

IN THIS ISSUE

Loyal subscribers will have noticed that this print edition of ›Studies in Contemporary History‹ is a special occasion. Thanks to the kind support of the publishing house Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, our journal is now printed on glossier, whiter paper better suited to the reproduction of images than the book paper used previously. This enhances the quality of the images in a number of ways. It means that the photos, posters, caricatures, etc. from a wide range of sources and often of great aesthetic value can be reproduced more sharply and in greater detail, aiding historical interpretation and doing greater justice to the work of the artists. But higher quality reproduction is clearly an asset even for private photos and other sources without any special artistic intent, allowing certain details to be more easily identified – especially when the condition of the images is not the best due to aging and the photographic technology of the time. Another reason for the change in paper was that it increases the contrast and improves the readability of the type, thus representing a practical advantage even for articles without images. Those who have always only accessed the online edition of ›Studies in Contemporary History‹ are again invited to consider a subscription or at least to get an idea of the look and feel of the print edition for themselves by visiting a library.

In terms of content, this issue ties in with some of the topics covered in earlier issues. *Harriet Scharnberg's* article about the stock photo agency Associated Press and its complex entanglements with the National Socialist propaganda machine continues the theme of the issue on ›Photography in Dictatorships‹ (ZF 2/2015) with some interesting new sources. While the transnational history of AP in Germany after 1945 has recently been outlined elsewhere,¹ the author breaks new ground in her review of the years leading up to 1941. AP was ›the key channel for the exchange of photographs reflecting American and German national imagery‹ – an exchange that took place ›in both directions‹ and also on the German side, thanks not least to photographers in SS uniform. German-American entanglements in the 1960s and beyond are the subject of the article by *Rolf Nohr* and *Theo Röhle*, who describe the genesis and spread of business simulation games. These became increasingly popular in the context of management training and new methods of management, promising as they did to increase players' motivation and decision-making rationality. Certain assumptions and incentive structures were built into the market simulations and require historicisation from today's perspective. At the same time, this represents a history of early computerisation (see also ZF 2/2012).

1 Malte Zierenberg, Zurück ins Netz der Bilder. Die Fotografien der Associated Press in Deutschland nach 1945, in: Alexander Gallus/Axel Schildt/Detlef Siegfried (eds), *Deutsche Zeitgeschichte – transnational*, Göttingen 2015, pp. 241-258. The essay makes only brief mention of ›prior developments‹ (p. 243) but includes a photo from the period before WWII depicting work in the Berlin AP office (p. 248).

The other two articles in this issue focus mainly on the 1970s and 1980s, albeit with very different themes. *Sina Fabian* explores the seemingly paradoxical observation that the end of the post-war economic boom in the Federal Republic of Germany coincided with the advent of mass tourism and in particular of package tours by air to foreign destinations. With special reference to West German tourists in Spain, she examines the magnitude of this trend. She also investigates, from the dual perspective of the tour operators and the travellers themselves, the extent to which such standardised forms of holidaying left room for individual preferences and experiences. A very different structural history and history of experience is presented by *Jan Philipp Wölbern*, who looks at the objectives and practices of prison labour in the German Democratic Republic and in particular the situation of political prisoners. This has been the subject of repeated controversies since German unification (for instance regarding the extent to which Western companies profited from the work of GDR prisoners). It is therefore useful to consider the system of prison labour and the specific working conditions in a broader context, drawing on previous studies and the available source material – without scandalmongering or apologetics for the GDR.

With her contribution to the debate on the position of women in German historical scholarship, *Karen Hagemann* takes up a much discussed yet still very sensitive subject. It has of course long been known that there is still no complete gender equality at the highest professional echelons of our discipline, and that the pace of change is very slow indeed. Opinion is divided, however, on the reasons for this, and certainly on the implications. Hagemann has now independently evaluated the statistical material for the period from the 1970s until today and presents a balanced foundation for further discussion. Her approach is very much a contemporary history one, focusing on the career opportunities of women historians over the course of the 20th century and in particular after 1945, but her work has a bearing on the discipline of history as a whole and not just the subdiscipline of contemporary history. We look forward to responses from right across the discipline and will offer a forum for this in future issues if required. It would be particularly welcome if the somewhat circular debate on gender equality since the 1980s could lead on to a wider discussion of diversity in historical scholarship in particular, and in academia overall.

Once again, not all of the contributions and ideas contained in this issue can be mentioned here. But we hope that many of the topics will capture your interest and curiosity as you peruse the analogue or the digital edition!

The editorial team
(translation: Joy Titheridge)