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THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY IN GERMANY

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THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY IN GERMANY. Edited by *Gabriel A. Almond*.
Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1949. Pp. viii, 345. \$4.

Here, in a symposium of seven studies by specialists in particular aspects of the problems of contemporary Germany, is presented a definite contribution toward understanding and appraising the aims of the German occupation. Beginning with an examination of the "historical potential" for democracy of the German people, the competing traditions of freedom and authoritarianism in recent

German history are considered. Following the conclusion that under favorable conditions the German liberal tradition is sufficient to provide the foundation for a successful democracy, the manifestation of this tradition in the underground resistance to the Nazi government is studied. These chapters are of particular interest for their description of the repressive measures taken by the Nazis through the extensive party and state police, informers, and control of judicial processes, and for their analysis of the composition and activities of the resistance movement. With this background, the allied occupation policy is discussed at length in terms of the economic situation and prospects, reconstruction of government, development of political parties and reorientation of the German people. Economic and social integration of Germany into the European and world communities is emphasized as prerequisite to a successful German democracy, and an appraisal is made of the part to be played by the European Recovery Plan in accomplishing this end. The new constitutions of the western German states, as well as the recently ratified constitution for Western Germany, are criticized and their effect is minimized. An important part of each chapter dealing with occupation policy considers the conflicting interests of Russia and the western allies; a prolonged interregnum of a divided Germany is predicted, whatever the outcome of the Berlin crisis.