

**German Identity in a Changing World:
Exploring Identity and the Role of the Military in Germany Today**

by

Chelsea Ruggaber

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Supervised by

Professors Boaz Atzili and Linda Lucia Lubrano

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Abstract

Over fifty years have passed since the end of the Second World War and the trauma of the Nazi campaign still haunts the concept of a German military force. Does this historical memory also affect the role of the military when it comes to the formation of German national identity today? My research explores these relationships in the context of two sets of scholarly literature which overlap in their attempts to define national identity and explain German security policy. The key sources of my interpretive analysis include newspaper and magazine articles, government documents, and feature films. My findings indicate that the debate over the role of the German military within German society suggests larger trends in national identity formation. I argue that the juxtaposition of Germany's historical experience with its international standing today uniquely positions modern German society to reflect the complexity of merging national and transnational identities.