

Abendzeitung (Munich), March 7/8, 1998

States Attorney restrains professors

From an AZ (Abendzeitung) report:

racially persecutory passages by sociologist Robert Hepp cause the confiscation of the memorial work for Hellmut Diwald

A small tear in the network of brown professors.

Robert Hepp, full-time professor in Sociology at [the University of] Osnabrück and a well-known weaver of the New Right web in Germany has been restrained by the States Attorney Tübingen – together with a racially persecutory hackwork. In 1994 in a memorial work for historian Hellmut Diwald Hepp wrote an essay containing a quote in Latin that disputed the mass murder of Jews by the National Socialists. The case went to the States Attorney after the AZ mentioned it in a report on right-wing professors on 31.8.1996/1.9.1996. Therein it was shown that the footnote fulfilled the objective criteria for the crime of incitement to racial persecution together with additional criminal elements of defamation and vilification of the memory of the dead. The investigation against Hepp had to be suspended due to the Statute of Limitations. However, the book "Hellmut Diwald, sein Vermächtnis für Deutschland", ("Hellmut Diwald, his legacy for Germany ...") published by the Hohenrain Verlag in Tübingen, a notorious radical right publisher, was confiscated nationwide.

In recent years Robert Hepp and his essays have more and more steered into brown territory. In publications such as "Deutschland ohne Deutsche" ("Germany without Germans") or "Die Endlösung der deutschen Frage" ("The Final Solution of the German Problem") he spread his folkish ideology. He has made scholarly presentations to right-wing to extreme right-wing circles. In the memorial work for the deceased historian Hellmut Diwald Robert Hepp wrote an essay on a so-called publicity campaign against Diwald. The professor wrote footnote nr. 74 of his piece in Latin, so he could "carefully keep his heretical opinion out of the public eye".

What this meant was: Go ahead, deny that the planned and methodical annihilation of the Jewish people through the use of poison gas in "killing camps" is a true historical fact.

In the AZ article "Hitlers langer Schatten reicht bis in die Hörsäle der Demokratie" ("Hitlers long shadow reaches into the lecture halls of democracy") this Latin footnote was translated and the denial of the Holocaust made clear to show that radical right professors train students in the Federal Republic. Hepp sued the author of these lines and the Abendzeitung for 10,000 marks for slander. The counter-accusation for incitement to racial persecution followed quickly.

The States Attorney Tübingen agreed. As stated in the accusation, the said quotation "claimed the planned, systematic genocide of Jews by the National Socialists in the Third Reich, principally by means of gas in concentration camps, was false". And further, "At the

same time, the honor of Jews living in the Federal Republic who were persecuted by the National Socialists because of their ancestry was besmirched, since the statement was calculated to make the fact of the persecution of these Jews, which is a part of their personal identity, despicable".

Robert Hepp is no longer liable to criminal penalty. The editor of the Diwald book, Rolf-Josef Eibicht of Munich, was also not investigated. This is because, according to the Baden-Württemberg Press Law crimes committed by means of "publication or distribution of works containing punishable material", are no longer actionable six months after publication. Certain known radical right-wing authors contributed to the memorial work for Diwald, as well as conservative right-wingers. These included the Dean, now emeritus, of the Faculty of Social Science of the University of Munich, Hans Wagner, Munich mineralogist Helmut Schröcke, the historian Hans Schmidt, Würzburg professors political scientist Ludwig-Paul Weinacht, sociologist Lothar Bossle and jurist in international law Dieter Blumenwitz. The CDU far right-winger Heinrich Lummer contributed a piece, as did Armin Mohler, former secretary to the recently deceased writer Ernst Jünger. The book is now prohibited and has been withdrawn from commerce. The remaining copies will possibly be destroyed in a garbage burning facility. Right-wing circles have protested the confiscation. The issue is sure to come before the Land High Court. In case the Diwald book is not "released" through the judicial system, right-wing radicals are calling for a "peaceful demonstration at the site of the planned book burning".

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