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Our Love Affair With Germany

By Hans Habe. (Putnam, \$3.)

Reviewed by Belmont Faries

Have we betrayed democracy by our postwar policy in Germany? Mr. Habe, a Hungarian-born newsman now an American citizen, is very much afraid that we have.

Assigned by the Army to set up German language newspapers in our Occupation Zone, Mr. Habe has been involved in the struggle for a democratic Germany from the beginning. Our early policies—unconditional surrender, the unenforceable non-fraternization rules, the Nuremberg war-guilt trials—erred, he believes, on the side of harshness.

His more recent experience

as editor of two German weeklies has convinced him that our ardent embrace of nationalist elements in our efforts to strengthen and rearm Germany is equally mistaken. Re-militarization is identical with re-nazification, he contends, and a fifth column of ex-Nazis already has infiltrated the government and affected the democratic parties.

It is too late to undo the errors of the past, Mr. Habe says, but at least we can make a fresh start with strict controls over the new German army and strong Allied action to discourage Nazis as well as Communists.

