Planning and Implementing Military Government in Germany, 1943–1946
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Chapter 5 examines both the planning and implementing of the American occupation of Germany. Planning for this occupation took place over the course of several years, was largely formulated by military planners, and was driven by military, and not long-range policy, objectives. Underlying those objectives was a series of assumptions about how postwar governance in Germany should be implemented. The implementation of these plans by military leaders, particularly by then lieutenant general Lucius D. Clay, during the first year of the occupation dramatically shaped the longer-range policy goals of the United States in Germany. In particular, the early return to power of German authorities was entirely consistent with US military government doctrine, overriding social transformation efforts for democratization and denazification. The very structure of the occupation governance, which was also the army’s responsibility, could not have sustained such long-lasting social projects. The result was a swift return to power of German officials in a decentralized government. Likewise, denazification efforts were rapidly turned over to Germans themselves.