

another agenda focused on the identification of individual perpetrators, as well as proof of their responsibility.

During the pre-trial investigations, both the American and the British medical associations, and protagonists of biomedical sciences were soon concerned that releasing news of the German atrocities might undermine public confidence in medical research. This caused medical investigators to attempt to formulate new ethical standards to ensure the future of research-based clinical medicine as early as July 1946, well before the opening of the trial. Thus, the Nuremberg Code was not simply a legal tool for the indictment of Nazi perpetrators, but the result of attempts to draw a clear line between the presumed “politically abused” pseudo-science of Nazi physicians, and “proper” science elsewhere. Such a picture implied that Nazi medicine and science were coerced by a powerful state—a picture both Allied and German doctors cherished in the post-war era, albeit for different reasons. However, Weindling also reconstructs in detail how the discussions during the trial again and again blurred such a presumed clear demarcation.

By looking closely at the evidence presented at the trial, Weindling adds substantial knowledge and insight to recent historical research on the biomedical sciences during the Nazi period. He reconfirms the conclusion that rather than being the result of a coercive state, Nazi medicine illustrates how medical researchers and their representative bodies (such as the élitist Kaiser-Wilhelm-Society) co-operated with and even manipulated a totalitarian state and political system relying on expert opinion, in order to gain resources for the conduct of research without any moral and legal regulation. It is a further merit of Weindling’s book that it gives a strong voice to the victims, depicting them not as passive historical objects, but as active agents in their specific contexts, for example, by transforming the Allied scientific monitoring operation into a quest for medical war criminals. The book thus paves the way for an agenda of future historical work: to reconstruct the history of Nazi research on human subjects from the victim’s point of view.

In sum, Paul Weindling’s *Nazi medicine and the Nuremberg trials* will be a standard reference on the topic. It is also an indispensable book for anyone concerned with the history of the relation between medicine, politics, and ethics in the twentieth century.

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Edgar Jones and Simon Wessely, *Shell shock to PTSD: military psychiatry from 1900 to the Gulf War*, Maudsley Monographs, No. 47, Hove and New York, Psychology Press on behalf of the Maudsley, 2005, pp. xvii, 300, £24.95 (hardback 1-84169-580-7).

In the late 1940s, the United States Air Force was unsure which Soviet cities to target with its small nuclear arsenal. So it gave a Harvard team \$1m to find out and, in the process, paid for two masterpieces, Merle Fainsod’s *How Russia is ruled* and Alexander Dallin’s *German rule in Russia*. Fifty years later, the British Ministry of Defence, facing legal action from a group of psychologically damaged veterans, commissioned an academic team to research the history of military psychiatry, which the services themselves had never bothered adequately to record.

The military’s money was not wasted. The academic heavyweights hastily imported to the courtroom were able to give British military psychiatry an intellectual authority and humane face which its everyday practice, in the hands of underfunded medical journeymen, had largely lacked. The veterans’ lawyers were outgunned and the judge impressed; the Ministry won the group action in 2003 (though it has since lost individual cases), and British taxpayers were saved millions of pounds. For their part, the well-funded academic team, having had privileged access to British records, were able to publish a stream of articles and now, a book. Although the court action is repeatedly mentioned in *Shell shock to PTSD*, Jones and Wessely’s own role in it is not.

The book is not in the Fainsod or Dallin class; indeed, editorially, it is a dog's breakfast, more a series of essays than a coherent work. Four of the ten chapters reprint important articles reviewing the history of military screening and selection, war pensions and veterans' pressure groups, and "war syndromes", while the new material consists of four historical chapters on British military psychiatry, one on the incidence of PTSD in the military, and a conclusion which deals with the current "culture of trauma".

The historical chapters (presumably by Jones) are meticulously researched, loyalist in tone and administrative in focus. They set out, but do not quite sustain, an interesting revisionist argument—that whatever the claims made for their work by doctors like William Brown, forward psychiatry (PIE) was never in fact very effective, which was why the professionals, the regular military, had little time for it and repeatedly abandoned it; for example, in 1917–18 when Gordon Holmes (who thought like a military man) curtailed the role of the forward treatment centres Charles Myers had established in France. Similarly, the account of the Second World War focuses as much on Bishop's Lydeard Hospital as on Northfield and brings out the unsung role of Colonel A H Sandiford in reining in J R Rees and his Tavistock chums. (This is very much a *Maudsley* monograph). There is a detailed, but not very illuminating, account of British work in the Korean War, but nothing on such neglected topics as the depiction of shell-shock in Great War newspapers and the effectiveness of rehabilitation in the 1940s; or, less surprisingly, on the maladroit British response to PTSD in the 1980s or the shambolic record-keeping in the First Gulf War. The writing is generally dull and occasionally descends into Pooterish bathos.

A similar pessimism, even nihilism, pervades the thematic chapters, though they are presented with Wessely's usual intellectual energy and command of the literature. War, we are repeatedly told, inevitably produces psychiatric casualties and all efforts to prevent them by pre-selection of personnel or to treat them with psychotherapy will be largely ineffective; the only way to reduce casualties is to reduce

the intensity of war or, better still, have no wars at all. What is more, warfare has always produced "medically unexplained symptoms", which usually reflect the fears and beliefs then prominent in the culture; in Gulf War Syndrome, for example, the toxic fears of modern industrialized society are manifested. And, in addition, the modern culture of compensation has rewritten the soldier's contract and the risks that the military can ask him to take. These chapters offer efficient surveys of the literature by a master epidemiologist, and clinicians will find them enormously useful.

Wessely and Jones's work has done much to bring order and rigour to a field which a decade ago was awash with romantic mythology, conspiracy theories and (in the military) blinkered suspicion. Some of their articles are classics; their emphasis on the continuing importance of somatic ingredients in military psychiatric disorders has been very influential; and they have made public much information previously trapped in the anal portals of the War Pensions Agency. But their limitations are also by now apparent—a remoteness from military realities; a timidity and clumsiness in exploring the role of culture; a dependence on trauma theorists such as Allan Young, Ruth Leys and Patrick Bracken; above all, their one-dimensional intellectual apparatus. The history of psychiatry, for them, is a whiggish progression from the bad old days, when charismatic rogues like William Sargant could make all sorts of claims for their work, to the broad sunlit uplands of modern epidemiology. If only it were that simple.

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Ingrid G Farreras, Caroline Hannaway, Victoria A Harden (eds), *Mind, brain, body, and behavior: foundations of neuroscience and behavioral research at the National Institutes of Health*, Biomedical and Health Research series, Amsterdam, IOS Press, 2004, pp. xxvii, 366, illus., £59.00, €83.00, US\$92.00 (hardback 1-58603-471-5).