

## Lernen aus der Geschichte e.V.

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Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

### ***The Flyers of the White Rose***

*From early summer of 1942 through February 1943, citizens of south German and Austrian cities found flyers in their mailboxes which called for resistance against the National Socialist regime. They were called "Flyers of the White Rose," and later, "Flyers of the Resistance Movement in Germany." These were the work of five students at the University of Munich and one of their professors: Hans and Sophie Scholl, Alexander Schmorell, Christoph Probst, Willi Graf, and Professor Kurt Huber.*

*All the flyers were typed and then copied with a hectograph (duplicator). The addresses were taken from telephone books. Acquiring the typewriters and hectograph, ink, paper, and stamps meant that the group took greater and greater risks. As a cover, the flyers were sent by mail from different cities. Their purpose was to shake people's faith in Hitler, awaken their doubts to consciousness, and make the Germans face their guilt. They called for passive resistance.*

*On February 18, 1943, Hans and Sophie Scholl set out the sixth group of flyers in the empty halls of the University of Munich. They dropped the last copies from the gallery of the courtyard. However, a janitor had seen them and locked the exit. Soon thereafter, they were arrested by the Gestapo. A short time later, their friend Christoph Probst was also arrested. The sixth group of flyers reached England by way of Scandinavia through Helmut von Moltke. Hundreds of thousands of them were dropped from British planes at the end of 1943.*

*They now bore the heading: "A German Flyer — Manifesto of the Students of the University of Munich". (In White Rose Foundation, e.V. [publishers]. "Catalog of 'The White Rose Exhibition': The Opposition of Students against Hitler in Munich, 1942-43." Munich, 1994. p. 48.)*

### **The Sixth Flyer of the White Rose Resistance Movement, from February 18, 1943:**

Fellow students! Fellow students!

Our people, shaken, face the loss of the men of Stalingrad. Three hundred and thirty thousand German men have been senselessly and irresponsibly driven to death and destruction

by the inspired strategy of our World War I Private First Class. Führer, we thank you.

There is unrest among the German people. Will we continue to entrust the fate of our armies to a dilettante? Do we want to sacrifice the rest of German youth to the core just for power of a Party clique? No, never!

The day of reckoning has come (underlined in original) — the reckoning of our German youth with the most abominable tyrant our people have ever been forced to endure. In the name of all German youth, we demand that Adolf Hitler's state return to us our personal freedom, the most precious treasure that we have, out of which he has swindled us in the most miserable way.

We grew up in a state in which all free expression of opinion was unscrupulously suppressed. The Hitler Youth, the SS, have tried to drug us, to revolutionize us, to regiment us in the most promising young years of our lives. "Philosophical training" is the name given to the despicable method by which our budding intellectual development was smothered in a fog of empty phrases. An unimaginably diabolical and narrow-minded selection process trains its chosen future party bigwigs in the "Castles of the Knightly Order" to become brazen, godless, unscrupulous exploiters and assassins — blind, moronic hangers-on of the Führer. We "workers of the intellect" are the very ones who should put obstacles in the path of this new caste of overlords. Soldiers at the front are regimented like schoolboys by apprentice Führers and would-be Gauleiters, and the lewd jokes of the Gauleiters insult the honor of women students. German women students at the University of Munich have given a dignified reply to the besmirching of their honor; (underlined in original) and German students have defended the women in the universities and stood firm. That is the beginning of the struggle for our free self-determination — without which intellectual and spiritual values cannot be created. We thank the brave comrades, both men and women, who have set us a shining example!

For us there is but one slogan: fight against the Party! Get out of Party organizations, which are used to keep our mouths sealed and hold us in political bondage! Get out of the lecture rooms of the SS corporals and sergeants and the party bootlickers! We want genuine learning and real freedom of opinion. No threat can terrorize us, not even the shutting down of institutions of higher learning. This is the struggle of each and every one of us for our future, our freedom, and our honor under a regime conscious of its moral responsibility.

Freedom and honor! For ten long years Hitler and his comrades have manhandled, squeezed, twisted, and debased these two splendid German words to the point of nausea, as only the kind of dilettantes who cast the highest values of a nation before swine can. They have sufficiently demonstrated what they understand by freedom and honor in ten years of destruction of all material and intellectual freedom, of all moral substance among the German people. The frightful bloodbath has opened the eyes of even the stupidest German — it is a slaughter which they arranged in the name of freedom and honor of the German nation throughout Europe and which they daily start anew. The name of Germany is dishonored for all time if German youth does not finally rise, take revenge, and atone, smash its tormentors, and set up a new intellectual Europe.

Students! The German people look to us! (underlined in original) As in 1813, the people expected us to shake off the Napoleonic yoke, so in 1943 they look to us to break the National Socialist state terror through the power of the spirit.

Beresina and Stalingrad are burning in the East, the dead of Stalingrad implore us to take action!

'Courage, my people, our beacons are burning!' Our people stand ready to rebel against the National Socialist enslavement of Europe in a fervent new breakthrough of freedom and honor!"