

Abstract: Hans Uebersberger (1877–1962), was, in the first third of the 20th century, one of the most active and most renowned Austrian historians: a specialist in Russian and Serbian History, who had founded and established, with others, the famous Vienna Institute for East European History and who climbed within a short time from the position of lecturer to full professor, he was a convinced antisemite, elected dean of his faculty and even rector of his university. Member of the then illegal Nazi party, he moved, in 1934, to a chair in German Breslau and from there to Berlin, became a German citizen and SA-officer and was dismissed, in 1945, due to his close, yet not intimate connections with the Nazi system. General and special, electronic as well as printed reference works maintain that after the War he started a new academic career, that he was appointed, in 1950, to a professorship in the Ukrainian Free University in Munich and gave lectures on East European History at Göttingen University during the later 1950's. These assertions are wrong and are not corroborated by archival sources, and it is not clear how and why they came into being. What is right is that he was appointed, in 1958, professor emeritus at Erlangen university and received a full salary of this Bavarian university until his death. Why Erlangen and not any other German university is unclear; he may have renewed his contact to one of his Berlin students, then dean of the Erlangen faculty. Uebersberger's biography, therefore, has to be rewritten at least partially and at least for the last phase of his life: The assumption of a brilliant academic career in the 1950's is nothing but a phantom.

Keywords: Hans Uebersberger; history of historical sciences; Vienna university; denazification; post-war careers of historians

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