

EUGEN LEMBERG'S IDEOLOGY CONCEPT

Bedřich Loewenstein

This is an attempt at evaluating the importance of Eugen Lemberg's theory of ideologies both in relation to the overall merit of Lemberg the sociologist and the intellectual and political background of the 1960s. The concept, largely oriented at roles and functions of ideology, may be understood as an extension of the earlier nationalism concept; ideology's main attributes being identity transfer and behaviour control. The contemporary background was the critical view of ideology, taken by the Frankfurt school, which Lemberg sharply rejected. His proposition that ideology is inevitable is corroborated in his posthumous work "Anthropologie der ideologischen Systeme" (Anthropology of Ideological Systems). The article critically examines, above all, the problem of secularisation and redeification in our time and age, together with a more general appraisal of the applicability of Lemberg's ideology concept.