

Ariel Palacios

aus Argentinien



Stipendien-Aufenthalt in Deutschland

von Mai 2000 bis August 2000

Tennis game at Hitler's Tribune

By Ariel Palacios

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1. Biography

Ariel Palacios: Born in 1966 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Emigrated to Brazil at the age of six. Studied journalism at the University of Londrina from 1984 to 1988 and worked as a free-lancer for many journals and magazines in southern Brazil. In 1993, he did the Master of Journalism at El País, Madrid, in 1993. Free-lancer in Spain until 1994. Since 1995 correspondent for the Brazilian newspaper O Estado de S. Paulo in Buenos Aires. Also correspondent of Radio Eldorado and the TV news channel Globonews. Scholarship of the German Heinz-Kühn-Foundation from May to August 2000. Internship at the Deutsche Welle.

2. Tennis game at Hitler's tribune

By Ariel Palacios

Take 1 – February 1999: „Lebensraum, Anschluss, Weltanschauung, Blitzkrieg, Arbeit macht frei, Ein Reich, ein Volk, ein Führer, Mein Kampf.“ I end the list. Mrs. Karin, my German teacher, almost spills her tea. She is surprised. Because these are the only German words I know. They are not Goethe's poems, neither Kant's definitions, not even Schiller's lyrics of the Ode. The only positive expression I have heard of is „mein Schätzchen“. „And there are many more beautiful words like that“, my teacher tells me. She sips some more tea and begins class.

Take 2 – August 2000: On a sunny day, two young Germans and a Turkish girl play tennis against a big wall. But the wall is not a simple wall. It is a part of the huge external wall of the Nuremberg Stadium, of the place where that Austrian vegetarian with a moustache à la Chaplin intended to superate the megalomaniac cenographic exuberance of Cecil B. de Mille and to show to the rest of the world that nobody marched better than a German soldier. On the other side of the wall is the tribune – today full of weed – where the „Führer“ spoke to the crowd. More than half a century later, with many millions of dead along the way, dozens of teenagers skate and get suntanned here. Fifty five years later, the Germans have changed: instead of dying for Deutschland über alles, all they want now is enjoy life.

Take 3 – June 2000: „Yes, Germans have changed, but the world still does not know“, I tell Mrs. Kilian during a cup of coffee in the Media Messe in Cologne. I explain that in America people still regard Germans as people who think in a prussian way but dress like Bavarians. The image of Germany is that of a highly-developed country whose citizens still live in the last century. Americans are convinced that Germans still do not accept immigrants and

dream of a victorious Germany that covers Europe from from Straßburg to Königsberg. Unfortunately, the millions of German immigrants in Brazil and Argentina did not and do not try to improve their image: Those that witnessed World War II from the other side of the Atlantic Ocean celebrated German victories but ignored their defeat. They did not participate in the long and intense mea culpa process that took place in the new Germany between the River Rhine and the River Oder after the war.

Take 4 – first weeks of May 2000: May the 2nd: At home, that is the house of my host family, I turn on the TV. Pictures of WW II are broadcasted almost non-stop, of course. 55 years ago, the 2nd World War ended. May 3rd, more programs about the War. May 4th, 5th, 6th, 7 th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th ... the programs continue. And continue till today, till the end of August. I notice that Germans do not get tired of learning about the mistakes of their parents and grandparents. And more: I am astonished to watch British or American movies about WWII in Germany, where they are frequently portrayed as sadists or pathetic, but stupid soldiers who do not even know how to use a rifle. What do Germans think about that? I suppose they agree, because if they did not, TV channels would have lost their audience. WWII, especially in NRW, is present almost everywhere. There are rebuilt churches and hidden bombs under the earth that are discovered from time to time. And you constantly hear the statement: „No, this place is not the original site. It was totally destroyed in 1944. This one is a reproduction.“ I felt a little bit like in Disneyland, where Neuschwanstein castle is not the Neuschwanstein castle. But I was also gladly astonished about the love Germans show for those „fake“ buildings. They are clones, these buildings, but they are loved in the same way.

Take 5 – last week of May 2000: Trier Hauptbahnhof: I arrive to discover the city, and sit down on a bench to study the map. I see how a policeman asks for the papers of some people passing by. I look at this horrible green and yellow uniform. And then, he comes and asks me to produce my documents. Now I have a problem because I have forgotten my papers in Düsseldorf. So I show him my international press card. Nevertheless he calls the Central Police Station to check my data. Minutes later, finally free from the control of the German security forces – having demonstrated that I do not represent a danger for the Bundesrepublik – I continue to walk into the city of Trier which was founded by the Romans some two thousand years ago. „Ah, if in Teutoburger Wald things happend differently ...“, I say to myself.

