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Sommario/riassunto

This volume examines the politics of history and memory in Germany today through a review and analysis of seminal developments in the current discourse on 1933 - 1945. An interdisciplinary work, this book examines questions of representing the past from the perspective of literary studies, social psychology, film studies, history, and cultural studies. Themes include transgenerational memory and remembrance, the air war and German literature, commemoration and silences, transnational reconciliation, and historical consciousness in the German present. The collected essays make clear that as the current discourse contributes toward an historically informed, differentiated understanding of individuals' roles in the Third Reich and World War Two, victim and perpetrator identities cannot be defined as exclusive from one another. The discourse emphasizes personal over collective experience and answers questions of responsibility and guilt on the individual level.