

Book Review Guidelines for H-Soz-Kult

1. Preliminary remarks

Among H-Soz-Kult's most important aspects is the publication of online book reviews. We additionally circulate them among our subscribers via our mailing-lists H-Soz-Kult, *geschichte.transnational* and *Zeitgeschichte-online*. H-Soz-Kult reviews, like all H-Net reviews, are stored in an internet database where they are readily retrievable anytime and available worldwide. All reviews are being archived on two servers. They are published on the H-Soz-Kult website hosted at Humboldt University, Berlin and through our partnership with H-Net (Humanities and Social Sciences Online) at Michigan State University, USA as part of H-Net Reviews.

The preparation and publication of a review on H-Soz-Kult can be compared to a contract between the reviewer, the editors of H-Soz-Kult and the publishing house of the book that is to be reviewed. Each involved party benefits from the review, but also accepts certain responsibilities. We would like to explicitly name some of the rules of the game in order to better facilitate all further communication.

If you have close personal or professional ties with the author(s) or editor(s) of the book to be reviewed, we must insist that you refrain from reviewing the publication in question because your professional distance is or might be impaired. Even less acceptable to established academic ethical standards would be a review of a work where you are involved in the publication process in any way. The H-Soz-Kult editorial board relies on your open and honest evaluation of your own objectivity. Nevertheless, the editorial board reserves the right to withhold reviews in critical cases.

2. Criteria as regards content

a) With its reviews, H-Soz-Kult informs its readership about new releases in the scholarly field of history. The most effective review will place the work within a broader context and will explain what important issues are worth the attention of scholars and wherein its significance in the literature on the subject lies. Reviews should include a brief, concise summary of the scope, purpose, and content of the work and give an overview of the book's structure. Reviews should go beyond description to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the work, paying attention to the use of sources, methodology, organization, and presentation. When writing your review, please keep in mind the broad audience and that not all of your readers will be specialists in the field.

b) Reviewers should develop their own, independent and critical stance toward the book. Extract both strengths and weaknesses of the publication in question. Reference your points of criticism clearly and refrain from polemical interjections. Conclude your review with a summarizing, critical acclaim of the book.

Anschrift

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c) When reviewing edited volumes, please concentrate on the main issues and focal points. Please do not simply list summaries of all essays contained in the volume under consideration, but focus on those contributions that in your opinion are the most important ones, accentuate new findings or pioneering theses. The table of contents can be added by the editorial board in a separate pdf document.

d) H-Soz-Kult does not lend itself to personal attacks on authors or editors. Please deal as fairly with them as you would like them to deal with you. Whether the evaluation of a work is favorable or unfavorable, reviewers should express criticism in courteous, temperate, and constructive terms. Reviewers are responsible for presenting a fair and balanced review and for treating authors with respect.

3. Remarks on procedure and editorial practices

H-Soz-Kult's board of editors chooses the books that are to be reviewed and orders them from the publishing houses. The editors gladly accept notifications on new publications that might be chosen for review. H-Soz-Kult does not assume liability for unsolicited reviewer's copies. The editors select the reviewers. Suggestions for reviews are accepted.

H-Soz-Kult usually only publishes original reviews. Reprints or second publications of our reviews require explicit permission of the review author as well as the editorial board and need to contain a reference to H-Soz-Kult. Online second publications should rather give the link to the H-Soz-Kult website than display the full text.

Please meet the agreed deadline (for single reviews usually two months after the book has been sent to you) and let the supervising editor know if there is going to be a delay. If you realize that you will not be able to deliver a review, please return the reviewer's copy to us so that it can be allotted to somebody else.

Usually, your part in the process is not finished after sending the review to the responsible editor. He or she may have questions or remarks regarding content and style of your text. In critical cases, the review will be submitted to the editorial board. The H-Soz-Kult editors exercise due care with all reviews.

The E-Mail version of your review will be sent to you before publication for last scrutiny of the text and check of your personal data (name, institutional affiliation, place of residence, E-Mail address). We try to publish all reviews within four to six weeks upon receipt. We will let you know the prospective date of publication in advance.

In general, H-Soz-Kult readers may comment on published reviews. These replies are sent to the reviewer before publication in order to give him or her the possibility to respond to the comment. Personal attacks and polemics will not be published. H-Soz-Kult reserves the right to publish comments on reviews and advises to discuss matters of dispute in person, if possible. Once published, contributions on principle can be neither altered nor removed afterwards. Only tiny mistakes in facts or the like (wrong spellings, wrong numbers or dates) can be corrected afterwards.

The editorial boards of H-Soz-Kult, geschichte.transnational and Zeitgeschichte-online reserve the right to circulate reviews via several of these three lists or only one of them. All reviews are accessible on the H-Soz-Kult website after publication. Additional ways of distributing your contribution to H-Soz-Kult include the integration of your review into thematic web portals, search engines and databases. We thus assure the permanent availability of your contribution.

H-Soz-Kult is part of the non-profit Clio-online e.V. Please take notice of our General Terms and Conditions:

<<http://www.clio-online.de/agb>>.

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