In the evening, coming back from the promenade, I observe the same procedure as shortly after my arrival: The Hbf Augusta Trevirorum is full of policemen asking documents of anyone who does not have blond hair. I am a kind of Anthony Quinn: I can seem to be Spanish, Portuguese, Lebanese, Turkish, Albanian, Serbian, Romanian, Bulgarian or even a French from Provence. But

not German. So I act quickly: with the help of Helmut Schmidt's newspaper „Die Zeit“ (Wirtschaft pages, noblesse oblige), and my glasses, I camuflated as something „not-dangerous“ and like somebody who is not looking for a job in Germany. „Ausweis“, a policeman says to the African girl at my right-hand-side on the Hbf bench. He repeats the same order to the Muslim boy at my left-hand-side. But he leaves me alone. In a certain way, that was due to the „press power“. It is a pity that this trick only works when I am stopped somewhere as I cannot walk reading the paper all the time ...

Appendix take 5 – second week August 2000: Hbf München. I arrive at 6:30 am. Ten meters away from the train door, a policeman in civil clothes repeats the order I already heard in Trier: „Ausweis“. He probably forgot „Bitte“ somewhere between Dunkerque and Stalingrad. This time, I have a copy of my passport. After the inspection, I go the promenade in the Bavarian capital. At night, I come back to take a train to Nürnberg, thinking as a boy scout: the flash does not hit the ground twice in the same place. Impossible. But two minutes, after I crossed the Hbf main entrance, once again, twice in the same day, I hear „Ausweis“. I show the documents, and remember Gore Vidal's Juliano: „a boring person always seems to be dangerless“. So I begin to explain my life in a confusing style, as if I would be in front of a Gestapo man: „I came to Germany with a scholarship of the Heinz-Kühn-Foundation, I spend some time in the Goethe Institut in Düsseldorf, now I am doing an internship at the Deutsche Welle in Cologne. I fly back to South America in 20 days...“. „OK, OK, you can go“, the policeman says, while I continue my monocordic explanations. I stayed there, talking and talking. He had to go away.

I never expected to be asked for my documents less than 15 minutes later, but then I heard it, for the third time within one single day: Ausweis!

– Here it is. Can I ask you a question? Do I have such an immigrant face that the police asks me for my papers three times a day?

No answer. Just the smile of the officer, irritating me. And then, with a delicious retoric jab, appalling to the German blame feeling of the Holocaust, and acting like Humphrey Bogart with a Baron Münchhausen inspiration, I say:

– You, Sir, stopped me because of my Jewish face.

– What??

– Yes. It is a pity that we Jews come to Germany as tourists and are interrogated like this. The last family relative that had such a situation with a German officer was in Paris in 1941. And he was invited to Dachau. Sad, sad things. I thought that Germany has changed.

The policeman became pale. Certainly he thought I was Turkish, Lybian or some other strange thing. But he obviously never imagined that I could be a Jew. Well, I wasn't, but I was interpreting the character of an offended Jew. I never saw a German with such a disturbed face since Göring in Nürnberg.

„Excuse me, that is the normal procedure“, the officer said and went away quickly. It was a pity. At this moment I began to amuse me. May be in the next station ...

Take 6 – many days in July 2000: Anmeldung, Abmeldung. Why the hell did they invent such similar words? They introduced me to the world of German bureaucracy. I discovered where Kafka got inspiration. In the corridors of the Ausländeramt in Düsseldorf and Cologne I spend many hours trying to obtain some papers.

Me – This paper is here?

Büro number 1 – Yes, but you must go there first.

Büro number 2- Yes, it is here, but you need another paper first.

Hours later...

Büro number 5 – You also need a signature of someone here. Sorry, but you must start again. And do not forget to come here again when you leave the country. We must know that you have left Germany.

Me – But is that not what I do when I show my passport at the airport?

Büro number 5 – Yes, but we also need that confirmation.

Stalin's UDSSR, I asked myself. The answer came with Wolfgang von Goethe, who said, categorically: „The Germans make everything difficult, both for themselves and for everyone else“.

3. Intermezzo I

„Wait for the verb“. That is one of the conditions sine qua non of Goethe's language; it is something that exasperates anyone from another language. „The pleasure of interrupting“, as Mrs. De Stael said, „is forbidden in Germany“. To Mark Twain, German is that „awful language“.

Being in company of such brilliant persons with a common ignorance consoled me a little, nevertheless it did not help me with the *der*, *die*, *das* and their multiple variations. It seemed to me that it would be easier to find Helmut Kohl in Berlin's Love Parade dressed with a mini lycra pink short as a DJ on a truck than learning German. Walking through a sentence in German seemed to me like crossing a jungle cutting trees with a knife.

Nevertheless, that idiom fascinated me with its exuberant word combinations. Sometimes long combinations, but expressing subtle concepts, as *Wanderlust*, that uncontrollable desire of travelling. Well, four months later, I can say that the German language is not a nightmare for me any longer. I discovered the delicious taste of the „*Geist*“ of the German language.

