

INTEGRATION POLICIES AND NOTIONS OF HAVING
BEEN VICTIMIZED: RECENT RESEARCH INTO THE
GERMAN CULTURE OF RECOLLECTION AND HISTORY
TREATMENT

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Talking about German victims and the victims caused by German conduct is not a new phenomenon. In the context of World War II and its consequences, postwar history time and again has witnessed discussions about migration processes connected to the war. Particularly the process of integrating expelled people of German descent has been looked at in some detail, but not, however, exhaustingly. Using selected German publications of the last few years, the author shows how differently authors representing historical science have stood up to the challenge presented by this discourse. What strikes the eye most is that a view taking the memory of the victims into account and regarding it as the central pattern of the German culture of recollection is coming to the fore: images which victim organisations project of themselves are becoming more and more characteristic of German identity debates.