

RICE UNIVERSITY

HOUSTON, TEXAS

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HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Dr. György Lukács
Belgrád rakpart 2
Budapest V
Hungary

Dear Dr. Lukács,

I write you in great fear that my request will impose on your very valuable time; nevertheless, I believe that you can give me information of great value for my doctoral dissertation, which I am writing at the present time. Thank you for your interest in this matter.

My work concerns the Austrian sociologist and "social philosopher" Othmar Spann (1878-1950). Spann was one of the founders of the thought-system that supported Austrofaschismus, but he was repudiated by Dollfuss, Schuschnigg and finally by the Nazis. I am studying the intellectual roots of Spann's view of a perfect society, der wahre Staat, which was essentially a type of Ständestaat. Why did the German intellectuals become so concerned with these static dreams of a feudal Ständestaat? Were they so fearful of reality that they withdrew into the dreams of an ordered, hierarchical state resembling that of Plato? Did you ever meet Othmar Spann? What did his contemporaries think of him?

Do you believe that Spann is a major ideologist of Reaktion? Or was he a very minor figure who was soon forgotten? Would you compare him with Spengler, Moeller van den Bruck or Edgar J. Jung?

I have found several of your writings on Spann to be very useful for my studies: Archiv für die Geschichte des Sozialismus und der Arbeiterbewegung, Bd. XIII, 302-306; and also your masterly books Geschichte und Klassenbewusstsein. Studien über Marxistische Dialektik and Die Zerstörung der Vernunft. All of these works have given me ideas for my own thinking and writing.

Any information on your relationship to, and ideas concerning, Othmar Spann will be most gratefully received. Wishing you continued health and scholarly productivity, I hope to remain

MTA FIL. INT.
Lukács Arch.

Sincerely yours,

John J. Haag
John J. Haag