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Heather R. Perry, *Recycling the Disabled: Army, Medicine, and Modernity in WWI Germany*

Heather R. Perry, *Recycling the Disabled: Army, Medicine, and Modernity in WWI Germany*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2014. Pp. 228. £70. ISBN: 978 0 7190 8924 4.

[Derek Linton](#) ✉

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Perry's monograph is situated at the intersection of the studies of disability, medical specialisation, and war. Perry argues that German orthopaedists used the First World War as an opportunity to raise the status and visibility

of their officially unrecognised medical specialty, which had previously been confined largely to treating paediatric spinal and limb deformations. Soon after the outbreak of the war, orthopaedists touted their expertise to oversee comprehensive care of soldiers suffering from serious wounds of the extremities, including amputees. This care, however, required innovative approaches, hence Perry upholds 'the goodness of war' thesis in relation to orthopaedics. Among the most prominent innovations was the transformation of prosthetic limbs, a transformation that resulted from the collaboration of orthopaedists and engineers. Instead of the previous prosthetic devices that resembled human arms...

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