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978-1-107-02403-8 - The Defortification of the German City, 1689–1866

Yair Mintzker

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## *The Defortification of the German City, 1689–1866*

In the early modern period, all German cities were fortified places. Because contemporary jurists defined “city” as a coherent social body in a protected place, the urban environment had to be physically separate from the surrounding countryside. This separation was crucial to guaranteeing the city’s commercial, political, and legal privileges. Fortifications were therefore essential for any settlement to be termed a city. This book tells the story of German cities’ metamorphoses from walled to defortified places between 1689 and 1866. Using a wealth of original sources, *The Defortification of the German City, 1689–1866*, discusses one of the most significant moments in the emergence of the modern city: the dramatic and often traumatic demolition of the city’s centuries-old fortifications and the creation of the open city.

**Yair Mintzker** is Assistant Professor of European History at Princeton University. His PhD dissertation won the Elizabeth Spilman Rosenfield Prize of Stanford’s Department of History in 2009 and the Friends of the German Historical Institute’s Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize in 2010. His articles have been published in *History of European Ideas* and *Réflexions Historiques*.

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# *The Defortification of the German City, 1689–1866*

YAIR MINTZKER

*Princeton University*

GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

Washington, D.C.

*and*



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*To my parents*

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פָּתַח לָנוּ שַׁעַר.  
בְּעֵת נִעְלָה שַׁעַר.

Open us a gate  
Even as a gate is closing

*Neilah le-Yom Kippur*



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Princeton, New Jersey  
February 2012

*Abbreviations*

Bayer. HStA	Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv
Bayer. HStA KA	Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Abteilung Kriegsarchiv
Br. LHA	Brandenburgisches Landeshauptarchiv
BSB	Bayerische Staatsbibliothek
DSB	<i>Deutsches Städtebuch</i>
GLA	Generallandesarchiv
GStA PK	Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz
HGM Wien	Heeresgeschichtliches Museum, Wien
Hist. M.	Historisches Museum
ISG	Institut für Stadtgeschichte
LA	Landesarchiv
LHA	Landeshauptarchiv
ÖNB	Österreichische Nationalbibliothek
ÖSB	<i>Österreichisches Städtebuch</i>
ÖStA KA	Österreichisches Staatsarchiv, Abteilung Kriegsarchiv
S.H.A.T.	Service historique de l'armée de terre
StA	Staatsarchiv
StdA	Stadtarchiv

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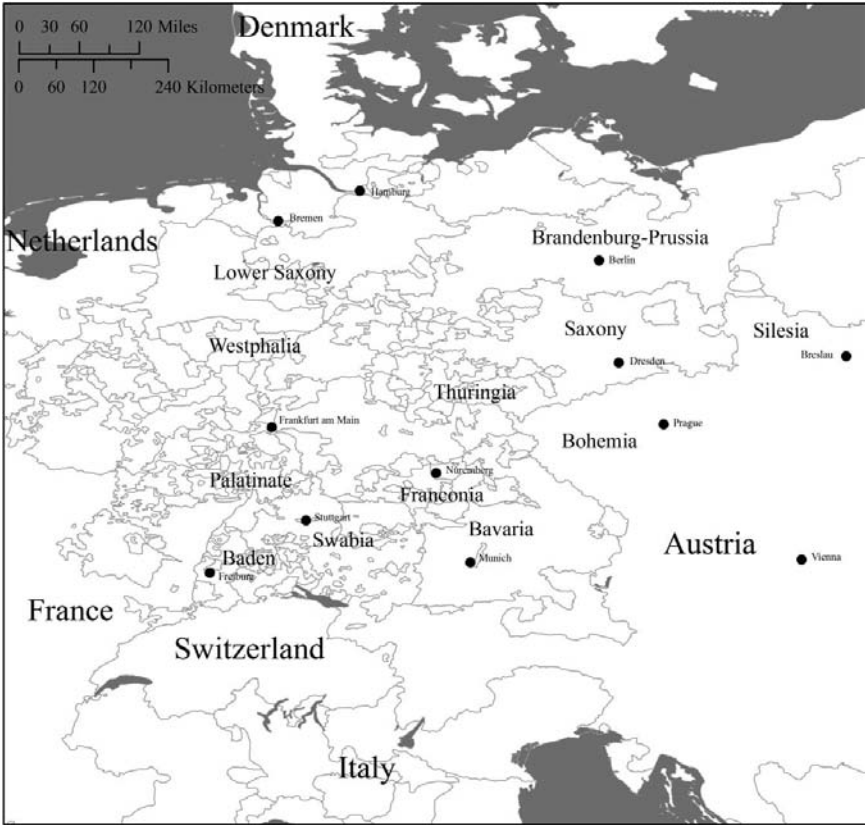
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Figure 1. Central Europe with major German regions and cities, ca. 1700