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Displacement as an issue of German self–understanding

English summary

To better understand the trajectory of "flight and displacement" as a focal point of the post–war politics of history, one must examine the dominant discourse on constitutional law in the Federal Republic of Germany. The decision to apply the theory of the continuation of the German *Reich* to the newly established West German state placed the issues of contested borders, displacement, status and compensation, and a specific concept of German citizenship, at the core of German self–understanding. The pre–unification Federal Republic cultivated an ambivalent identity situated between "interim status", "newly established", and "successor to the *Reich*". The results were political blockades as well as unforeseen opportunities for development. There was no need to lift the taboo on the subject of "displacement", since it was written into the form of statehood adopted by the Federal Republic of Germany.

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