

THE SOCIOLOGISTS EUGEN LEMBERG (1903-1976)
AND EMERICH K. FRANCIS (1906-1994)

Some Thoughts on the Biographies of two Members of the Staffelsstein Movement
during the "Volkstumskampf" and in the Federal Republic

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This is an attempt at a contrastive, parallel biography of the sociologists Eugen Lemberg and Emerich K. Francis. Life and work of both scholars are examined from the phase of the "Volkstumskampf" (nationalities struggle) in the middle of the 1920's until the Federal Republic of Germany in the 1970s. There are both noteworthy parallels and evident differences as regards their interest in certain research fields, their scholarly approach and methodology. The author assesses how far biographies, critical historical events during their lifetime and the scientific work of the two of them might be interlinked, taking a closer look at the strong influence received by both at college joining the "Hochschulring" of the catholic Staffelsstein movement, at how their respective courses of life separated as a consequence of Nazi Germany taking over "Sudeten territory" in what became called the "Anschluss", at the experience, in the case of Francis, of emigration and return home or, in Lemberg's case, of war and expulsion, and finally at both of them taking up new careers in the Federal Republic. The biographies of the two scholars cast light on certain aspects of the historical transformation of social science in the Federal Republic: on one hand the persistence, in Eugén Lemberg's sociological work, of an essentialist understanding of "people" and "nation" in spite of his writings having stimulated other research, and on the other hand an analytical approach in social sciences, an approach using terminology ideologically purged, gaining gradually more ground.