

Title - Did World War II Kill German Patriotism?

Program of Study - History

Presentation Type - Powerpoint (Remote)

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Category - Textual or Investigative

Abstract: This presentation traces and examines the history of patriotism in Germany from after World War Two through today. The Germans are quite well-known for not being a patriotic nation but the reasons for this are not well-known. During this research, a conclusion has been made that this lack of patriotism could stem from the extreme push away from Nationalism after World War Two. Through political and acceptance speeches of awards, such as a Nobel Peace Prize, Germans were encouraged to think of Europe as a whole and how they can serve Europe, instead of focusing on serving and working for Germany. A few speeches that will be considered and evaluated in this paper will be "Peace Policy in Our Time" by Willy Brant, "A Perfect Text" by Navid Kermani, and "Experiences While Composing a Sunday Speech" by Martin Walser. Interviews have also been conducted to trace German opinion on their country and their thoughts on patriotism. To see this progression of thought, citizens who were born during World War Two (65-75 years old), their children (40-50 years old), and their children (18-25 years old) have been interviewed. This study will produce insights into the German culture and identity of its citizens along with how a nation of people can be defined for decades after a tragic national atrocity. Further study could delve into how key figures in a country can shape and mold an entire

society's thoughts and opinions on any given subject or how religion can help a country move on after an event such as World War Two.