

## Lernen aus der Geschichte e.V.

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<http://www.lernen-aus-der-geschichte.de> veröffentlicht.

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.

### Are There Any Stereotypes?

It would be silly to write a never-ending essay about the topic "stereotypes" including just facts and not asking about the views of the public. It is people who preserve stereotypes in their minds and pass them on.

We asked nine persons of different ages and occupations whether they were able to name three well-know German personalities.

The first person we interviewed was Professor Mgr. Libuse Matejkova (55). We were not surprised that the question did not pose a problem for her. *"Oh yes, for example Kant, Wagner, Humbolt, Thomas Mann...."*

The next person interviewed was Mr Josef Halada (41), a metal worker by vocation. As he belongs to the same generation as our parents, we were not surprised by his answer, either. *"Yes, Hitler. I don't know any other personality. If you want to know about Russians – we learned those at school, but the Germans – no."*

His wife, Augustina Haladova (39), found it easier to answer (she is a former student of the Domažlice Gymnazium). *"For example Helmut Kohl, Kant and Karl May."*

Mrs Lenka Schirova (33), a librarian by vocation, had to think hard, but after all, what would you be able to come up with at half past eight in the morning. She finally remembered *J.S.Bach, Katarina Witt and J.W. Goethe.*

Mrs Jana Kondradyova (40), nurse, named personalities from different areas – *Kant, Remarque and Hitler.*

The older generation was represented by a married couple. *"The fat" Kohl* had stuck in Mrs Marie Zizkova's (71) memory, and Mr Josef Zizka (75), who named Hitler in the first place,

then listed *Kohl* and *Schröder*. We interviewed a female student (15) as representative of the younger generation, who named Hitler, and a 26-year-old male student, who mentioned names like

*Goethe, Schröder and Becker*.

And? Do you know now why we asked this question, although it does not seem related to our topic? You don't have to be especially good in Maths to see that the best-known personality of our mini opinion poll is Hitler. And now we ourselves should search our minds:

Do we hang on to stereotypes?