

This doctoral thesis deals with West German and Italian public memory of a specific wartime episode on the Greek island of Cephalonia. In September 1943, soldiers of the Wehrmacht, the regular German army, committed mass executions on up to 4,000 Italian prisoners of war. The thesis also analyses the mutual reception of the memory discourses in West Germany and Italy and examines the possibility of an interaction between their participants. The thesis uses the case study “Cephalonia” to expose how West German and Italian society came to terms with the past of the World War II in the period from 1943 to 1989.