

Mightier than the sword David Irving, photographed for a feature in *The Independent* by David Gamble with the weapon his opponents most fear.



My discovery of Walter Hahn's horrific photos of the aftermath of the 1945 Dresden bombing brings me fame—and hidden enemies. For years I am favoured by the German media, and enjoy the backing of the country's most powerful publishers. *Der Spiegel* publishes five of my books as serials, unheard of for one author, including my Rommel biography in 1978, and they reward me well for exposing the Hitler Diaries forgery in 1983.



After 1965 the leading liberal German playwright Rolf Hochhuth becomes a firm friend, and in 1967 my wife Pilar invites him to stay with us in London.

Ten years after my first marriage ends, in 1992 I start a new family with Benté Høgh in London. My imprisonment is a worse ordeal for her than me.





Africa and Germany Large audiences around the world, like those in Pretoria (above) and Windhoek (*right*) in 1987, and the schoolchildren invited by a Sigmaringen bank (*below*) to hear me in November 1981, and, greet me. Then my opponents — “the traditional enemies of free speech,” as I call them — begin using their hidden influence on governments to silence me.





So things change. Dishevelled from working in the KGB archives in Moscow, I return—carrying the long-lost Goebbels Diaries—on July 4, 1992. Police have to escort me home from a meeting that I address that day, as a Leftist mob howls. Bente, whom I have met in March, looks at them perplexed (*AP photo*).





Global Vendetta

In October 1992, I am awarded the Orwell free speech prize at a dinner in Vancouver. Moments later I am arrested: fake documents about me have been planted on Canadian government files.

The Ontario trial lasts two weeks. Canada expels me on November 13, 1992, and this triggers a chain of entry bans round the world. ▼



Der Spiegel begins a campaign of defamation. I strike back, printing 20,000 spoof issues of the news magazine: "Sure we smeared him!"

Our website gives the first word of the 2005 Vienna ambush. ►

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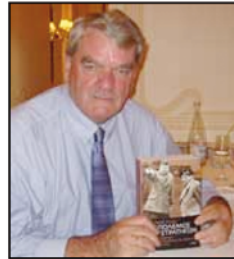
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Photo: **David Irving presents latest book in Athens, Greece, Oct 25, 2005**
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E-MAIL THIS WITH COMMENTS TO A FRIEND

David Irving held in Austria



November 11, 2005

THE historian David Irving has been arrested while on a one-day visit to Vienna. An expert on Hitler's Third Reich, he had been invited by courageous students to address an ancient University association in the Austrian capital.

He chose as his subject the secret negotiations between **Adolf Eichmann** and the Jewish leaders in Budapest, **Joel Brand** and **Rezső Kasztner**, the so-called "trucks for Jews" deal, and British knowledge of the scheme from codebreaking. He has researched the topic extensively in Allied archives for both his **Churchill** and his **Himmler** biographies.

Despite precautions, the Austrian political police are believed to have learned of the visit by wiretaps or intercepting e-mails. Mr Irving had privately visited his embattled friend the German playwright **Rolf Hochhuth** on the way to Austria; they had not met for twenty years because of travel restrictions imposed on each of them. ■

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*“Give ’em the old
razzle dazzle . . .”*



Feeding frenzy It is February 20, 2006, shortly before 9 a.m. Vienna, Austria. I am waiting in manacles behind the door for police officers to escort me into the centuries-old courtroom. The world’s press gathers on the courtroom side of the door.





Showtime At 9:01 a.m. the court hearing begins, and police escort me into the chamber. At right my counsel Dr. Kresbach looks less than confident than I.





“He had it coming . . .”





Furchtbare Juristen Judge Peter Liebetreu has been delegated to hear the case after other judges shy away from handling the hot potato. Preparing for the hearing, he trawls for hostile pages about me on the Internet, and orders maximum security for the courtroom, fearing a rescue attempt.



Vienna State Prosecutor Michael Klackl has prepared the government case well. He asks the jury to punish me for thirty years of lecturing around the world, regardless of the topic.

Courtroom photos courtesy of R.éka Antal, Gyuri Gergely, Michele Renouf and the international press.



Media star Dr. Elmar Kresbach is more at home defending high-profile narcotics barons and street gangsters in the Viennese courts. This is his first political, “thought-crime” case. He soon finds himself out of his depth in the notorious, Stalin-era Banning Law enacted at war’s end in May 1945.

6:49 p.m. The trial has ended, and I have been escorted back to the cells. Defence counsel Kresbach tells waiting reporters he thinks a two-year sentence would have been more appropriate.




