In this talk, Sabine Frühstück examines the ideological reproduction of war and empire building through the lens of the histories of children and emotions. She identifies a large body of pictures and narratives that connect children and soldiers, the combination of which produced a multi-sensory emotional register attributed to a specific modern conceptualization regarding both children and the adults who interact with them: the assumption that children were politically innocent, morally pure, and endowed with authentic feelings; and the expectation that adults would respond to the depiction of children with a predictable set of emotions. Frühstück argues that this “emotional capital” was employed primarily through the unapologetic insinuation of sentiments such as sympathy, empathy, friendship, familiarity, and gratitude. In so doing, the child’s vulnerability, innocence, and malleability—all considered innate characteristics—were enlisted to offer a sense of redemption in the wake of extreme mass violence, as well as an appeasement to the home front population at large.