

# Read Adorno, then Send Dudde to the Devil!

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On the attempt of an activist to bring the police to the reading of the Frankfurt School — and to deny their leader obedience



Figure 1: Photo: nd / Elsa Koester

“No, but Adorno meant something quite different!” I am stunned and turn around.

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I am walking straight across a bright green meadow in Hamburg Entenwerder when I hear this sentence. Behind the back stands an activist with his bicycle facing two policemen. He gesticulates wildly. At the back of the child's seat, a little boy turns to face me. What the man says, I do not understand exactly. I go over to the little gathering. Nobody responds to me. The policemen listen to the man in the anarcho sweater.

"The reason you and your colleagues follow here is exactly what Horkheimer has described under instrumental reason! Do you not ask yourself what you are protecting this meadow from? And from whom? Does that make sense to you? People come here for a good cause! They want to protest against capitalism that kills so many people! Do not you want to do something against global poverty?" The two officers hold their helmets against their midsections. One of them nods, "Yes," he says. "I know it's hard to break out as an individual," continues the activist, "every single day we vote for capitalism! Every day! In the supermarket at the checkout I agree, in the subway I agree . . . . It's not easy, but together we can overthrow it, we can overcome it! You just have to join in!" The officials smile, nod.

"And this camp prohibition, which you put through here, is not the real problem either. I cannot believe we are discussing this camp all the time! This is never an appearance of the whole capitalist rule in all its facets, have you read Hegel? Being and appearance?"

"Can I take a picture?" I ask. All three wave me away with a hand movement. "Yes!" "The camping ban and the whole camp is a phenomenon, if we argue about it, it doesn't matter either! You're following instrumental reason and defend the appearance of what you reject yourself!" Smile, nod. "Read! Read Hegel, read Adorno and Horkheimer, really!" "We're reading!" "Yes, but not that "Daily News shit, read something sensible! I swear to you, if you read Hegel and Adorno, then you'll throw your helmets away and send Dudde to the devil!" The officials laugh. "Papaaaa, stop now, we have to go now!" The boy says. "Promise me you'll read?" "Papaaaaa! Wet!" "We're reading!" The activist shakes his head and turns to me for the first time. "I have to go. You have to take over now." Then he leaves.

The policemen look at me embarrassed. "Uhm, do you ever discuss the judgment of the Administrative Court?" I ask, in my new slightly challenging manner. "No," the policeman answers, still smiling. "That's not our task."

Source:

<https://www.neues-deutschland.de/artikel/1056271.lesen-sie-adorno-dann-s-schicken-sie-dudde-zum-teufel.html>