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## Book Reviews

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### Yes, she did run astray!

by Anno Hellenbroich

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#### **Verirrt—Mein Leben in einer radikalen Politorganisation**

by Aglaja Beyes-Corleis

Herder Verlag, Freiburg, 1994

192 pages, paperbound, DM 16.80

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Dropout literature and libels are booming in Germany in the super-election year 1994. Even the Herder Verlag—at one time a reputed Catholic publishing house, now notorious for its New Age and feminist books—has entered the fray with a publication into which it sank thousands of German marks, which will turn out to be embarrassing for the publisher. Aglaja Beyes-Corleis (hereafter ABC) brings her manuscript to the market four years—in the author's words—after her "resignation from the organization." Her aim: to settle accounts with Helga Zepp-LaRouche. Her method: Scheme F of the Stasi (former communist East German intelligence service) storytellers about sects.

The book's title, translated from the German, is: *Run Astray—My Life in a Radical Political Organization. A 'Dropout' LaRouche Associate Writes for the Herder Verlag.*

Those who take the claims made in the foreword seriously and expect to discover something "exciting" about the political work of Helga Zepp-LaRouche or the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity, the political movement in Germany which she helped found, will be disappointed. The lion's share of the text consists of first-person accounts of an author who is rushing toward her "magical 40th birthday." At best, her "revelation" that she drank too much bad red wine in the 1970s (p. 120) is quite credible. She does not bother to prove the rest of what she purports to be "fact," most of which is either plainly false or tailored to fit obvious propaganda templates.

ABC's statement in the book, "having left the organization three times after 16 years' membership—now for good," was polished into the politically intended libelous final form by Dr. Dr. Künzlen, deputy director of the Evangelical Center for Questions of Worldviews (EWZ) in Stuttgart, and other helpful editors of the Herder Verlag. On account of the

collective authorship, it is necessary to say a few words about ABC as well as the double-doctor of sociology (who, we have heard, will not stay much longer at his post), and the circle of LaRouche adversaries they represent.

Although it was surely not the publisher's intention, the publication of the Herder book occurred just at the same time as the report circulated through the media, that the 81-year-old author Kurt Hirsch, longtime director of the *Blick nach Rechts (Glance to the Right)* newsletter, is under investigation by the Federal Attorney's Office for having worked for the Disinformation Department of the Stasi; in its official language, his title was Informal Associate Code-Name "Helmet." His apartment was searched and the official investigation begun on the basis of the information gathered there.

What makes this spicy, is that ABC's language of "radical totalitarian politcult" (political cult) used against the political movement associated with LaRouche, which Dr. Dr. Künzlen adopts as his own formulation in the foreword with astonishing fanaticism and without the obligatory journalistic cross-checking or source attribution, corresponds exactly to the language Hirsch used against LaRouche in 1980 and repeatedly after that. Hirsch also saw to it that Rev. Friedrich-Wilhelm Haack, who had come to West Germany from East Germany in 1955, was able to insert his own diatribes against LaRouche into Hirsch's political press club, the Democratic Press Service Initiative (PDI). When ABC offered her story to Hesse Television in 1991, Ulrich Wickert, who anchors the daily news show Tagesthemen, used his debut broadcast to air it. What a coincidence!—Wickert was also a member of the Hirsch club, and now he is hunting for arguments to explain away his relationship to the Stasi.

In 1986, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, together with the Patriots for Germany political party and many citizens, pushed for an industrial policy linked to the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). The Hamburg Rowohlt Verlag immediately put a piece of propaganda against LaRouche onto the market, *Deckname Schiller (Codename Schiller)*. The two authors of this volume, Leo Müller and Helmut Lorscheid, were also members of the suspected Stasi-Hirsch service under Social Democratic Party control. The editorial work was done by Social Democrat Freimut Duve, formerly a member of the editorial advisory board of Hirsch's PDI. The coincidences mounted up: In East Berlin, the Stasi was laughing its head off—it had everything under one "Helmet."

