



## Building a New Germany: Denazification and Political Re-education, 1944–1948

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## BUILDING A NEW GERMANY: DENAZIFICATION AND POLITICAL RE-EDUCATION, 1944–1948

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As the Second World War entered its final year, and the Allied victory looked secure, a growing number of British officials began to consider the future. In particular, they explored ways to ensure that Germany, the administration of which they would share with their allies, emerged as a stable, peaceful, and democratic nation. Political re-education of the German people, both Prisoners of War (POWs) and willing civilians, became central to this endeavour. **At special facilities throughout Britain and its empire, large numbers of Germans were subject to a carefully curated course of lectures, film screenings, readings, cultural activities, field trips, and more.** The aim was to instil a set of values and ideas which the British believed would be conducive to the emergence of a safe and prosperous Germany.

*Building a New Germany: Denazification and Political Re-education, 1944–1948* comprises over **3,700 images, drawn from 46 files in the FO (Foreign Office) 939 series at The National Archives (UK).** The collection explores the process of denazification from a number of angles. It surveys the high-level policy decisions that instigated and framed the re-education process and supplies examples of official guidance and instructions that were sent to camp authorities. You will also find descriptions of the course materials used, reflections of lecturers and educators involved in the process, and the views of the German POWs themselves. In addition, the collection offers fascinating insights into British perspectives on extreme ideologies. It explores techniques of brainwashing and indoctrination, as well as strategies employed to reverse them. *Building a New Germany* illuminates a **key transitional period in twentieth century history, one in which the British tried to reshape Germany from foe into friend.**

This collection will be of value to students and scholars with an interest in post-war Europe, ideology, and the social history of conflict and dictatorship. It likewise offers fascinating insights into collective psychology, the construction of citizenship, and the processes of peace-making and nation-building.

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