

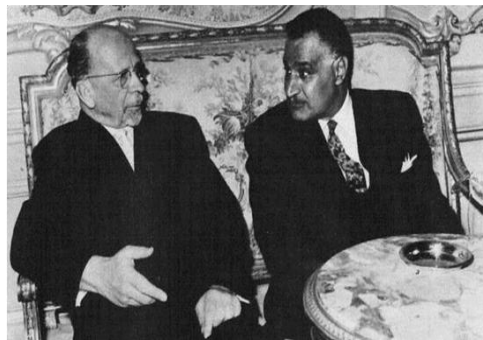
The Haifa Center for German and European Studies
The Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society

Seminar

Lecture and Open Discussion

Politics and Memory: Israel, the two German states and Austria

Dr. Angelika Timm (Berlin)



Three states were established after World War II on the territory of the former Third Reich – the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and the Republic of Austria. The very similar background encourages a comparison of their post-war politics and, especially, their approach towards the Holocaust and the State of Israel.

The politics of the three successor states regarding Israel was quite different. While Austria recognized Israel de facto after the War of Independence in 1949 and established diplomatic relations already in 1956, West Germany and Israel exchanged ambassadors only in 1965; East Germany had never diplomatic relations with Israel.

The bilateral relations raise several questions: What role played the interests of the political elites and their allies during the Cold War? Why did the Israeli government ask the East and West Germans but not the Austrians for reparations (shilumim)? What role played the Middle East policy of the two Germanys and Austria?

The lecture will first analyze the context of the West German, East German and Austrian policy towards Israel 1948 - 1990. It will in its second part briefly address the main periods of bilateral relations and illustrate the different or similar attitudes with the help of relevant examples.

Thursday, June 16th 2016

14:30 – 16:00

Library Auditorium [Room 146], Main Building, University of Haifa

The lecture will be held in English