## Contents

	List of maps and tables	page vi
	Notes concerning references to East German archives	vii
	Abbreviations Dramatis personae	viii x
	Introduction	1
1	The antifascist committees	4
2	Conflict communities of the western Erzgebirge	30
3	Into the abyss: March-April 1945	52
4	Taking power in Niemandsland	73
5	Surviving in Niemandsland	95
6	The politics of antifascist rule	122
7	Antifascists and the wider population	152
8	The politics of Soviet occupation	179
9	Lessons of Niemandsland	213
	Bibliography	230
	Index	240