

Music and International History in the Twentieth Century

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Synopsis: Bringing together scholars from the fields of musicology and international history, "Music and International History in the Twentieth Century" investigates the significance of music to foreign relations, and how it affected the interaction of nations since the late 19th century. For more than a century, both state and non-state actors have sought to employ sound and harmony to influence allies and enemies, resolve conflicts, and export their own culture around the world. "Music and International History in the Twentieth Century" asks how we can understand music as an instrument of power and influence, and how the cultural encounters fostered by music changes our ideas about international history.

Critique: Knowledgeably compiled and deftly edited by Jessica C. E. Gienow-Hecht (Chair of the Department of History at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Freie Universitat Berlin), "Music and International History in the Twentieth Century" is the seventh volume in the outstanding Berghahn Books 'Explorations in Culture and International History' series. This scholarly compilation features an informative introduction (Sonic History, or Why Music Matters in International history), followed by eight major articles by experts in their respective fields. Enhanced with the inclusion of illustrations, notes on the contributors, and a useful index, "Music and International History in the Twentieth Century" is a seminal work of collective scholarship that should be a part of every professional and academic library 20th Century Music History reference collection and supplemental studies reading list.