

Suppressing *Mein Kampf*

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Henry Srebrnik (political science, University of Prince Edward Island) is absolutely right that we need a good critical edition of *Mein Kampf* as soon as that work enters the public domain (“Should Hitler’s manifesto be permitted to rear its ugly head?”, 10 October 2014). I was happy to read that the Institute for Contemporary History is working on one. I hope other scholars put out their own editions, as well.

Prof. Srebrnik’s article suggests, though, that having a critical edition available is only a second-best option, as best would be for the book to entirely unavailable. Yet even if suppressing the book entirely were possible, it shouldn’t be suppressed. People studying Hitler, Nazis, or Nazism need to have it, certainly, but anyone who wishes to read it, for any reason at all, even for despicable reasons, should have access to it, as respect for autonomy and free expression requires.

It seems to me that the state of Bavaria, by having allowed no editions to be published, abused its copyright on the book.