After the handling of the language, my second preoccupation was that huge heinzkühnian responsibility: I was the last of Erdemuthe Op de Hipt's scho-

lars – defined by millions as the soul of the Foundation – who on the same day of my arrival passed the command on to Ute Maria Kilian, of whom I was the first scholar. Historical moment, wonderful Dramatis Personae. Something like passing from Galileo to Newton, Renoir to Picasso. The language was not a worry to me anymore, but that other task would still last till the deliverance of the final report. That means: till moments after the writing of this text.

My arrival in Germany also coincided with a very interesting time for the country. Düsseldorf, NRW's capital, was in electoral campaign, a very different one from those in South America. After that, the coalition of „reds“ and „greens“, and the rising of the liberals was a lesson about Germany's future in the following years. Then came debates about the end of nuclear plans and the Bundeswehr reform. In Cologne, the polemy about homosexual marriage was at its highest, bishop Dyba being against it, but dying in the climax of the discussion; greencard for foreign technicians, growing of the extreme-right and attacks on immigrants, first bomb explosion against russian Jews; the last ministries depart from Bonn to Berlin; opening of Hannover's Expo; the Big Brother reality show; succession crisis in Wagner's family in Bayreuth. Everything, with the Kohl-scandal, like a daily variété.

4. Intermezzo II

In that four months, I got to know many German cities that showed me what the country is like: Wuppertal, Essen, Langenberg (don't mix it with Langenfeld!), Bottrop, Aachen, Marburg, Heidelberg, Bochum, Duisburg, Koblenz, Nürnberg, Trier, München, Berlin, Bonn, Münster, Anholt, Mönchengladbach (a name that I took almost a month to learn). And I saw how the Ruhrgebiet, that everyone describes ugly and industrial, looks like a park compared to certain areas of Argentina and Brazil. That surprised myself: Germans have a closer contact with nature than South Americans have: every garden is protected, and even weeds are allowed to grow freely. Every piece of earth has something green above. South of the Equator, South Americans are proud of nature, but it diminishes from year to year. We are not Rousseau's Les bon sauvages. May be they are.

5. Two month in Deutsche Welle

People from all over the world are there, with the objective of sending news to the whole world, especially to countries where technology is not so well developed or to those where local governments are not democratic and forbid

free speech. That was Deutsche Welle, where I did an internship for two months in the Brazilian section. That was a special moment: facing the closure of most part of Latin countries sections, the Brazilians found a way to continue sending news from Germany to Brazil by means of the internet. In a pioneer project commanded by Mr. Assis Mendonça, who is a veteran Brazilian journalist in Germany since the 70's, the Brazilian section was the first foreign section to have a site in the web.

The internship was valuable for me because before I had worked for newspapers, the radio and various TV-programs, but lacked the experience of that revolutionary media called internet. The internship was also good for me because I became aware of a different relation to work: in Germany, laws concerning work are respected. That means that nobody has to work more than what is stipulated by the rules. In Brazil or Argentina a journalist must work up to 12 hours daily if he does not want to be fired. Respect shown towards the workers – I could experience this for a while. I hope that South America will learn more from Europe in this matter.

6. South american nazis spread in the web

The Internet has become the new tribune to the divulgation of new South American extreme right ideas. According to the Wiesenthal Center for Latin America, with Headquarters in Buenos Aires, a net of neonazi-groups is being formed in Brasil, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay by means of the WWW which gave them a possibility to divulge their ideology in a way that did not occur since the end of World War II. The Wiesenthal Center director in Buenos Aires, Sergio Widder, declared that there „exists a big risk that the material of nazi propaganda in the Internet could in a naïf way be used as consult texts by high school students or even University ones“. And he adds: „What would happen if these young people searched for information about Auschwitz and met this kind of texts?“.

Widder says that one of Wiesenthal investigators in New York wrote the term Auschwitz in a search machine. There appeared about 300.000 links on the screen. Of the ten sites that appeared in first place, one was neonazi, and another from a revisionist group. „That means that one student looking for information on the internet has a 20%-chance of finding mere propaganda and take this as real historical information. That's very dangerous!“. He considers that the neonazis in Argentina have a long connection with Arab extremism. But today, with peace talks in the Middle East, extremists are losing the classical enemies, and try to find new ones. „Today, in the neonazi sites there's everything, a complete mess of matters. And, obviously, for them, Jews are guilty of every problem in the whole world ...“.

Activity in the internet is intense: it was the main way of divulgation for a neonazi-congress prepared in April in Santiago, Chile's capital. The same group is preparing – in the web – another congress for next year called. „Second International Ideological Meeting of Nationalism and Socialism“. The hostess political party is the PNS (Partido Nacional Social; National Social Party) of Bolivia, with the help of the Nuevo Triunfo (New Triumph) of Argentina and the Nueva Sociedad (New Society) of Venezuela.

Widder says that not every neonazi site in the internet has anti-semitic propaganda. „Sometimes they prefer to distribute this kind of material in a personal way“. The representative of the Wiesenthal Center explains that almost every neonazi site in Latin America is linked with the others. „I do not know which kind of assistance they can give each other other than interchange of texts. I do not know if they receive money from the big extreme right groups in the USA or Europe. Maybe they receive a kind of technical support, but that is only a theory“.

The director of the Center explains that they still try to find the old nazis hidden in many places in South America, but the biggest work nowadays are the new nazis, especially in the web. „We do educational campaigns and exhibitions“, he says. Widder warns about the neonazis: “It is like a virus that does not mutate. Only the face of hate has changed, but the virus, its essence is the same“. These groups, he says, were not very active during the 90's, but now they are getting more and more aggressive.

7. Argentina:

„EVERY ARGENTINIAN MAN WILL BE TRANSFORMED IN A SOLDIER AND WE MUST CONQUER OUTER SPACE“

In Argentina alone there are 14 neonazi sites in the web. Not a long time ago, the Spanish sites (most part of them with an elegiac text about caudillo Francisco Franco who governed Spain for 39 years) were the predominant, but now the Argentinian sites are almost in same number and volume of information. In the Argentinian parliament there is a project to stop the growth of the nazi propaganda sites. The problem is that there are no laws to regulate Internet, because the material can be produced outside the country.

THE „LITTLE“ FÜHRER: The most famous site is „Libertad de Opinión“ (Liberty of Opinion) of Alejandro Biondini, known as „the little Argentinian Führer“. Biondini – a man of more than 60 years who does little more than showing old pictures of himself – was imprisoned in the beginning of the 90's because he insisted on using the Hakenkreuz as symbol of his party, the Nuevo Triunfo (New Triumph). Before this one, Biondini's first party was

„Alerta Nacional“ (National Alert), founded in 1986. The leader even uses a sonorous nom-de-guerre, more adequate to propoganda, than the „too Italian“ Biondini: „Kalki“.

When he got out of prison, one year and a half later, he kept low profile. But a little bit later, he discovered that the time of clandestine panflets were things of the past, and demodé: than, he became the „Führer“ of Argentina’s web, creating the Red Kalki (Kalki net). Every week, its issue is changed. The matters can be various: protest against Argentinian goverment diplomacy with Great Britain about the dispute over the Falkland Islands; judicial process against Jews, citizens or revisionist texts about Hitler. Beyond his own homepage with a Heros Pantheon (heros of the party), hymns and opinion texts, the site has links to other South American nazi sites.

The „New Triumph“ uses a slogan, „One nation, one people, one leader“, which displays a lack of imagination and an obvious reference to Hitler’s Ein Reich, ein Volk, ein Führer. Because Hakenkreuze are forbidden, the party’s symbol is a „modified Hakenkreuz“. Like on the nazi flag, there is a cross over a white circle and a red field. In the site’s foreword, there is a „furious“ critic to new neonazi groups that copied his government program, whithout saying what their source was. That means, no copyrights to Kalki. Biondini considers Argentina to be a slave country today and a colony without destiny, which was „castrated“ from its geopolitic projection“. That is meant to be a reference to the territorial losses to neighbouring countries in the last two centuries.

Some of their reivindications that mix science-fiction with demography are:

- More laws against „traitors of the country“
- the transformation of each Argentinian into a soldier
- population redistribution
- the return of nuclear research and about the „conquest of space“
- an Argentinian moral education hard as stone
- „elimination“ of homosexual comunity that infects Argentina

The party song remembers of Nazi Germany: instead of „Deutschland erwache!“, they sing „Argentina, despierta!“ (Wake up Argentina!). The lyrics also talk about a „holy war“, without specifying the enemy. There is also a Hero’s Pantheon where all the „martyrs“ are reverenciaded: most part of those „martyrs“ died in fights against another drunk skinheads.

Biondini considers that „when the economic crisis is unleashed, the time for revolutionary nationalism will have arrived“. The Führer of a new Argentina? Well, Mr. Biondini considers that he is the most skilled man for the job: „I have been preparing myself since I was 16 to govern this country“.

According to Widder, till some time ago, Biondini was operating from free sites, like Geocities. But now he has his personal internet company.

THE „LITTLE FÜHRER“ KIDS: In 1996, Nuevo Triunfo created the Juventud Nacionalsocialista Argentina – JNSA (Nationalsocialist Youth of Argentina) to bring together youngsters between 18 and 30 years. In his Internet site, the JNSA criticizes the government's decision in 1991 to forbid the Hakenkreuz symbol, and defines Biondini as the first nazi politician of South America to have a site in the Internet. In the texts the JNSA explains the idea that every youngster must defend Biondini, the leader, in a „fanatical way“.

THE YOUNG FÜHRER, called „Chief comrade“, is the title of Alejandro Franze who is the PNOSP's (New Patriotic Social Order Party) huge fat leader. With an obviously „hispanic“ face, Franze claims to have 7.000 followers. „We are a considerable force, the foundation for a great alliance in future wich only excludes marxists and liberals, and wich one day will take power“, he says seriously under his extremely short hair.

The PNOSP has the intention to expulse imigrants because they „take the work of our people and the bread of Argentinas sons“. Its slogan is „For the honour of our ancestors, for the glory of our heroes, for the future of our children““. The party's program is a copy of Nuevo Triunfo, with whom it rivalizes in the web. Copyrights? When they take power, they look about this matter.

THE OLDIES: Old, sclerotic, but still active is a group that prepares the site „True Peace“, made by Carlos Torlaschi, president of the Group of Retired Admirals of Argentina. The site was created in 1998, with 100 retired officers – age average around 70 years old – from navy implicated in the „dirty war“ waged against suspected or real opponents of the 1976–83 military government. Under this dictatorship, 30.000 people were tortured and killed by the military. That is considered the biggest bloodshed comitted by a government in the whole continent in this century. This site, as other nazi sites do in relation with the Holocaust, says that the reports about 30.000 missing people are „lies“ from the press or human rights groups. „They are all alive. Many of them were discovered when the earthquake in Mexico in 1986 happened“, they say without blushing. The „True Peace“ has links to internet sites, such as the neonazi Panzer War and Die Luftwaffe.

OTHER SITES: „If you're not of white race, or if you are a hibrid, or have some kind of blood mixture, you will be losing your time reading this page“. That is the foreword of the site „White Power Metal“ (WPM), an Argentinian homepage made by metal music fans. In this site they explain that „white people“ and „arians“ are not the same: „unhappily, there are Jews whiter than us“. The site condemns music like jazz or samba, because they are arts of „other races“. Also, White Power Metal considers that a „negro“ that hears „white music“ (like celtic music or German dances) is offending the arians.

In the „mixed people“, hearing pure music like white music can cause confusion. They explain: the „strong white“ part of them will „jump“, but the „negro“ part will cause an unpredictable emotional confusion. WPM says that heavy metal is just the first step to music purity in arians. But the next step is to abandon this kind of music, and hear – only – Richard Wagner’s operas.

Ásatrú Brotherhood Argentina is another site, also called Thor Hammer. On this homepage they defend pagan rites and criticize christianism. They also are against New Age philosophy, because they consider that is just a pale reflection of the „real religion“.

8. Brazil:

*„AS SOON AS YOU START TO MIX WITH DIFFERENT CULTURES,
THE CIVILITY AND PACIFIC ATMOSPHERE DISAPPEAR“*

As a racially mixed country, with 60% of the population being of African origin, Brazil was the home of many nazi-fascist movements in the 1930’s. The most influential was the Ação Integralista Brasileira (Integralist Brazilian Action). Many of its members were elected for Congress, and big demonstrations were organized frequently. Instead of the Hakenkreuz, they used the greek letter Sigma as symbol. Dictator Getúlio Vargas eliminated the group after an integralista tried a coup d’état.

Between 1939 and 1942, Brazil was in doubt about which side to take in WWII. Finally, the country joined the Allies, sending 30.000 soldiers to the Italian front line. In the post-war times, nazi movements did not exist in Brazil. Only scarcely did some picturesque person dare to defend the Reich as for example a well-known sympathizer of Hitler and Mussolini who in the 70’s founded the only nazi-fascist museum in South America.

Four decades after Brazil’s participation in WWII a group of German descendants who lived in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul wanted to separate – in a pacific way – the state from the rest of the country in 1992 in pacifist way. The movement – that was taken as a joke by the major part of population – nevertheless attracted thousands of followers. As the movement’s symbol it used an adapted reproduction of the WWII Kriegsmarine flag.

On April 20th 1989, when Hitler 100 years birthday was commemorated, a group of young Brazilian neo-nazis celebrated the „Führer’s“ birthday in São Paulo main square, Brazil’s biggest city. Their leader was a young man around 20 years of age with a Maltese cross on his arm. He wore this old symbol of Brazil because the Hakenkreuz is forbidden. The man who was a Mulato demonstrated against the presence of Jews and other immigrants in Brazil.

Today, many Brazilian neo-nazi sites defend Hitler's ideals. Technically better equipped than their Chilean and Argentinian counterparts Brazilian sites dispose photos and music. Brazilian sites are supported by Biondini's Libertad de Opinión.

