Charles Maier

Publications, Selected Lectures and Projects

I. Books:


Dissolution: The Crisis of Communism and the End of East Germany (Princeton: Princeton University Press; 1997); translated as Das Verschwinden der DDR und Der Untergang des Kommunismus (Frankfurt am Main: S. Fischer Verlag, 1999); Il Crollo. La crisi del comunismo e la fine della germania orientale (Bologna: Il Mulino, 1999).


II. Edited Books:


Changing Boundaries of the Political: Essays on the Evolving Balance between State and


III. Chapters and Articles


“Imagining Zagreb: Urban Strategy and its Context.” in Project Zagreb: Transition as Condition,


“Il ventesimo secolo è stato peggiore degli altri? Un bilancio storico alla fine del Novecento” (Was the Twentieth Century Worse than the Others? A Historical Balance Sheet at the end of the 1900s), in Il Mulino, 386, vol. XLVIII (Nov.-Dec. 1999): 996-1011. (Text of annual Mulino lecture; see below.)


(Abridgement in Frankfurter Rundschau, Feb. 5, 1998.)

“German War, German Peace,” in German History since 1800, Mary Fulbrook, ed. (London: Arnold, 1997), pp. 539-555.


Wissenschaftlicher Kongreß der Deutschen Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft, Gerhard Lehmburgh, ed. (Pladen: Leske + Budrich, 1995): 315-325. (See guest lectures.)


**IV. Review Essays, Comments:**


**Book Reviews:**


**V. Other:**


“Remembering Germany,” keynote address, German Studies Association, Houston, October 6, 2000.


Foreword to the volumes in the Giovanni Agnelli Foundation Series in Italian History, published by Princeton University Press including Federico Chabod, Italian Foreign Policy: The Statecraft

“Harriman and the Poles,” East European Political Studies, VIII, 3 (Fall, 1994): 543-548.


"Food for Thought or Foreword and Vorspeise," foreword to Food for Thought: Recipes from the Harvard Center for European Studies (Cambridge, Mass., 1987).


Assistant to W. Averell Harriman (and to co-author Elie Abel) in the preparation of Special Envoy to Churchill and Stalin (New York: Random House, 1975).

VI. Selected recent guest lectures and/or papers:

"Between Surprise and Social Science," Max Weber Lecture, European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole, June 10, 2010. (cite using the coverpage not this website).


Multiple presentations comparing the American occupation of Germany after World War II with the American role in Iraq during 2004 and early 2005 (Co-appearances with John Dower speaking on Japan).

“Fractal Histories: Fractal Politics: The Global, the Local, the Imperial in an Era of Deterritorialization,” Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies: State of the


“Remembering Germany,” keynote address, German Studies Association, Houston, October 6, 2000.


“Volk, Class, Bürger: The Imaginaries of German Social History.” Fritz Thyssen Foundation Lecture on the Impact of the German Scholarly Tradition, at the University of Tel Aviv (November 30, 1998).


Concluding summary to the international conference on “Les Reconstructions en Europe 1945-1949,” organized by the Memorial of Caen and the Centre de Recherche de l’Histoire Quantitative de l’Université de Caen, February 20-22, 1997. (To be published.)


Opening lecture to SISSCO (Società Italiana per lo Studio della Storia Contemporanea), Pisa, May 1996, on periodizing the twentieth century. (Publication data above.)

Comments at an international conference on “Truth Commissions: A Comparative Assessment,” May 1996; the edited transcript is available in World Peace Foundation Reports, Nr. 16 (1997) Henry J. Steiner, ed.,


conference of European historians, University of Keele, Stafford, England. (To be published.)


July 1993: Rethinking Postwar European History after the End of the Cold War, keynote address to Australian Conference of European Historians, La Trobe University, Melbourne. Other seminars on related themes were presented at the Australian National University, Canberra, and the University of Sydney. See bibliography above.

April 1993: Four lectures on diverse themes to the Forschungsschwerpunkt Zeithistorischer Studien, Potsdam. (I was concurrently a visiting scholar.)


July 1991: "Crisis and Transformation of the Modern State": three lectures to the School of Historical Studies, Universita' degli Studi di San Marino.

March 1991: keynote speaker, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, conference on contemporary Germany.

February 1991: Green Visiting Professor, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas.

I have not kept an inclusive record of guest lectures, conference comments, internet forum comments (H-German), and similar interventions.

VII. Research and Writing in progress and projected; current research and teaching interests:


“The Passing of the Territorial Era,” working title of a book on the rise and decline of territoriality in world politics, for publication by Harvard University Press, publication envisaged for 2010.

“Statebuilding and Territorial Consolidation,” a unit for volume 5 of A New History of the World, edited by Emily Rosenberg (volume editor), and Akira Iriye and Jürgen Osterhammel (general editors), Harvard University Press and Beck Verlag, joint publishers.


As recent publications and works in progress indicate, I currently pursue several different themes
in my research and writing: First, a cluster of issues pertaining to global history: the rise and
decline of territoriality, i.e. the changing significance of what is often taken for granted -- state
control of bordered space, and its impact on politics and international stability; relatedly the role
of empire and imperial-like units (including the U.S. in this category) as a force for international
order, and disorder. Second: the role of history and collective memory, which includes
consideration of such issues as reparation, truth commissions and political trials after war crimes
or political repression. Third: the socioeconomic history of capitalist and the formerly socialist
societies. Fourth: a cluster of issues pertaining to intellectual history and theory, including the
methodologies of comparative and contemporary history and the application of political
philosophy to historical cases. In terms of national history I follow the modern national
development of Germany and Italy, above all. Occasionally I contribute background pieces to
collections or exhibition catalogues on the history of the arts, architecture or urbanism and music
history. I have taught large “core” courses on the First and the Second World Wars and
departmental offerings on Western Europe since the Reformation, modern Italian history,
international relations, and most recently twentieth-century world history, and political trials.