
Abstracts

Hartmut Rübner, Das Vollzugsorgan des national-sozialistischen Polizeisystems. Zur Geschichte der Gestapo. Teil 2: Verfolgung, Terror, Vernichtung

The “myth” of the Gestapo as an omniscient agency of terror has been largely refuted recently. The Gestapo was merely a bureaucratic institution equipped with far-reaching powers to take action. Its repressive effectiveness is often explained by the widespread willingness to denounce others in the *Volksgemeinschaft* . In fact, the apparatus functioned as a control, surveillance and persecution network, based on a division of tasks, in which many cooperating official bodies participated and which also made use of information from rival organisations such as the *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD). The article, which describes the process of the Gestapo’s emergence and the independence of the Political Police in the polycratic system of rule under National Socialism, comes in three parts. The first part has been published in SGO 31 (2022). This second part deals with the ideological radicalisation and persecution practice of the State Police as it continued under the auspices of the *Reichssicherheitshauptamt* with the beginning of the war in 1939.

Hartmut Rübner, Das Vollzugsorgan des national-sozialistischen Polizeisystems. Zur Geschichte der Gestapo. Teil 3: Das Gestapo-Personal nach dem Krieg. Ahndung – Rehabilitation – Reintegration

The verdict of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg classified the Gestapo as a “criminal organisation.” However, most of its surviving members were freed after their Allied internment or even got away without punishment. The full extent of their crimes only became visible in the course of subsequent proceedings. Concerning

former Gestapo members, the persecution cycles varied in the three successor states to the Third Reich. After an initial phase in which the perpetrators were brought to justice on a large scale, the intensity of persecution declined rapidly from the beginning of the 1950s. It was not until the 1960s that the crimes of the Gestapo were systematically investigated and the perpetrators searched for more intensely. Meanwhile, many former Gestapo members had managed to integrate themselves, often with astonishing success, into the post-war societies. All in all, the crimes of the Gestapo were not adequately penalised.

Anouk Colombani, Die Arbeit regulieren? Debatten um die Bäckergelesen

Anouk Colombani introduces an important document elaborated by the Paris Commune, i. e. the communards' debate about and decree on the abolition of night work for bakery workers which took place on 28 April 1871. Being of interest well beyond its historical importance, this debate reveals a problem of the labour movement unresolved until this very day: should the labour movement make use of the state as an institution in its struggle for the improvement of its conditions or should it solely rely on its own means, thus directly facing bosses and capitalists in their struggle?

Gerhard Hanloser, Das glückliche Bewusstsein der neuen deutschen Antisemitismuskritik. Ein Rezensionessay

The review deals with the authors' core thesis, according to which there is an anti-Semitism against the state of Israel that is shared by some Leftist, Islamists, Christians, and the far Right. By presenting the examples under the generalising term "anti-Semitism against Israel" the authors fail to make the necessary distinction. The review criticizes that the authors do not follow their own hermeneutical approach, do

not sufficiently address ideologized and instrumentalized accusations of “anti-Semitism,” and end up with a limited universalism.