

Munich

About consulting organisations and the history of Germany's secret capital

#Munich #Germany

Few people seem to have seen or noticed Steven Spielberg's 2005 film "[Munich](#)". While many of the Jewish star director's other films have enjoyed wide reception, some circles seemed to want this particular film to be ignored as quickly as possible and banished to oblivion forever, apparently. The film impressively shows how the terrorist attacks on the 1972 Olympic Games in the Bavarian capital marked Munich as the beginning of international terrorism. Only after the catastrophic murders of top Jewish athletes, which have not been fully explained to this day, did the idea of a terrorist attack abroad become a viable political option.

Munich has been the origin of a whole series of extremely unusual circumstances for quite some time. To explain the whole story, one would have to start around 1918, just after the end of World War I. At that time, ordinary marines returning to their German home ports in the North and Baltic Seas were so fed up with the behavior of their elite officers on board that they revolted against the extremely hierarchical military structures, initially. During the maritime voyages, which sometimes lasted for many months, these officers behaved sort of comparable to the last French kings in Versailles, all while their sailor comrades below deck literally starved and died under terrible living conditions. The insane idea of Emperor Wilhelm II to order the entire German Navy fleet to embark for the sea in the final days of World War I, in order to be sunk there by the waiting allied warships, proved to be a catalyst for the revolting navy soldiers, too.

Around the time of the [German November Revolution](#) of 1918-19 and the replacement of the German Empire by the Weimar Republic, originally brought about by the rebellious sailors from the Northern ports of Wilhelmshaven and Kiel, a former naval officer named [Hermann Erhardt](#) decided to establish the so-called "[Organisation Consul](#)". The mostly militarily defeated officers as the last defenders of the German Kaiser refused to recognize the new political reality shaped by the then-newly formed Councils, or *Räte*.



Naval Officer Hermann Erhardt

The name of Erhardt's militia organisation derives from the "Consuls" of the last Roman republic, an elite Roman political class with high powers who carried so-called "fasces" with them during public appearances, a strange bundle of wood wrapped around a long stick with a double-axed sword on top.

The **Marine Brigade Erhardt**, which grew to over 4000 men, chose none other than Munich as their home for "Organisation Consul". Its militiamen were among the first to wear the infamous Hakenkreuz swastika on their helmets as early as 1919. It was only years later, after the NSDAP was founded in Munich, that the swastika was adopted as the main Nazi symbol and attempted to be worn around the world. Camouflaged by the headquarters of the wood manufacturing company *Bayerische Holzverwertungsgesellschaft* in Munich and covered by then president of Munich's police Ernst Pöhner, Erhardt's "Organisation Consul" coordinated terrorist acts all over Germany in the early 1920s. A number of anti-monarchist political opponents were simply killed, including former Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau. An assassination attempt on Prime Minister Philipp Scheidemann failed. The nationwide "**Kapp Putsch**" of 1920, prepared and executed by Erhardt's "Organisation Consul," was only narrowly unsuccessful. Successful, however, was the direct suppression of the anti-monarchical council movement in Munich, whose leader and first Minister-President of the Free State of Bavaria, Kurt Eisner, was assassinated in the streets of Munich in February 1919 by Anton Graf von Arco, an aristocrat presumably connected to the 'Organisation Consul'. For whatever Catholic reasons, the people of Bavaria had just voted overwhelmingly for a conservative political party in the local elections shortly before, while in almost all other regions of Germany the people had mostly applauded the end of the monarchy during turbulent times.

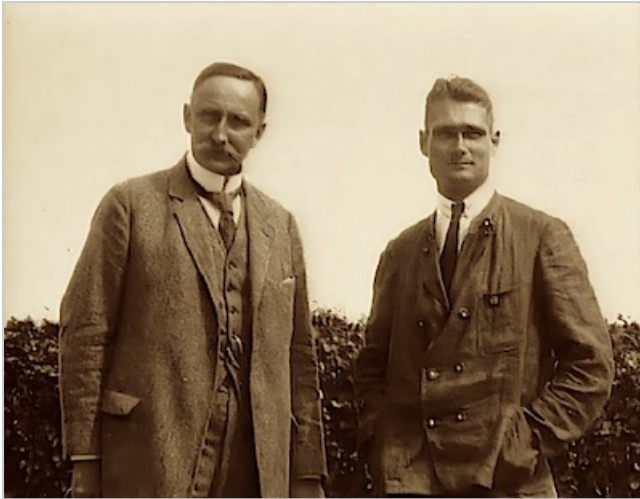
The aim is to fight everything anti- and international, Judaism, social democracy and radical left parties.

Statues of the 'Organisation Consul'

Many features of the political-fascist movements in Europe can be traced back to the *Einwohnerwehre* or **residents' militia** in Bavaria. Panicked fear over the mostly social-democratic political councils or *Räte* as a replacement for the extremely pyramid-organised Reich with the emperor at its top led the former aristocratic leadership also in Munich to brand all new political realities from the north as "dangerously communist". Throughout Bavaria, citizens were armed to fight any and all leftist. The Bavarian Citizens'

Army organised **shooting competitions and marches** to the center of Munich, in which tens of thousands proudly participated in flag parades - even attracting the attention of the Allies of WWI. The Bavarians wore already here in these 1920 mass events clearly visible armbands as a sign of membership of the citizens' militia.

Due to the failed Kapp Putsch and the Allies' intervention, the Bavarian population was disarmed and the residents' militia officially abandoned and prohibited in 1921. However, after his first **failed coup attempt** of 1923



Karl-Ernst Haushofer with Rudolph Hess

igniting from Munich's *Buergerbraeukeller*, Adolf Hitler really got going with Bavarian support following his noble prison stay in nearby Landsberg.

There, in Landsberg prison, Hitler was accompanied by his friend Rudolph Hess. Hess arrived in Munich in 1919, where he enrolled in various studies at the University of Munich and developed a close student-teacher friendship with one of his professors named Karl-Ernst Haushofer. Munich's very own Professor Haushofer, a believer in the nonsensical and **now scientifically debunked** claim that human genomes would improve only through and by the act of sexual reproduction and evolution, visited Hitler and Hess in Landsberg Prison from the summer to fall of 1924. Every Wednesday from June 24 to November 12, 1924, Haushofer traveled the 100 km from Munich to Landsberg Prison **for intensive morning and afternoon sessions** with Hitler and Hess. It was Karl-Ernst Haushofer of Munich who also implanted in the minds of his two prison students the Darwinian notion that a genetically superior race has the right to take space from so-called 'inferior races' and thus expand its *Lebensraum*.

The beginnings of the entire NSDAP and the National Socialist movement were hence impossible without the support and backing of many explicitly in Bavaria and Munich. Soon, the remains of former 'Organisation Consul' were also integrated into the National Socialist SS Division, although naval officer Erhardt apparently had not gotten particularly along with Hitler. Erhardt later emigrated from Nazi Germany and became an Austrian citizen.

While in many places it was thought that the Nazi Party, its high-ranking generals, officers and responsible persons had been completely removed from the German state system after 1945, there were again astonishing exceptions in Bavaria and especially in Munich. **Reinhard Gehlen**, for many years a member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle of military advisors, dumped loads of air photographs from Russia - for which he had been responsible as a high-ranking Nazi general of the *Aufklärung Ost* division - in waterproof tons in a Bavarian lake shortly before the end of the war. The Americans were thrilled not

only by the many air images, but also by his spy network in Russia and elsewhere. So much so that Reinhard Gehlen was quickly ordered to the United States in late 1945, where he also helped found and construct the brand-new CIA from 1948 on.

Obviously, Reinhard Gehlen made a very good impression in the USA, because only a few years later he was ordered back to Germany. In the years before, with official American support, he had been allowed to found not an Organisation Consul, but now instead the **Organisation Gehlen** with no other than a total of 350 former SS officers.

DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE			
SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT		DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION	
UPSWING/UPVENTURE/Ops Concentrations of UPSWINGers Residences		1. RI FILE NO. GRU-2-41/1	4. DATE 12 MAY 59
		3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO. EGMA-42172	7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM
5. ANALYST	6. DATE PROCESSED	10. DISSEMINATED IN	11. DATE
12. CROSS REFERRED TO THIS FILE		13. TRANSFERRED TO RI FILE NO.	
PERTINENT INFORMATION			
<p>1. The BND has obtained apts for various BWers in Munich. 2. The most significant of these "Wohnheime" in Klenzengasse - Kaulbachstrasse housing developments. 3. The complex has 3 buildings & houses a mixture of Americans, Germans employed by Consulate, & Germans connected to FRG. 4. 26 apts available to German Govt. 11 of these houses BWers 5. — 6. One tenant is at least circumstantially connected with BND - Dr. jur. Martin H. Kemnitz. 7. —</p>			
RECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION CODE NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2006			

