CONTENTS

Acknowledgments ix
Introduction: “We Have All, Always, Sought the Collective” 1

PART I. GERMANY DURING WORLD WAR I AND THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

1 Interviews: Youth 21
2 Analysis: Finding the Collective in the Youth Movement “Group” 59
3 Essays 72
   The Experience of War, Revolution, Disorder, and Inflation 72
   Gemeinschaft, Gesellschaft, and the Collective 76
   Sexuality, Identity, and Equality in the Youth Movement 77
   The Youth Movement and National Socialism 80

PART II. GERMANY DURING THE THIRD REICH AND WORLD WAR II

4 Interviews: Young Adulthood 85
5 Analysis: Extending the Collective in the Community of the Volk 124
6 Essays 150
   The Popularity of National Socialism and the Volksgemeinschaft with
   Younger Germans 150
   National Socialism and Women 152
   National Socialism and Modernization 156
CONTENTS

The Experiential and Racial Reality of the Volksgemeinschaft 158
"Looking Away" from Jews in Nazi Germany 161
German Knowledge of the “Final Solution” before 1945 162
German Anti-Semitism during the Third Reich 167
National Socialist Terror and the Germans 172
Men and Women during the War and in Its Aftermath 174

PART III. POSTWAR GERMANY
7 Interviews: Maturity 181
8 Analysis: Resurrecting the Collective in the Generational “Circle” 211
9 Essays 224
   Men, Women, and the Reassertion of the Family in Postwar Germany 224
   The Mitscherlichs’ “The Inability to Mourn” 230
   The National Socialist Past in West German Families 234

Conclusion: The Authority of Historical Experience 237

Notes 243
Bibliography 309
Index 323