All of that was in 1986, which began with the dramatic electoral victory of the LaRouche Democrats in Illinois. Stasi head Markus Wolff, via Department II, had issued an assignment to his western espionage apparatus to look into Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche's political movement. The monstrous Stasi-KGB disinformation campaign against LaRouche climaxed when Stasi officer Dr. Herbert Brehmer fabricated the story that LaRouche was involved in the Feb. 28, 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, and media adversaries of LaRouche ran with the story worldwide.

That same year, private organizations such as the Anti-



An election poster of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity in Germany, showing Helga Zepp-LaRouche (standing) with U.S. civil rights movement leader Amelia Boynton Robinson. "We have the cure-all prescription," the headline reads. The principal target of author ABC's lies and slanders is Mrs. LaRouche.

Defamation League of B'nai B'rith heated up a climate of hate in preparation for a political-judicial attack launched against LaRouche and his associates in the United States, which unjustly put LaRouche and a number of associates behind bars.

In this political railroad, the U.S. attorney utilized a former member, Chris Curtis, whose perjured "testimony" came about through "brainwashing," according to tape-recordings of Sheriff's Deputy Don Moore, in charge at the time. Is that the role into which the fanatical Künzlen has pushed ABC, according to her own representation, and in view of her obviously labile personality? The "I-me" bragging of her text indicates that ABC fantasizes herself in such a "Curtis" role, telling a tale as far from the truth as any soap-opera.

ABC's "intellectual friends" in the ranks of the American anti-cult groups, such as the Cult Awareness Network, are themselves ensnared in serious legal proceedings. One of them, Galen Kelly, is in prison for kidnapping. His group employed certain hooligans from New York for their kidnapping operations, which are now, following the massacre in Hebron, termed "scum" by the Israeli government and, in two cases, have been outlawed as terrorist organizations.

If ABC is not suffering lapses of memory, she can probably still recognize these background facts from her 16 years of experience.

ABC reveals the most interesting feature of her book only toward the very end: LaRouche had warned in June 1990 that, in the context of George Bush's push for a "new world order," a new Mideast conflict was brewing. In fact, following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, war propaganda escalated, and massive pressure was exerted from various quarters to smother all opposition in America and Europe to the Bush administration's scheme for a "North-South war." Helga Zepp-LaRouche and the newspaper *Neue Solidarität* were among the very few who warned about the consequences of

this "new world order by military force," and the warnings have proven to be right on the mark. And, despite the allegedly "broad American public support" for this war, Bush was not reelected President, but lost to Bill Clinton.

In the summer of 1990, *Neue Solidarität* reported on the growing tension in the Middle East, which Bush, who looked upon himself as the man at the helm of the "sole remaining superpower," together with Lady Margaret Thatcher, exploited for his military adventure in 1991. The Gulf war was ultimately launched in order to absorb political and financial resources in Europe to prevent the reconstruction of eastern Europe. Certain circles who were connected to the Israeli ultras, attempted to massively disrupt this editorial policy. ABC adopted this propaganda, all the way to the absurd charge of anti-Semitism against the LaRouche movement. Whether the contacts ABC claims to have had with B'nai B'rith have any particular significance, is moot.

On the whole, it seems that a professor whom ABC cites, because he had given her a "deficient" grade on a paper at the University of Mainz, was correct in his judgment: "Her novel view of history appears one-sided and superficial; her often bold claims are insufficiently proven and argued. . . . Her argument lacks precision of thought. And there is too much which is irrelevant" (p. 94).

Since ABC mentions this reviewer personally, I will cite one typical example her "truthfulness." She obviously wanted to use the claim which Reverend Haack propagated, that LaRouche had made a turn from the left to the right in 1977, in order to suggest political duplicity. In a flight of fantasy, ABC makes the reviewer "a member of the communist student association MSB Spartakus," with which organization the reviewer never had any association. But it fits nicely in the "Scheme F" of ABC and the Evangelical Center for Questions of Worldview.