Growing in the Shadow of Antifascism

Stach, Stephan, Hallama, Peter, Bohus, Kata

Published by Central European University Press

Stach, Stephan, et al.

Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/94691.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/94691

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=3197460
stance, *Neue Zeit* reported on a book launch event in Berlin. One of the books presented there was a collection of East European Jewish short stories which, according to the newspaper, “revived a world that had gone with the fire.” In his book *Der Fall Eichmann* (The Eichmann Case) of 1963, the lawyer Friedrich Karl Kaul, who had been East Germany’s observer at the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem, named one chapter “Im Feuer verglüht” (Ignited in the Fire), in which he cited the witnesses’ accounts of the mass murder in the camps. It was a clear reference to *Im Feuer vergangen*. As late as 1980, the writer Peter Edel stated in his speech for the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz that “it is our duty to remember those who were gone with the fire.”

**Conclusion**

As this chapter has demonstrated, the three books published in the GDR in cooperation with the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw had a considerable impact on East German society’s reckoning with the Holocaust. They filled a gap in GDR historiography at the time and showed that there were no general ideological objections to publish accounts of the Holocaust. On the contrary, all these books were published by prestigious publishing houses and were praised by high-ranking Party officials and other representatives of the East German cultural elites. Furthermore, they were widely read and discussed, and served as resource and inspiration for further documentary, educational, and artistic reflections on the Holocaust. All this happened both despite and, as I have shown, because of their propagandistic use in the media campaigns against West Germany in general and against former Nazi criminals such as Theodor Oberländer and Hans Globke in particular. They functioned and were perceived as functioning within the broader antifascist historical narrative of the GDR and helped form a particular East Germany memory of the Holocaust, one informed by East European Jewish, particularly Polish Jewish, experience and brought about largely through the work of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

---
