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History 133c

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Source Exploration Revised: Post-War German Family

Brandes, O. Jean. “The Effect of War on the German Family.” *Social Forces*, vol. 29, no. 2, 1950, JSTOR.

In 1950, O. Jean Brandes wrote an article on the effects that World War 1 and 2 had on social institutions, primarily family. He states that due to the wars, social institutions have been disrupted. He claims that there was a need for a powerful social movement in Germany in order to refamiliarize society with the idea of familial relationships. He makes note that a few positive changes came out of the war in terms of the decline of paternal authority and the rise of women in the workforce. However during the post-war period, the numbers of women working once again declined due to prevailing German attitudes. Brandes continues his article by displaying data that he collected while he was in Germany. He was able to get this data because he was a Military Government Officer for the United States from 1945 to 1948. By collecting this data, he revealed that there was a decline in men who were able to be married and incline in the number of women who were marriageable. This imbalance can lead one to view this as one explanation for the decline in families and family ideals. Brandes was able to collect this specific data through the Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, which placed the surplus of women in 1947 at 7.3 million for all of Germany. He continues by stating the Nazi regime had a huge effect on social institutions. During the Nazi regime, many children were separated from their families. This took a toll on social institutions because many of these children committed juvenile delinquencies. Once some of these children were reunited, they took on the same ideologies of their parents and made no new attempt to change societal problems. O. Jean Brandes then discusses marriage after the wars. After Germany’s defeat in both wars, there was a huge increase in divorce rates. He states that this could have been because the German judiciary had broken down at the end of the war and a high percentage of husbands were still separated from their wives, either as prisoners-of-war, refugees, or civilian internees. He got this data from Carle C. Zimmerman's *The Family of Tomorrow, the Cultural Crisis and the Way Out,* which was published in 1949.[[1]](#footnote-0) Brandes concludes his article by talking about the effect the infiltration of the United States and British occupation forces had on social institutions. He claims that these occupational zones caused a clash between pre-war attitudes still held by many husbands and the changed outlook of their wives or vice versa inevitably led to a conflict resulting in a considerable rise in the divorce rate. He retrieved this data from a Wirtschaftszeitung, No. 51, that was published on June 25, 1949 in Stuttgart.

*The Effect of War on the German Family* was the first piece that O. Jean Brandes had wrote on Germany. He published this article in the journal *Social Forces.* *Social Forces* is an academic journal of social science that began in 1922. After being a Military Government Officer for the United States in Germany, Brandes went on to become a sociologist at Columbia University. In 1955 he wrote his Master’s thesis on the post-war German family. This thesis consisted of 134 pages that amplified his previous article and discussed his new findings on the German family during and after the war. Brandes then began working for the National Center for Education Statistics[[2]](#footnote-1). For the NCES, he began collecting data on the United States educational systems. Throughout his time working for the NCES he published 3 books about the statistics he collected from 1970 to 1981. In 1982, Brandes wrote his last published work, on women in the United States education system[[3]](#footnote-2). Overall, Brandes seemed to have a very fulfilling life. Through the articles and books he has published it can be understood that he was interested in society and social structure. Although he did not write any other pieces on Germany, he earned his credibility and is a reliable source.

1. G. Wolff, "The Family – The Core of the Rebirth of Germany" ["Die Familie – der Kern der deutschen Wiedergeburt"], in *Der Morgen*, Tageszeitung der Liberaldemokratischen Partei Deutschlands [*The Morning, Daily Paper of the Liberal Democratic Party of Germany*], August 30, 1946; reprinted in Udo Wengst and Hans Günther Hockerts, *Geschichte der Sozialpolitik in Deutschland seit 1945*, Bd. 2/2: 1945-1949: *Die Zeit der Besatzungszonen. Sozialpolitik zwischen Kriegsende und der Gründung zweier deutscher Staaten. Dokumente* [*The History of Social Policy in Germany since 1945*, Vol. 2/2: 1945-1949. *The Era of the Occupation Zones. Social Policy between the End of the War and the Founding of Two German States. Documents*]. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2001, No. 85, pp. 183-84.
   1. G. Wolff was a school counselor and was a member of the Liberal Democratic Party. He published several books and articles relating to Germany’s economic and political status from the early 1900s to about the 1950s. He wrote this specific article in 1946 while he was in the LDP. G. Wolff’s article introduces the idea that in the midst of the German societies breakdown in the 1940s that people should start focusing on the family as the core of society. He argues that dying families have a society-destroying effect. He encourages German society to fulfill its political duty of restoring and preserving the family. He says to do this, men and women must strengthen their relationships and raise children to build a healthy community. He argues that without families, Germany does not have the primordial and germ cell of the community. O. Jean Brandes’ work is not cited throughout this source because this was written previous to that. I decided to include this because it covers familial issues in Germany. I retrieved this source from the GHDI website.
2. Elisabeth Meyer-Spreckels, “Ehe und Familie in der Verfassung: Bericht vor dem bayerischen Verfassungsausschuss” [“Marriage and Family in the Constitution: Report to the Bavarian Constitutional Assembly”], in *Frankfurter Hefte*, January 1947, p. 93; reprinted in Frank R. Pfetsch, ed., *Verfassungsreden und Verfassungsentwürfe: Länderverfassungen 1946-1953* [*Constitutional Speeches and Constitutional Drafts: State Constitutions 1946-1953*]. Frankfurt am Main: P. Lang, 1986, pp. 107-09.
   1. Meyer-Spreckels’ article discusses gender relations during the transitional time period of the 1940s. During this time period, there were many debates on how Germany would reconcile the traditions of marriage and family. She writes this article in support of the constitutional protection of marriage and the equality of both partners. Meyer-Spreckels was born [October 29,](https://www.fuerthwiki.de/wiki/index.php/29._Oktober) [1890](https://www.fuerthwiki.de/wiki/index.php/1890), in Dresden, died [May 25,](https://www.fuerthwiki.de/wiki/index.php/25._Mai) 1974, in Fürth. She was a chemist and social politician; her political involvement started after World War 2. She was a representative of the CSU parliamentary group and at one point was the chairman of the CSU faction in the city council. The situation and living conditions of women were the focus of her work. She was involved from [1951](https://www.fuerthwiki.de/wiki/index.php/1951) to [1967](https://www.fuerthwiki.de/wiki/index.php/1967) as chairman of the German Evangelical Women's Federation and in 1954 she founded a dormitory for single and abandoned young mothers. This article was written before O. Jean Brandes work so she does not cite him. I included her in this because of her piece came up while searching for my keyword. I was able to retrieve this source through the GHDI website.
3. Bildarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz/ Hilmar Pabel - “A Family Flees from East to West over the Border in the Bavarian Forest” (1948-49)



