The German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington has come of age. From modest beginnings in 1987, the institute has established itself as a leading center for advanced study in history. Our work is regularly evaluated and must prove itself on the academic marketplace year after year. And over the years, we have earned much recognition and praise for the innovative research the GHI supports. Leading universities and foundations on both sides of the Atlantic are our partners. We receive more proposals for cooperation than we can possibly accept. Our fellows publish in the best peer-reviewed journals, and they receive job offers from top universities and research institutions, sometimes sooner than we would like. We cooperate with leading scholarly publishers, and our publications have won many prestigious awards.

While failure is said to be an orphan, success has many parents. This is very true in our case. Our work would not be possible without the generous support of the German government. We are especially grateful to the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, not least for its unwavering respect for our scholarly independence. Several foundations in both Germany and the United States, deeming our work worthwhile, have provided millions of dollars of funding to enable us to undertake a variety of projects and programs that would otherwise have been beyond our means. We are proud and honored to have received this extra support and would like to express our deep gratitude.

I also have to thank my three predecessors, Hartmut Lehmann, Detlef Junker, and Christof Mauch. The GHI is still harvesting the fruits of their labors. Each left his stamp on the GHI, and their influence continues to be felt. Of course, no director could achieve much without a strong team. Over the past 25 years, a remarkable group of younger scholars have served on the GHI’s staff. The GHI attracts the best and the brightest. The resulting synergy is evident in the consistently high quality of the individual and collaborative research carried out at the GHI. Talent and dedication are the hallmarks of the GHI staff as a whole. Without the skills and commitment of its administrators, librarians, editors, project coordinators, research associates, IT specialists, secretaries, receptionists, and interns, the GHI would simply not function as well as it does. I would like to thank all staff members, past and present, for their untiring engagement on behalf of the GHI.
In the following pages, we present an overview of the GHI’s activities over the past 25 years along with a closer look at the research projects now underway at the GHI. Historians do better in interpreting the past than in offering forecasts about the future. But looking ahead, one thing seems certain. The names and the topics of those associated with the institute will change, just as they have over the last quarter century. The odds are good that the GHI will maintain the high scholarly standards it has set, although doing so will require a continuation of the favorable circumstances the institute has enjoyed thus far. May that be the case in the next 25 years. I wish the GHI all the very best for a successful and exciting future.

Hartmut Berghoff

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