

Ain't It War?

Queer Nation Building in Berlin-Schöneberg¹

»The concept of the nation ... remains alien to me. Perhaps because I grew up in a city that has not belonged to any country.«

Michael Wildenhain (2008)²

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»A Masquerade of Perversions«

In Our Name is the title of a brochure published in January 2006 by the Berlin initiative »Queer Nations«. According to the greeting words of the Governing Mayor of Berlin³ in the brochure, this initiative aspires to »build on the tradition of Magnus Hirschfeld« and create an institution in the city for the scientific study of the »history and sociality of homosexuality and the discrimination of homosexuals«. That hereby one or

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- 1 Translated from the German by Christopher M. Sweetapple, made possible by Merseburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany.
 - 2 This and all other quotations in this article were translated from German; page references refer to the German editions.
 - 3 Translator's note: The author refers here to the then-mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, who during his tenure was one of the most nationally recognized gay male politicians in Germany.