

Peter C. Applebaum, *Loyal Sons: Jews in the German Army in the Great War* (London and Portland, OR: Valentine Mitchell, 2015).

Peter Applebaum's *Loyal Sons: Jews in the German Army in the Great War* is a formidable labour of love and akin to a memorial volume. Author of a volume on German Jewish chaplains in the Great War, Applebaum has expanded his scope in this comprehensive history. He has rendered commendable service in translating and describing material from the German that otherwise would be inaccessible to an English-speaking audience. The section of the book that will be of greatest interest to scholars of antisemitism and German history is the final chapter about the notorious "census" of Jewish military participation in 1916.

The author is a distinguished medical doctor and researcher who turned to history as a second calling. His discussion of diseases and wounds, and the ways these were experienced by soldiers and frequently mistreated is an unusually rich dimension of his narrative, particularly in the "diaries and memoirs" chapter (111-58). It is unfortunate, however, that Applebaum seems unfamiliar with the seminal work of John Efron on German Jewish doctors, especially because he dedicates a chapter to the Medical Corps (159-206). Applebaum might have better utilized his expertise toward historical analysis had he applied the insights of Efron to the question of a (possibly) distinctive impact of Jewish doctors during the Great War.

The Nobel-prize winning physicist James Franck is not on Applebaum's radar, even though Franck's research was critical in transforming gas into a weapon of war. Applebaum does not focus his own medical lens on gas, despite the fact the fact that German Jews suffered, as well as perpetrated gas attacks (91, 95, 129, 109n.122). Nor is Applebaum aware of what was offered to the German war effort by men such as art historians Franz Sazl and Aby Warburg, in country's photographic service, who fostered national cohesion through visual propaganda—when propaganda was

regarded in a more neutral sense. The pioneering scholarship of Gerald Feldman on the wartime economy (86-7, 103, 201, 245-6) and George L. Mosse on "volkish" antisemitism would have helped him contextualize the pressures faced by Jewish soldiers and what often separated them from their Gentile peers. Mosse's insights would have served him well to further illuminate the anguished recollections of Stefan Zweig and Jakob Wasserman (275-77; 242-5, 33). Although Applebaum faults Derek Penslar's interpretation of the "census" he does not appreciate that his book fits well into Penslar's magisterial study of Jews in the military writ large, as well as Michael Meyer and Michael Brenner's outstanding multi-volume history of the German Jewry sponsored by the Leo Baeck Institute.

Applebaum's *Loyal Sons* is a work of scholarship but is quite disengaged from academic history except for the "census" discussion. It is unfortunate that he was not encouraged to integrate the abundant, relevant studies—such as by Paul Lerner and Sander Gilman—that intersect his subject. It also would have been helpful for Applebaum to discuss, at the outset, what sets his project apart from the work of Penslar, Tim Grady, David J. Fine, Greg Kaplan, and Michael Brenner. *Loyal Sons*, in any case, comprises a contribution to our understanding of German Jewry that will be especially welcome by those seeking a more popular approach to Jewish history.

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