

Prof. Dr. Axel GOTTHARD

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Education

- Studies of History and German (Universities of Würzburg and Tübingen)
- 1992 *Dr. phil.* (University of Tübingen): *Konfession und Staatsräson. Die Außenpolitik Württembergs unter Herzog Johann Friedrich (1608–1628)*, Stuttgart 1992.
- 1998 *Dr. habil.* (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg): *Säulen des Reiches. Die Kurfürsten im frühneuzeitlichen Reichsverband, 2 Bände*, Husum 1999.

After having completed the Alternative Civilian Service, I studied German and History in Würzburg and most notably in Tübingen. In order to put myself through college, I've not only prepared part of the exhibition "Baden und Württemberg im Zeitalter Napoleons" (Baden and Württemberg in the age of Napoleon) but I've also freelance written for several daily newspapers (such as *Reutlinger Generalanzeiger*, *Gmünder Tagespost*, *Stuttgarter Zeitung*, *Esslinger Zeitung*). My PhD thesis in Tübingen has been supervised by Volker Press, the habilitation thesis by Helmut Neuhaus. At the moment, the emphasis of my work definitely lies in teaching in Erlangen and Nuremberg.

During the past years the time that was left for research activities, was spent on the research of conceptional and structural prerequisites of pre-modern warfare. In simple terms: Why is it that in early modern Europa there was war at no less than one battle field at almost any given time?

I critically deal with the (neo-)realist approach towards the research of intergovernmental relations dominant in social studies. I opt for a history of mentalities of the pre-modern decision makers over war and piece. Which war concepts were decisive inside the Ratsstuben (Council Chambers), did peace have an incentive, was peace the normal condition, and how can we figure this out?

Even some structural preconditions are surprisingly unclear: Since when, for instance, can we speak of an "order of states," i.e. an international system, and how did the course of intergovernmental levels of confidence change?

Apart from my activities in research and teaching, I merely want to mention that I am a frequent member of selection committees of the German National Merit Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes).