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Title: **“Georg von Schönerers radicalization in becoming a racist anti-Semite from the Linz Program of 1882 until the establishment of the “Verband der Deutschnationalen” 1885.”**

Panel: Modern History

This article focuses on three years in the political life of Georg von Schönerer (1842 – 1921), that can be seen as exemplary for the increase of anti-Jewish hate in 1880s’ Vienna.

By making a scandalous speech Schönerer, who had been a deputy on the Imperial Council since 1873, parted ways with the Constitutional Party in February 1881 and founded the “Deutschnationaler Verein” in June 1882. This was followed by the establishment of a party newspaper, “Deutsche Worte”, and the publication of the so-called “Linz Program”, an enterprise by “Burschenschaften”, mainly from the petite bourgeois sector – among the prominent contributors were three Jews: Heinrich Friedjung, Viktor Adler and Serafin Bondy. Examples of the obvious contradictions displayed in this moderately anti-Semitic program will be given here.

Between 1882 and 1885 Schönerer performed a transformation towards being a racist anti-Semite, therefore towards a more radical form of anti-Semitism, that denied Jews the right to be Christians or “Germans”, even after they had been baptized and assimilated. Various developments in this period of time were crucial for this radicalization:

- 1.) The publication of the book “Die Judenfrage als Racen-, Sitten- und Culturfrage mit einer weltgeschichtlichen Antwort” by racist anti-Semite Eugen Dühring (1833-1921), which Schönerer evidently knew. In it Dühring describes the Jewish Question as being an expression of unsolvable contradiction: according to this, Judaism is the unavoidable, natural enemy of all civilized people, that have to defend themselves against it in order not to be extinguished.
- 2.) Schönerer’s ultimate break with the editor in chief of his paper “Deutsche Worte”, Engelbert Pernerstorfer, who had been closest to him ideologically, but refused to print an anti-Semitic article written by Schönerer concerning the School Question.
- 3.) The “Nordbahn scandal” and the question of this route’s nationalization, which Schönerer used to direct his hatred towards the Rothschild family.
- 4.) The elections to the Imperial Council, scheduled to be held in June 1885, in which,

due to a franchise reform, the so-called “Fünf-Gulden-Männer” were allowed to vote for the first time.

5.) The accelerated formation of the mass parties of the social democrats and the Christian socialists that became apparent and seemed to pose a further threat to the German nationalists. The modern concept of elected parties began to replace the dignitaries.

Finally in 1885 Schönerer independently added an item to the “Linz program”, which included the demand to “eliminate the Jewish influence on all sectors of public life”, a resolution that excluded Jews from any kind of membership in German national parties and unions, as they were considered unable to partake in the German nation due to their character.