Operation Upswing

Organisation Gehlen later merged with the German equivalent of the CIA, the Bundesnachrichtendienst or BND, although it can be assumed that the actual core of the BND was precisely the Organisation Gehlen, which early on, with US support, did everything possible to ensure that not a single left-wing or former Nazi resistance organisation could become an important political force in almost any European country after the war. This is somewhat confirmed by declassified U.S. government documents showing how, during **Operation Upswing**, BND members of the Gehlen organization - known as Gehlendorfers - were placed as tenants in the same building complex as U.S. consulate staff in Munich in 1959. The BND, literally founded by ex-Nazi General Reinhard Gehlen who later even became the official Director of the BND, initially also chose Pullach as its headquarters for many years to come - a small village located near the Isar River on the outskirts of Munich. From the Bavarian capital, Reinhard Gehlen also wrote a letter directly to CIA Director Allen Dulles in May 1953, in which Gehlen personally confirmed that, quote, "nearly seven years of close cooperation between the U.S. Intelligence Service and this organization", i.e. the Organization Gehlen, which merged into the BND, had passed then.

Nearly seven years of close cooperation between the US Intelligence Service and this organization have passed. These years created a well-founded investment of good will on both sides. They gave us the feeling to have worked successfully in paving the basement of a future German Intelligence Service.

Reinhard Gehlen in a letter dated May 12, 1953 to CIA Director Allan Dulles (declassified CIA document)

A few years earlier, around 60 kilometers from Munich, Klaus Merck, a former Nazi under Gehlen's protection and then a U.S. intelligence officer, happened to meet the so-called *Butcher of Lyon* Klaus

Barbie at the Kempten train station. Barbie was responsible for some of the most brutal murders of Jews and many French Nazi Resistance fighters, his atrocities are still taught in many French schools today. In April 1947, it was decided not to arrest Klaus Barbie at the Bavarian train station, but instead to offer him cooperation with the U.S. Intelligence Service. His job interview took place at the 970th CIC Kempten office, the CIC handlers there were the regional US officers Dale Garvey and Robert Taylor. Klaus Barbie was assigned to Gehlen, hiding under the name Klaus Altmann with his family in the Bavarian town of Memmingen. A few years later, he was flown to South America, carrying out murders of political opponents while on the CIA payroll as a member of the Organisation Gehlen. Barbie also helped organising the transport routes of former Nazis from Europe to South America.

After WWII, Munich of course also became a place for many war refugees. Not only for those who really were such, but apparently also for murderers. The anti-semitic and Ukrainian "national hero" Stepan Bandara, recruited by the Nazis in 1939 to carry out terrorist acts against Jews in Poland among others, fled his country after the end of the war and found shelter with his family nowhere else but in Munich. There he was discovered allegedly by KGB agents, who murdered him with cyanide in October 1959, a poison heavily utilized by the Nazis. Stepan Bandara's grave remains in Munich to this day.



The BND was particularly creative in its partnership with the CIA in the decades to come. In 1970, the BND and the CIA jointly and secretly bought a majority stake in Swiss company Crypto AG through an offshore fund. The Swiss were exclusively manufacturing machines for almost all governments in the world to encrypt their highly sensitive diplomatic and inner government cables. However, some Swiss engineers were explicitly instructed to solder technical components into the machines that would allow both, BND headquarters and also the CIA, to read the supposedly fully protected messages whenever they wanted. For example, during the short-lived Falklands War, the BND in Pullach provided the British government with detailed position plans of the Argentinean armed forces, and also supported the coup d'état of dictator Pinochet in Chile, who was promptly informed of all the intentions of the Chilean government. The gigantic spy scandal was brought into light when a Swiss Crypto AG salesman was suddenly arrested in Iran for espionage in the 1970s during a routine visit there. Only with lots of diplomatic efforts was he able to return home after 9 months in an Iranian prison.

Mr. Hagelin stated that he had recently visited the Siemens people in Munich in connection with their sale of one-time-tape cipher teleprinting machines (apparently the occasion for this visit was to tell them that he had heard of their sales of such equipment to certain countries which he thought were iron-curtain countries or were inclining in that direction). He told them he wanted to find out whether there was any basis for these stories.

The downright **amateurish decisions** of Munich's police in response to the hostage-taking and particularly to the subsequent cold-blooded murder of top Jewish athletes during the 1972 Olympic Games have been proven, meanwhile. Family members of the 1972 deceased in Israel have unsuccessfully tried to sue the City of Munich over many years for compensation, only recently **it was announced** that further payments may be issued and that additional formerly sealed documents may be made available to the public.

Probably similar to the 2005 Steven Spielberg film "Munich". Quickly forgotten and buried deep under another annual Oktoberfest spectacle, like so much in Germany's secret capital Munich.

<https://www.sun24.news/en/munich-about-consulting-organisations-and-the-history-of-germanys-secret-capital.html>