Among the most important sites are:

AÇÃO INTEGRALISTA BRASILEIRA (Integralist Brazilian Action): Heir of the 30's integralists, this group has a luxurious homepage. It salutes the surfer with an „Anauê!“, an indigenous greeting. The site tries to deal with the matter that Brazil has not a „pure european race“ and because of this insists on the opposite, the Brazil founding races: Portuguese, African and American Indians. This site condemns every other culture, even the European ones. Trying to be culturally interested, they defend „the music from South American jungles“ and American Indians mythology. They say that they want the „total“ State, but not „totalitarian“.

FRENTE NACIONAL PELA ORDEM E PROGRESSO (National Front for Order and Progress): Its name is inspired by the Brazilian flag slogan „Order and Progress“. Created in São Paulo in 1994, the FNOP defines itself as a „possible alternative against the cultural, political and moral decadence that assolates our country“. This group is against multiculturalism which is said to cause „disagreement, injustice, criminality, diseases, unemployment, apart from the slow death of identity“. The FNOP says that „as soon as you start to mix with different cultures, the civility and the pacifistic atmosphere starts to disappear“. To support this idea, the site mentions Ex-Yugoslavia, Israel, Northern Ireland and United States as examples.

According to the FNOP, the only solution to Brazilian problems is „national socialism“. Their argument is that „we stand for our blood and the future of our European based culture and our land!“. It is almost unbelievable, but the FNOP employs the English language to 90%. For a „nationalist“ site, this is quite peculiar: who is their audience? Foreigners or Brazilians?

FRENTE NACIONALISTA SOCIAL (Nationalist Social Front): This group follows an ideology called Frenismo, that without pale modesty, defines themselves as the „solution to all Brazilian problems“. Frenismo describes unemployed people, as Hitler used to do, to be their political base. When the party was created in 1997 it announced that it would have a coordination with the integralists.

Another Brazilian nazi site defends a hegemony of Brazil in South America, and its destiny of great power. As German nazis, Brazilian nazis glorify nature which for them is the main Brazilian symbol. This is not a characteristic feature of nazis in other countries of the region. There are many sites that speculate about „international conspiracies“ against Brazil. One of them says that „racial mixture is worse than murder“. The text is about the hole in the Ozone

layer; a manouvre of Africans and Latinos to exterminate the white race with high ultra-violet radiations.

9. Uruguay:

„ONLY 500.000 JEWS WERE KILLED IN THE WAR, AND THAT WAS BECAUSE OF ALLIES BOMBARDIERS“

In the 1930's, before WWII, the peaceful country of Uruguay had a strong, but little German community which was not involved with nazi-activities. The Uruguayans themselves were not interested in nazism. But the dictator of this time, general Gabriel Terra, was interested in Hitler's ideology. Moreover the country had an important commercial link with Germany. In 1931, the Nazi Party of Uruguay was created, and between 1933 and 1939 a newspaper called „Centinela“ was published that preached anti-semitism. But in 1938, trade with Germany was abruptly interrupted. Democracy returned to Uruguay and the country provided military support for the Allies.

Half a century later, at the beginning of the 1990's, many Uruguayans, confronted with images of Germany's skinheads, used to say: „That would not happen here“. It was an illusion. In the last five years, Uruguayan neonazis appeared in a large number, and like their nazi-fellows from neighbouring countries they realized that the Internet was a formidable weapon.

In those sites that existed until they were recently forbidden by the government one could find statements like „Holocaust never existed“.

One of the sites puts forward that Jews are „an anti-race“. They were creators of the three „C"s that cause severe damage to mankind: capitalism, communism and christianity. In the sites it is said that women who have sexual relations with Africans are „traitors“ and that homosexuals are „sick-minded“ people. The people designing those web-sites also take positions against abortion, democracy and drugs. Some sites are atheistic, but others idolate pagan gods such as Odin. They propose that glasses are out of fashion. Instead each militant had to drink beer from a skull.

The growing number of skinheads and neonazis in Uruguay made the government close the sites and imprison some of the leaders. The main groups were: Skinhead Pride (Orgullo Skinhead), National Revolutionary Front (Frente Nacional Revolucionário), National Socialist Resistance (Resistencia Nacional Socialista) and Sons of Europa (Hijos de Europa).

The groups glorified Germany's national socialism, Italy's fascism, and vindicated the Uruguayan „white roots“ (Spanish and Italian). They also highlighted the „brotherly action of the nationalist groups of South America“.

The southern cone of South America's dictatorships of the 1970's was also defended by these groups. They regret the end of those military governments, and warned the surfers that visited their site to be alert of the „recycled leftist guerrillas“ and their „minions“, the human rights groups.

The Orgullo Skinhead is the main group of those little, but very active organisations in Uruguay. They are in close contact with the Argentinian nazi groups because the Argentinians consider Uruguay to be a country „stolen“ by England, France and Brazil. Uruguay was part of the vice-kingdom of the Rio de la Plata, the Spanish administrative division of the colonies in the area who had their headquarters in Buenos Aires.

