Concentration Camps in Nazi Germany

The notorious concentration camp system was a central pillar of the Third Reich, supporting the Nazi war against political, racial and social outsiders whilst also intimidating the population at large. The camps were established during the first months of the Nazi dictatorship in 1933, and by the end of the Second World War several million men, women and children of many nationalities had been incarcerated in them. Some two million lost their lives.

This volume offers the first overview of the recent scholarship that has changed the way the camps are studied over the last two decades. Written by an international team of experts, the book covers such topics as: social life, work and personnel in the camps; the public face of the camps; issues of gender and commemoration; and the relationship between concentration camps and the ‘Final Solution’. The book provides a detailed introduction to the current historiography of the camps, highlighting the key conclusions that have been made, commenting on continuing areas of debate, and suggesting possible directions for future research.

Jane Caplan is a fellow of St Antony’s College, Oxford and a professor of modern European history. She has published extensively on the history of National Socialism, and is currently working on a study of registration, identification and recognition in Nazi Germany.

Nikolaus Wachsmann is reader in modern European history at Birkbeck College, London, where he directs a major research project on the history of the Nazi concentration camps. He has written widely on terror and repression in the Third Reich, including Hitler’s Prisons (2004).