* 1. This photo captures a family that is fleeing East Germany in order to start a life in the West. It is unknown what the cause of them fleeing is but during this time, Germany was dealing with drastic political and social changes. I found this picture on the GHDI website. I included it into this source exploration because it portrays how families in Germany were handling post-war situations.

1. Carney, Amy Beth. “Victory in the Cradle: Fatherhood and the Family Community in the Nazi Schutzstaffel.” *Florida State University Libraries*, 2010.
   1. Amy Beth Carney is currently an associate professor at Penn State University. At Penn State, she works for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. This thesis was written in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Florida State University in 2010. This was her first research output on 20th century Germany. In her thesis, she discusses the goals of the Nazi party in terms of family. She uses Brandes’s work to support her argument that the Nazi SS had a great influence over relationships, marriage, and family. She argues this through her examples of the ideals Hitler had spread about family and the community. Hitler’s goal was to hire ‘elite’ leaders to be part of the Nazi regime and create a superior race. In order to achieve this, he created a plan for his SS men as a starting point from which he could establish a larger SS family community. Due to this the wives and children of the SS men had to be vetted as well in order to prove their biological worth. Hitler encouraged SS men to marry racially suitable women that could raise healthy children and further his creation of the Nazi family community.
2. Kage, Rieko. *Civic Engagement in Postwar Japan: The Revival of a Defeated Society.* Cambridge University Press, 2011.
3. Rieko Kage is a professor at the University of Tokyo. She teaches political science and specializes in Japanese politics. She has published five other articles that cover world politics, political psychology, and politics and gender. She uses Brandes to show similarities and differences in postwar Japan and Germany. In this book, she argues that prewar associational activities and the experience of wartime mobilization enabled rapid growth in civic engagement in the early postwar period. After the war in Japan, there was a significant increase in the number of associations and the goal of her paper was to show the correlation between war and civic engagement. She does not write about family but she does talk about social institutions that arose and strengthened post-war. I retrieved this citation through Google Scholar.

7. Carney, Amy Beth. “Preserving the "master race": SS reproductive and family policies during the Second World War.” in *Racial Science in Hitler's New Europe, 1938-1945* (pp. 60-82). University of Nebraska Press, 2013.

1. This is Amy Beth Carney’s second published work on Germany. She covers the same topics that she did within her thesis but it is a more finalized version that expands on family policies during World War 2. This article can also be found within the book *Racial Science in Hitler’s New Europe*. This book examines the theories of race that informed the legal, political, and social policies aimed against ethnic minorities in Germany. It is a collection of essays written by international scholars, including Amy Beth Carney. Throughout this article, she does not reference O. Jean Brandes work but she talks about similar topics. I found this citation on WorldCat through the UCSB library database.

8. Carney, Amy Beth. *Marriage and Fatherhood in the Nazi SS.* University of Toronto Press, 2018.

1. This book is Amy Carney’s most recent work. Amy Beth Carney published this book in 2018 through the University of Toronto Press. She believes by investigating fatherhood and the family community in the SS that it contributes to a stronger understanding of the Nazi regime. She also believes that by doing this it engages historical research which focuses on family life in the Third Reich as well as in the postwar era. She exercises these goals in her book, which talks about how Hitler utilized the science of eugenics to convince SS men to marry suitable wives and have many children. She uses Brande’s article to support her findings in SS reproductive and family policies. Her insight into the eugenic-based measures used to encourage SS men to marry and to establish families highlights the responsibilities these men had not only as soldiers but as husbands and fathers as well. I found this citation while I was looking for books that talked about marriage, family, and relationships in post-war Germany. I found it by looking in Google Scholar.

1. This data was collected from JSTOR [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. This data was collected from WorldCat [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. This data was collected from WorldCat [↑](#footnote-ref-2)