The German Police and the Nazi Regime

– A Historical Research Project of the German Police University, Münster

Dr. Wolfgang Schulte – DHPol / FG 01
Conference of the ministers of interior decided in April 2008 to launch a project about the police of the Nazi-Regime

German Police University was given the task to realize it

Duration of the project: 3 Years

Financial ressources: 1.3 Mio €
Features

Essential parts:

- Temporary exhibition at the German Historical Museum (DHM), Berlin (April – August 2011)
- Preparation of a permanent exhibition module condensed on 17 display boards
- Producing teaching material for the general and advanced training of the police (completed Dec. 2012)
### Staffing

| Project Manager: | Dr. Wolfgang Schulte  
|                  | Dr. Detlef v. Schwerin |
| Historians:     | Florian Dierl,  
|                 | PD Dr. Mariana Hausleitner  
|                 | Martin Hölzl  
|                 | Andreas Mix |
| Office:         | Christine Hollering |
| Exhibition design: | Janet Görner |
| Exhibition graphics: | Chris Dormer |
Boards / Quality Assurance

- **Scientific Advisory Board** – 17 Members
  - u. a. Reinhard Rürup, Harald Welzer, Peter Longerich, Klaus-Michael Mallmann, Michael Wildt

- **Curatorium** – 5 Mitglieder
  - Boris Rhein (Innenminister Hessen), Dietmar Woidke, (Innenminister Brandenburg), Winfried Nachtwei (Ex-MdB Bündnis 90/Die Grünen), Robert Traba (Polnische Akademie der Wiss. Berlin), Volkhard Knigge (Gedenkstätte Buchenwald)

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Cooperation

- Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin
- Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Bonn
- Villa ten Hompel, Münster
- Haus der Wannseekonferenz, Berlin
- Polizei Berlin
- Fachhochschule Polizei Brandenburg, Oranienburg
- Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (rbb), arte
- Bayerisches Armeemuseum Ingolstadt

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Progress

- International Symposium in May 2009
- Permanent exhibition module distributed to the education institutions of all German police forces in Dec 2011
- Teaching material – produced in cooperation with German Federal Agency of Political Education – published in Dec 2012

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Projekt „Die Polizei im NS-Staat“

Publications

„Nicht durch formale Schranken gehemmt“
Die deutsche Polizei im Nationalsozialismus

Ordnung und Vernichtung

Die Polizei im NS-Staat

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Ausstellung DHM

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Exhibition DHM

500 Objects on 900 qm and two levels - 30 media stations

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Some Reasons to deal with police history - in general

- Relationship between Police and Politics is difficult!
- German police is on its way to set up a community police service
- The self-image of a community police needs a historical reflected analysis about the position of police in a democracy
Why should we deal with the Police of the Nazi-Regime

- Quintessence of the experiences with the Nazi-Regime, Abs. 1, Satz 1 GG):

Human dignity is inviolable!

(Art. 1 of our constitution)
Some more reasons to deal with the police of the Nazi Regime in particular: teaching this subject

- describes as an extreme example what happens if the work of the police is not limited by legal restrictions
- shows endangerments of police work
- and vice versa makes sure what correct police work means in a democracy
- is to ensure policemen and –women about their role in our democratic society
“Not limited by legal restrictions“

- is the title of our teaching material
- which has the following layout
- nine chapters like “The German police and the Holocaust“ etc.
- Every chapter has an introductory text, followed by documents, diagrams, pictures etc. to work with
- and suggestions how to use them