1). The German alt-right group Alternative für Deutschland (AFD - Alternative for Germany) has sparked a wave of public attention with its calls to seal the country's borders, use force if necessary to protect them, send asylum seekers back to their home countries, and revitalize German culture, whatever that may entail. The German leftist party Die Linke took the polar opposite stance, saying that all migrants are welcome in Germany.

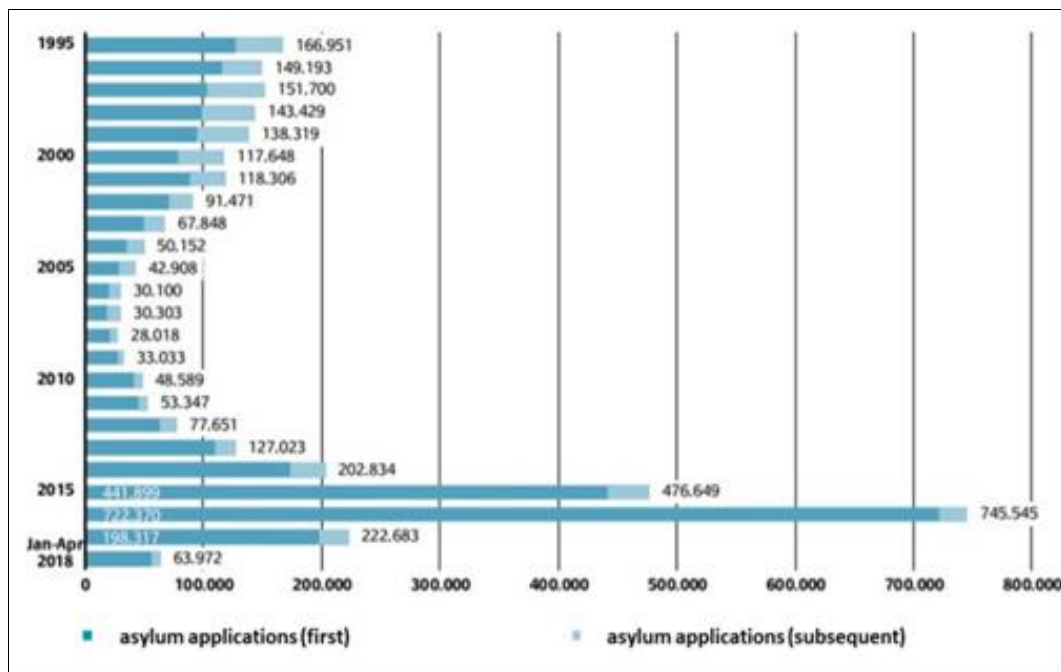


Fig 1: Development of the Numbers of Applications for Asylum (1995-2018)

Putin and the Russian state-controlled media backed both of these rival parties, brought their top leaders to Moscow for conspiratorial meetings by private aircraft, and stoked animosity between the various political factions and the German public. An unsettling amount of success was achieved by Putin in his attempt to build a gap between German society, European states, and Germany's

transatlantic ally. Putin was seen as more trustworthy by Germans than their foreign partner the United States, according to a survey conducted in May 2018 by a publicly controlled German television station (Fig 2).

In fact, 82% of respondents said they do not see the United States as a trustworthy ally. There is more to this sea shift in attitude than the "Trump effect."



Fig 2: German Opinion Poll: United States No Longer a Reliable Partner

Former German Chief of Defense and Chairman of the NATO Military Committee Harald Kujat is currently an official employee of the Russian think tank "Dialogue of Civilizations" in the city's trendy Mitte neighborhood. Putin's close buddy Wladimir Jakunin heads the group and is subject to sanctions due to his role in the conflict in Ukraine. Putin's news has spread beyond the internet "troll factories" he formerly relied on and into the glitterati of the diplomatic, political, and journalistic elites.

The goals of Die Linke, a German political party, were never hidden. At his role as Die Linke's foreign policy spokesman, Wolfgang Gehrcke called for the dissolution of the Bundeswehr at a discussion commemorating the 60th anniversary of the German military on November 12, 2015, citing tensions between Germany and Russia. In addition, he insisted that NATO be dismantled and the funds freed up as a consequence given to the incoming migrants. Die Linke, a European political party, reaffirmed its support for NATO's dissolution in June 2016 and urged the creation of a new system of collective security in Europe that would include Russia. At its peak, the Bundeswehr had more than 9,000 soldiers and civilians detailed to work for refugee aid. This included the rescue of more than 20,000 migrants in distress on the Mediterranean Sea, the provision of more than 51,000 accommodation facilities for refugees, and the provision of reconstruction trainings for Syrian refugees. The German left, preoccupied with rescuing the globe via a network of beacons, paid little attention.

The gradual breakdown of German society did not end with the Bundeswehr's barracks. Since 2017, the Military Counter Intelligence Agency has been conducting background checks on all potential recruits, looking for signs of radicalism related to the far left, far right, or Islam. While there has been a general decrease in suspicions, there are still isolated incidents that might raise red flags. There have been 89 right-wing extremists and 25 Islamic extremists found guilty since 2011. Second lieutenant Franco A. is one of those accused of plotting the murder of prominent politicians who, in his opinion, are to blame for the country's disastrous refugee policy. He was able to pass himself off as a Syrian refugee for months until his cover was blown. His story stunned the German public and

sparked a discussion on the role and oversight of the Military Counter Intelligence Agency, the education and tradition of the Bundeswehr, and the apparent collapse of the idea of citizens in uniform.

Conclusion

Most notably in contemporary times, the economic and political rebuilding of Germany and Japan under military occupation following World War II. For instance, historian John Dower claims that in 2002 and 2003, US officials looked to them as models of successful military invasions. Post-war rebuilding in occupied Germany was effective, but it shouldn't be used as a template for nations with quite different conditions. The result may have been quite different if occupied Germany had seen armed resistance, forcing British forces to fight back and perhaps murder civilians, as has happened in other post-conflict settings like Iraq. There was no armed uprising since the Nazi administration and Germany had been thoroughly beaten in war. The positive work of reconstruction could not begin until a large majority of both the occupiers and the occupied acknowledged that the previous regime had been illegitimate, and until law and order, peace and internal security, adequate food supplies, and measures to prevent disease had been established.

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