Frontiers of Empire

How did the homesteads and reservations of the prairies of western North America influence German colonization, ethnic cleansing, and genocide in Eastern Europe? Max Sering, a world-famous agrarian settlement expert, stood on the Great Plains in 1883 and saw Germany's future in Eastern Europe: a grand scheme of frontier settlement. Sering was a key figure in the evolution of Germany's relationship with its eastern frontier, as well as in the overall transformation of the German Right from the Bismarckian 1880s to the Hitlerian 1930s. "Inner colonization" was the settlement of farmers in threatened borderland areas within the nation's boundaries. Focusing on this phenomenon, *Frontiers of Empire* complicates the standard thesis of separation between the colonizing country and the colonized space and blurs the typical boundaries between colonizer and colonized subjects.

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Robert L. Nelson is the author of *German Soldier Newspapers of the First World War* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and edited *Germans, Poland, and Colonial Expansion to the East: 1850 through the Present* (Palgrave, 2009). He has won fellowships from the Killam Trust and the Humboldt Foundation and was a Fulbright Scholar.

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Frontiers of Empire

Max Sering, Inner Colonization, and the German East, 1871–1945

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477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009235365
DOI: 10.1017/9781009235402

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009235402

First published 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Nelson, Robert L., 1971- author.
Title: Frontiers of empire : Max Sering, inner colonization, and the German east, 1871-1945 / Robert L. Nelson, University of Windsor, Ontario.
Description: Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2024. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2023036423 (print) | LCCN 2023036424 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009235365 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009235372 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009235402 (ebook)
Subjects: LCSH: Sering, Max, 1857-1939–Influence. | Settler colonialism–Germany–History. | Germany–Foreign relations–Europe, Eastern. | Europe, Eastern–Foreign relations–Germany. | Germany–Foreign relations–1871- | Germany–Politics and government–1871-
Classification: LCC DD120.E852 N45 2024 (print) | LCC DD120.E852 (ebook) | DDC 943.08–dc23/eng/20230908
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023036423
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023036424

ISBN 978-1-009-23536-5 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-23537-2 Paperback

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