### Contents

**List of Illustrations**  
xv  
**Glossary**  
xvii  

**Introduction**  
1  
War from the Skies  
1  
The Battle over Morale: Methods and Perspectives  
7  
Aerial War, the National Community, and the People's War:  
  Research Problems  
14  

1. **The War of the Future 1900–1939**  
19  
The Shock of London  
19  
Visions of Aerial Warfare  
22  
Air Defence and the Nation  
29  
The Lessons of Guernica  
39  

2. **Bombing, the Public Sphere, and Morale**  
45  
The Struggle to Win Trust and Maintain Morale  
45  
The Policy on Rumours and the Representation of the State  
60  
Evacuations and Rumours  
72  
The Image and Memory of the War  
79  
Retaliation, Word of Mouth Propaganda, and the Struggle  
  to Win Over a Sceptical Population  
99  

3. **Social Organization under a State of Emergency**  
110  
Institutions for Dealing with Emergencies  
110  
The State and the National Emergency  
123  
Justice and Repression  
139  
War Damages and Wartime Morale  
155  

4. **Cities at War**  
171  
Preparations for War  
171  
Plunder and Aid  
176
The Extent of Damage and Interregional Strategies for Dealing with Crisis 195
Local Authorities, Coping with Crisis, and the Mobilization of the Nazi Party 210
The Air War as an Opportunity: Planning and Reconstruction 222
'Grand Designs' for the Modern British City 229

5. The Churches and the Air War 239
   A Just War, with Just Bombing? 239
   Why us? The Theology of War and the Destruction of the 'Homeland' 250
   Day-to-Day Religious and Pastoral Practice 263
   Christian Iconography and Ecumenical Experience 287
   Loss, Guilt, and Reconstruction 292

6. Fear and Order: Life in Air-Raid Shelters 300
   Security and Unrest 300
   The Organization of Fear 306
   Races, Classes, and Genders 311
   Iconography of the Underworld 337
   Sickness and Health 342

7. Experiences of the Air War 353
   Wartime Morale as an Object of Research 353
   Speaking and Remaining Silent 367
   A Time for Feelings 373
   Children in the Air War 396

8. Death in the Air War 407
   Simulations 407
   Recovering the Dead 411
   Death and Mourning 425
   Rituals of Death 437

9. Memories of the Air War in the Early Post-War Period 455
   The Guilt of the Victors 455
   Victims of the Air War 471
   Psychological Damage, Psychiatry, and the Experience of War 475
   Church, Cities, and a Fresh Start 483
CONTENTS

10. Lessons of the Air War 494
    The Politics of Reconciliation 494
    Coventry and Dresden 501
    Monumentalization and Witnesses to History 506
    'Taboos' and 'Traumatization' 518
    The End of the 'Good War' 522

Conclusion 530
    War and Order 532
    Shelter Society and Coping with Crisis 535
    Death, Mourning, Faith 541
    Memory Contests after 1945 545

Abbreviations Used in the Notes 549
Notes 552
Sources and Bibliography 626
Picture Acknowledgements 684
Index 685