10. Chile:

„HE IS NOT A GOD, BECAUSE GODS DO NOT MAKE MISTAKES. HE MADE SOME MISTAKES, BUT HE IS OUR MESSIAH“

Under the government of the Chilean dictator general Augusto Pinochet, many German war criminals found a safe hiding place in Chile. In the Colonia Dignidad, for instance, which was a huge rural community with electric fences and hidden tunnels, a large amount of old nazis lived peacefully under the military government for many years (1973–90). Before WWII there were a lot of little nazi parties in Chile such as Acción Nacionalista Chilena (Nationalist Chilean Action) and Legión Cívica de Chile (Civic Legion of Chile). The Movimiento Nacionalista de Chile (Nationalist Movement of Chile) also adopted nazi positions, but was forbidden by in 1942.

In WWII, many German communities in Chile supported the Third Reich with money or information about allied ships. In 1954, Franz Pfeiffer created the Group 88 and later the National Socialist Workers Party of Chile. Pfeiffer was also the official representant of the Ku Klux Klan in Chile. He also found a newspaper, the Hakenkreuz. In the 1970's, the Chilean „Führer“ seeked help from Argentinian nazis. A sequence of internal fights removed the mystic wing from the command. As a result the anti-semitic campaign was intensified. With the passing of years, the party almost disappeared. Nevertheless, today, with a polarized society torn between the pinochetist right and a „light“ left view, the neonazis are growing.

Patria Nueva Sociedad (New Society Party): This organization can be called the „heir“ of Pfeiffer's party. It works as a confederation of many neonazis groups, publishes a magazine and runs a cultural center. It tries to give a legal façade to many anti-semitic groups. The PNS denies the Holocaust, and in its website it reveals its attitude towards numbers: „We

do not care if there were 1 million dead Jews or 10 million“. In April 2000 the party organized a huge South American neonazi meeting in Chile.

The objective of the party is to have 5.000 members in the year 2000 when it intends to present candidates to face municipal elections. In the site they define themselves as hitlerists. They count the years from 1889 onwards – that means, since Adolf Hitler’s birthday – as the „Hitlerian Era“. Year 2000 would be „year 111 A.AH – After Adolf Hitler“.

The PNS militants consider the Führer as a semi-divine messiah. „He is not a god, because gods do not make mistakes, and he did some“, they say concerning some military questions. New Society claims that the world must recognize „biological“ and cultural differences between races. Their symbol is a celtic cross, and the „S“ of „Society“ is a flash – as the „S“ in SS.

This party also warns against a Jewish „plan“ for the conquest of the Andes Mountains, where they „intend to create a new Jewish state“. The fantasy is so elaborated that this plan was given a name: „Andinia“. The „Andinia“ rumor is old and has already been in the minds of soldiers in the 1970’s. In 1976 the journalist Jacobo Timmermann was tortured by soldiers who wanted to have more details about this hypothetical plan.

Alexis López, president of Nueva Sociedad, was imprisoned in April because of problems with his bank checks that were not payed.

11. Bolivia

WHO CARES ABOUT PARADOXES? NAZIST INDIOS

In Bolivia the population is mainly of indio origin. The white population is small in number. The inhabitants of German communities are few, but influential. At the beginning of the 1940’s Bolivia had a dictator sympathizing with nazi ideas. But he was thrown out of his palace window by the furious and starving population of La Paz, Bolivia’s capital. After WWII, many war criminals escaped to Bolivia hoping that they would never be found in the lonely mountains.

At the moment there are three neo-nazi groups in Bolivia, all commanded by Hispanic people. Some of them are mixed with indios. A popular chronist referred to Bolivian nazis as „a paradox“ – „but who cares about paradoxes in nazi ideology?“.

They are the Movimiento Socialista Nacional – MNSB (National Socialist Movement), the Partido Nacional Social – PNS (National Social Party) and the Falange Socialista de Bolivia (Bolivian Socialist Falange).

12. Ecuador:

NAZIS AT 40°C IN THE SHADOW: „INDIANS USE STREETS AS TOILETS“

Unbelievable, but there are nazis at 40°C in the shadow. That's the case in Partido del Nacional Socialismo de Ecuador (Equatorian Party of Nacional Socialism) that uses the country's flag with a Hakenkreuz on it as a symbol. The site warns of an „internationalistic“ (and not purely „international“) movement that intends to create only one race for the whole world, and also to force the acceptance of homosexuals, drug addicts and persons with mental problems. Ecuador nazis say that they are not racist. They only want „that all people stay in their countries“.

The people of Equator is mainly composed of indios, but the site is designed by people of „pure“ European origin. They say they are „ashamed“ of Ecuador's Indios that emigrated to Europe where they transformed themselves into burglars. The group is convinced that Indios, called „cholos“, use streets as toilets. One sub-group of this party is the Legion Equinoccial (Equinoccial Legion). The name is a reference to the equator line.

