Britain and Germany: The History of a Relationship, 1815-1990

MA Option, Summer Term 2017

Jan Rüger

This course traces two hundred years of conflict and collaboration between Britain and Germany. The Anglo-German relationship underwent a series of profound changes in the modern period, not only politically, but also socially, economically and culturally. The course investigates these changes. It asks how historians have made sense of them and analyses key episodes from the Napoleonic Wars to the Cold War in depth. In the first half of the twentieth century Britain and Germany were bitter enemies. In the second half they became important allies. Yet for much of the nineteenth century they were neither joined in alliance, nor locked in conflict. How should we think of this relationship which has defined modern Europe?

Remnants of the naval fortress in Heligoland, a British colony from 1807 to 1890 and a German stronghold in both world wars.

Introductory reading