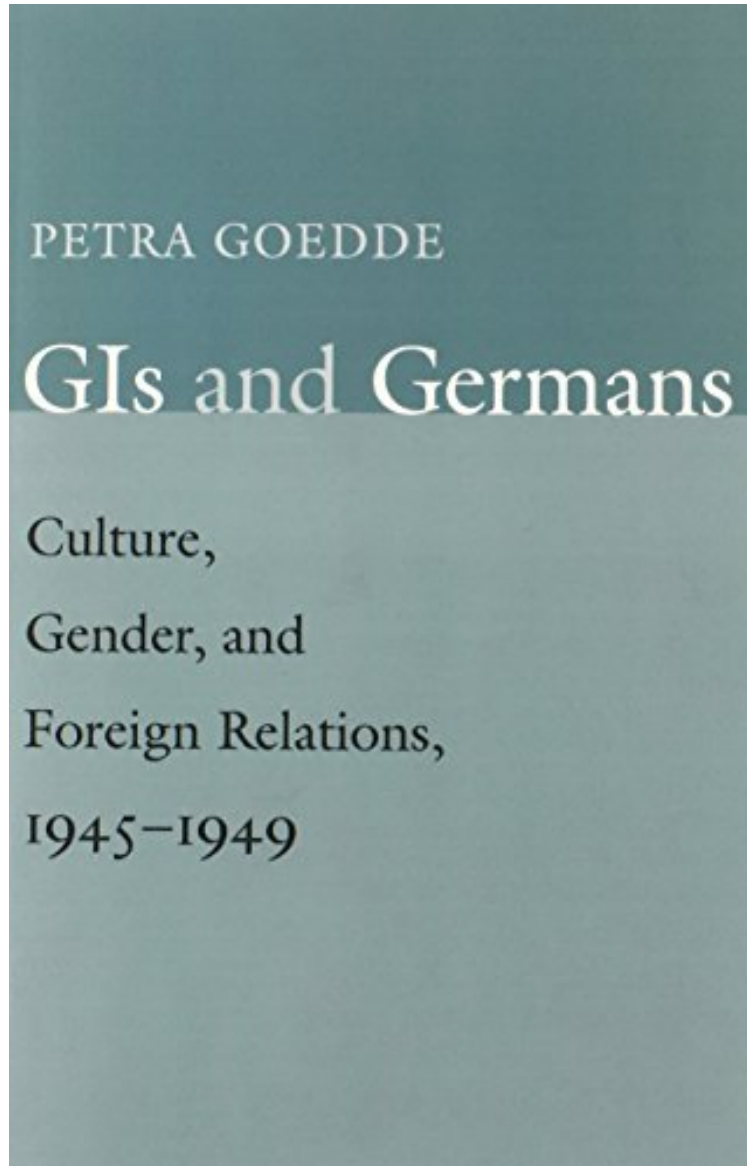


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## Gis and Germans

*Petra Goedde*

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**Petra Goedde : Gis and Germans** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gis and Germans:

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helps shed light on the remarkable efforts by Americans in Germany to change the ideology of the Germans and prevent another NAZI regime from coming into power. Really it reminds us that American soldiers and volunteers in the past were tremendously devoted to instilling new moral values into the next German generation, and such an infusion of American values and beliefs, helped Germany enormously.

At the end of World War II roughly 300,000 American GIs were deployed as occupation forces in Germany. Many of them quickly developed intimate relations with their former enemies. Those informal interactions played a significant role in the transformation of Germany from enemy to ally of the United States, argues Petra Goedde in her engrossing book. Goedde finds that as American soldiers fraternized with German civilians, particularly as they formed sexual relationships with women, they developed a feminized image of Germany that contrasted sharply with their wartime image of the aggressive Nazi stormtrooper. A perception of German "victimhood" emerged that was fostered by the German population and adopted by Americans. According to Goedde, this new view of Germany provided a foundation for the political rapprochement that developed between the two countries even before the advent of the Cold War. Her provocative findings suggest that the study of foreign relations should focus on interactions not only between politicians and diplomats but also between ordinary citizens.

"This splendid book makes a major contribution not only to the study of the occupation of Germany but also to the study of the Cold War." - Akira Iriye, Harvard University  
From the Back Cover "This splendid book makes a major contribution not only to the study of the occupation of Germany but also to the study of the Cold War." -- Akira Iriye, Harvard University  
About the Author Petra Goedde is a lecturer at Princeton University