13. Mexico:

„WE ARE AGAINST AMERICANS. KU KLUX KLAN IS FULL OF JEWS. WE HOPE THEY REINCARNATE AS JEWISH DOGS“

Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler is an uncommon name for a Mexican association. But that is the denomination of the group that prepares the most detailed nazi site in this country. Mariachis are not for them, because they are a waste of time. Mexican nazis are against American rednecks, because the „gringos“ stole a big part of their country in the last century, with the annexation of California, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. They are against Jews who they compare to dogs.

The Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler militants also believe in reincarnation. That opinion is expressed without further theological arguments in the homepage: „We desire that Ku Klux Klan and Jewish people reincarnate as dogs after death“. The dog, it is explained, must be Jewish. So the logic conclusion is that they cannot be muslim. They also want all the gringos out of Mexico.

14. Other groups

There are also nazi groups in Colombia, as Colombia 88; and in Venezuela, like Nueva Sociedad and the Union Falangista Venezolana, that preaches the union of all South American countries under the siege of a Falangist State. The Falange Boriqua of Puerto Rico; and Frente Nacional, from Peru, completes the nazi landscape in the area.

Each neonazi group in Latin America follows the Lebensraum maxime and claims territories of their neighbouring countries. Everyone dreams of a „Great Argentina“, a „Great Brazil“ or even „Great Uruguay“ or „Great Equador“. But future conflicts are not in the schedule for today. First, they want neonazi solidarity in South America and dream of taking over power in each country. Later, when they rule their own Reichs, they will pay take care of their old allies.

15. A brazilian-german view: How things changed in 14 years

Little, but brave. That is how one can define Estelina Rodrigues de Farias, a sharp-tongued Brazilian journalist who lives in Germany since 1984. Since then, she works fo the Deutsche Welle. And since then she followed the most important years of the country in the second half of the century: happy moments, as the reunification, but also sad times, as the skinhead attacks on immigrants. She never left out one single crime, and always criticized them in her politics section on Deutsche Welle website.

„The neonazi movement grows constantly. They organized a lot in the last years. And now, in 2000, they are more active than ever before! I am astonished“, she says on the 17th floor of the Deutsche Welle building. She partly blames the internet: „There they find a wonderful way of publishing their propaganda without beeing caught“.

Looking for the real roots of the problem, Mrs. Farias, who was born in the northeastern part of Brazil (a region in which the inhabitants are often discriminated against by the rest of Brazil), explains that the skinhead grow was more evident after reunification. „One of the explanations to this is that communism did not do a big depuration of nazism as it was done in the Bundesrepublik. They did not exorcize this devil in the same way. Another explanation is that foreigners in old DDR were isolated. I am not sure about all those explanations, but they exist. Another thing is that unemployment increased in old DDR, growing to 17%. That is twice as high as in the western part of the country“.

Mrs. Farias does not accept the explanation that skinhead grow was due to the fact that „young people are without perspectives“. „I cannot understand that, because the economy is growing, and Germany is even hiring technicians from other countries outside the European Union“.

She also indicates a difference between the kind of violence in old DDR and in the west: The attacks in the west seem to be better planned. In the east, they are not so well-prepared, and the aggression is more individual. When skinheads attack in the west, it is mainly for an aggression caused by a gathering of people. According to Mrs. Farias, the most often attacked groups are Africans, Turks, Jews, and so-called „Penner“. She criticizes German judiciary in these cases: „When the skinhead victim is a German, the judiciary is always more rigorous. But when the victim is a foreigner, it is always lighter.“

„I suppose“, she explains, „that the cause of this grow in extreme right is the reduction of the welfare state in Germany under Kohl’s government. Reunification costed a lot of money, and that was the excuse of Kohl to cut parts of social security. That is why unemployment and violence increased. But now, the economy grows, and I cannot understand all this violence in the last months“.

She herself was once followed by a group of young men who wanted to beat her, but she reached her car and could escape. She also felt discriminated against on a number of occasions. „I am not Turkish, I am Brazilian“, she answered in these situations. „Oh, excuse me“, said one German lady who thought that she was Turkish. „Then I explained that I was Brazilian...but that my boyfriend was Turkish. The old lady almost got a heart attack“.

Mrs. Farias considers that immigrants would be accepted „anyway“ in this country: „Germany needs foreigners. Many people here do not like this idea, but they need them. They need them to pay the costs of old people, and to carry out the jobs the locals do not like as trash collecting. It is not only me that affirm this: The United Nations say so too. The foreigners generate wealth for Germany, and businessmen, who may be racist, but not stupid, know that. That is why they put pressure on the government to allow the entrance of more skilled immigrants“.