

Announcing a new book:

Jutta Ditfurth

The Baron, the Jews, and the Nazis: Journey into a Family History

Hoffmann and Campe, Hamburg (Germany)

400 pages, hardcover, with 36 illustrations

Price: 21,99 euros

ISBN: 978-3-455-50273-2

German publication date: October 4, 2013

“Out of my hundreds of relatives, I found only one who did not loathe Jews and Social Democrats.”

So writes Jutta Ditfurth, a German author who, after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1990, traveled to the former East Germany in search of her aristocratic origins. There she was forced to confront the contradictions of her ancient family. Tracing the movements of her colorful great-granduncle Börries Baron von Münchhausen (1874-1945), a composer of ballads, she at first thought she had finally found a friend of the Jews. But then she came upon a letter...

The anti-Semitism of the German nobility of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has often been obscured by Count von Stauffenberg's 1944 attempt to assassinate Hitler. But most German aristocrats saw Jews as an alien race that threatened their “racial purity.” Until 1945 Jews were often not permitted even to enter manors and castles as guests. They were blamed for the French Revolution, for Germany's defeat in the First World War, for the fall of the Kaiser, and for the creation of the Weimar Republic, the first German democracy. In the end, the nobility's hatred for Jews lost all bounds.

When and why did the German nobility become anti-Semitic? Jutta Ditfurth tells the story of her own family, from the early nineteenth (Romantic Movement) century to the present. The dramatic life of Börries Baron von Münchhausen is just one episode: in 1900 he was a close friend of the Jewish artist Ephraim Moses Lilien, but a few decades later, he had transformed himself into a fervent anti-Semite.

About the author:

Jutta Ditfurth was born in 1951 as Jutta von Ditfurth. (The *von* indicated her family's noble status—as a democratic-minded young woman, she dropped it.) She is a sociologist, author, and political activist who has studied and worked in Heidelberg, Hamburg, Freiburg, and Bielefeld as well as in Detroit and Glasgow. As a journalist, she traveled to the United States, China (Tibet), Kazakhstan (under the Soviet Union), and

Western Sahara. She has written about international politics, social movements, social history, feminism, ecology, and more.

In 1980 she cofounded the German Greens and served as the party's chair from 1984 to 1988. In 1991 she left the Greens to work in various social movements. Since 2001 she has been a member of the Frankfurt city council, representing the ecological-leftist-antiracist group ÖkoLinX-ARL.

She has published sixteen books, among them the best seller *Ulrike Meinhof: Die Biografie* (2007), which was translated to Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch, Turkish, and Greek. Two further best sellers were *Feuer in die Herzen: Gegen die Entwertung des Menschen* (1997) and *Krieg, Atom, Armut: Was sie reden, was sie tun: Die Grünen* (2011).

Ditfurth lectures at universities and has done book and lecture tours in the United States, Sweden, Russia, Finland, the Netherlands, Spain, Greece, Austria, and Switzerland.

For more information about the book, please contact the author:

Jutta Ditfurth
Neuhofstr. 42
60318 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
phone: +49/(0)170-202 46 73
fax: +49/(0)69/55 03 09
e-mail: jutta.ditfurth@t-online.de
website: <http://www.jutta-ditfurth.de>

For permission and rights, please contact the publisher:

Hoffmann and Campe Verlag GmbH
attention: Nadja Kossack, Lizenzen/Rights
Harvestehuder Weg 42
20149 Hamburg, Germany
phone: +49 (40) 44 1 88 -266 und -267
fax: +49 (40) 44 1 88 -319
e-mail: nadja.kossack@hoca.de
website: <http://www.hoffmann-und-campe.de>