No. 68629 ■ TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21 2006 ■ NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



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Farmers prepare bird flu strategy

A vaccination strategy to protect 15 million chickens in Britain before the end of the summer from the deadly avian flu virus is being prepared by a new farm alliance.
NEWS page 4

Deepcut 'suicide'

A young soldier who died of gunshot wounds at the Deepcut army barracks, in Surrey, in 2002 had spoken about killing himself, an inquest was told yesterday.
NEWS page 15

Bullying payout

A woman who claims that she was bullied at primary school more than ten years ago has won an out-of-court settlement of £20,000.
NEWS page 23

LSE bid dropped

The London Stock Exchange looks almost certain to retain its independence for the time being after the only confirmed bidder walked away.
BUSINESS page 41

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Wembley defeat

The FA will announce today that the new £75 million Wembley Stadium will not be ready on time to host this year's FA Cup Final.
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'Who needs TV soaps when you've got Chirac's women?'
CHARLES BRENNER page 17

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Backlash at jailing of historian who denied Holocaust

From Roger Boyes in Vienna

DAVID IRVING, the historian, sat mouthed yesterday court found his Holocaust and years in jail.

"I'm very shy appeal," Irving bundled out of by armed anti-From the porter shouts before he too. But in Britain verdict that a right-wing ma Irving had j the Holocaust tris in 1989. I re-entered the crime to do November, 4 since. During his Irving sought



W... viel Kreide kann ein übergeben zu misseren? Der britische Holocaustmann nach einem Londoner Urteil ungeschult Lügner und Rassist und Antisemit nennen darf war auch nach David Irving

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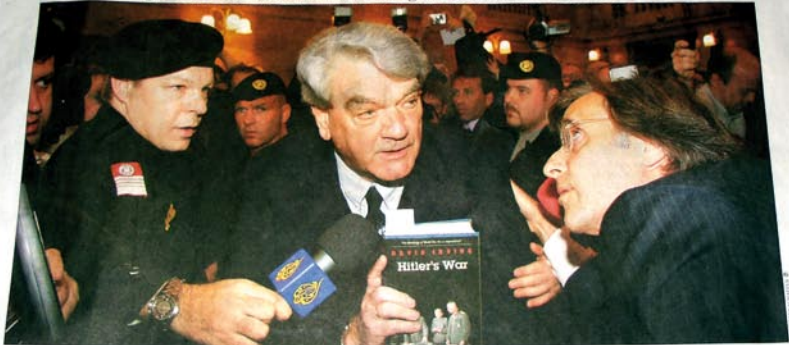
CHRONIK WIEN

KURIER

DIENSTAG, 21. FEBRUAR 2006 - SEITE 9

Drei Jahre für den Holocaust-Leugner

„Ich entschuldige mich“: Dem Geständnis David Irving wurde misstraut / Geschockter Brite beruft



VON PETER PISA

Wie viel Kreide kann ein übergeben zu misseren? Der britische Holocaustmann nach einem Londoner Urteil ungeschult Lügner und Rassist und Antisemit nennen darf war auch nach David Irving

die Geschworenen dem Geständnis etwas misstraut. Als „Schriftsteller“ stellte er sich Montag den Geschworenen vor. Nicht als Historiker. Das traut er sich hier nicht. Naturwissenschaften hat er erfolgreich studiert, und erfolglos Politikologie. Dann hat er im Ruhegebiet als Stahlarbeiter gejobbt und Deutsch- und

David Irving vermarkete sich sogar im Schwurgerichtssaal und hielt ein Buch in die Kamera. Richter Liebetreu (unten) misstraut dem Geständnis. Er las den „Daily Telegraph“.



STICHWORT

Revisionismus Ehemalige Nationalsozialisten wollten die Verbrechen nicht wahrhaben. Zur Beseitigung des Stigmas erschienen schon in den ersten Nachkriegsjahren in Westeuropa Publikationen, die

„Nein, Eure Lordschaft“, beteuert der Angeklagte. So würde er heute nicht mehr reden. (Morgen ist ein anderer Tag.) Denn er habe mittlerweile überzeugende Aufzeichnungen des stellvertretenden Auschwitz-Kommandanten Kurt Kramer gesehen. Ich muss mich entschuldigen, dass ich meine Wort



Ordeal over Impressed by the eloquence of my new counsel, Dr. Herbert Schaller (above), the court of appeal on December 20, 2006 orders my immediate release—to the fury of the Austrian media. They have agitated for a new trial and twenty years. The strain of 400 days of solitary confinement shows on my features that day.



◀ **Backlash** Leading British newspapers and editorials around the English-speaking world voice disquiet at the original three-year prison sentence. The Viennese popular press overflows with uncontrolled *Schadenfreude*.



Fly Hungarian While police smile, a video camera records the moments after the appeal victory. I am barely visible with my prison haircut.

Below: It is March 10, 2007. Nearly three months have passed, and I am in Budapest. I have just spoken as a guest to ten thousand Hungarians crowding Heroes' Square. *Függetlenség*, I have urged on them all: Independence!

