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Affidavit for Germar Rudolf Scheerer

I have been teaching German language and literature at a German College Preparation School ("Gymnasium") and as Professor at Ohio State University and the University at Albany, NY. Since 1994, I am Emeritus. One of my scholarly interests always has been on the reception of literature, on the philosophical and political trends which influenced the discussion. In Albany, I have organized, and published the proceedings of, five international conferences on this topic during the nineties. In my subsequent scholarly research and publications as well as in studying newspapers and weeklies from the US and Germany I have been following the current development all the more closely as my interest has expanded to the history and especially the historiography of World War II.

In the FR of Germany, much of what has been written on WWII itself, its prelude since Versailles and its aftermath, has been subjected to censure, suppression and confiscation if it disagreed with the "politically correct" official version. Publishers were heavily fined, authors imprisoned. You can read many these works only abroad, especially in the US. It is being said that the present Federal Republic has more political prisoners than the East German Democratic Republic ever had at one time.


These things are kept from public knowledge. But the picture is not clear cut by any means. Government officials and the media appear to be in considerable confusion. Several of those "rebellious" or "revisionist" books, among them Russian bestsellers, have been allowed to appear, especially on the war between Germany and the UdSSR. Others like those by the "infamous" British author David Irving, the acknowledged authority on WWII from the Nazi side, only recently have

been stopped, but still come and go in the stores. However, the writer himself is strictly banned from the country which threatens to prosecute him.

For such measures, as for the law against Holocaust deniers and the earlier one against radicals, the FR has been criticised sharply in the US even by people who, like I myself, find fault with the respective opinions. One example for many: Former Senator Bradley's German born wife, Ernestine Schlant, in *The Language of Silence. West German Literature and the Holocaust*, Routledge 1999, sees those measures in the ominous tradition of the Nazi dictatorship and the preceding authoritarian regimes. So do I and do many others. ..

During the late summer 2000, another witch hunt has broken loose, this time against so-called extremists on the right. Although foreigners and among them Jews have been assaulted in Germany much less than in other Western countries, and although those cases are not proven to be motivated by Nazi ideology, the present left government and their opinion makers tend to characterize everybody to their right as extremist, close to Neo-Nazism and inclined to act with violence -- as if there never had been "left" violence and as if the right trend were not to a high degree a natural reaction to the dominating Left. Again, strong efforts are under way to outlaw "right" groups and to authorize prosecution by the jurisdiction. Free speech and expression of opinion clearly have no safe haven in the FR of Germany.

As for Mr. Germar Rudolf Scheerer, I respect him as one of the rare species of independent thinkers, motivated highly by the ethnic cleansing of over 15 million Germans from Eastern countries after WWII; as a man of scientific, scholarly principles, of intellectual honesty; an able publisher and writer; an upright Idealist; in short, an example of whom we need many more in a Democracy. In my opinion, by prosecuting him, Germany is doing herself and her people and to Democracy a great disservice.


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