

# FREEDOM OF SPEECH?



Harmen de Hoop

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH

is a democratic ideal that dates back to ancient Greece.

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH

is the right of a person to articulate opinions and ideas without interference or retaliation from the government.

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH

means that people can express an unpopular (or even unsavory) opinion without fear of censorship.

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH

protects all forms of communication, including satire and parody.

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH

also protects some forms of symbolic speech, such as flag burning.

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH

does not protect obscenity, child pornography, defamation, incitement to violence and true threats of violence.



PAPA DAT CONCILIVM IN  
GERMANIA.





In 1545, Martin Luther did not only write *Against the Papacy at Rome, Founded by the Devil*, but also commissioned a series of anti-Catholic cartoons for that publication. They were made by the famous Lucas Cranach the Elder. In one of the cartoons the pope, with long donkey ears, sits enthroned in the jaws of hell, another one shows peasants shitting in the papal tiara. Even Luther's friends asked him if those cartoons were not too crude. He didn't think so. They remained popular well into the 17th century.







Censorship is nothing new. In the past, however, the church was first and foremost concerned with heresy and blasphemy, and it was not until relatively modern times that sexuality became a major preoccupation of political and religious authorities. From then on, books were often suppressed due to the perceived notion of obscenity. But what is considered obscene is often, like beauty, in the eye of the beholder. A recent case is the banning of the Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy by Malaysia's Home Ministry. It is now forbidden to print, sell or even own a copy of Fifty Shades of Grey in Malaysia.







There is a controversy over a painting by the artist Balthus. Two young women asked the Metropolitan Museum of Art to remove *Thérèse Dreaming* (1938). Not one of his pictures of a naked adolescent girl, but a painting of the fully dressed Thérèse Blanchard. Yes, you can see her underwear, but is that enough to arouse the viewer? The question here is: was Balthus a pedophile and are pedophiles allowed to visualize their sexual orientation? Or does this painting represent the kind of sexualized power abuse we try so hard to get rid of? Was that the reason someone decided to throw out his Balthus painting?



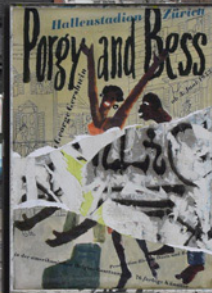






Whose civil rights? The full newspaper headline reads 'CIVIL RIGHTS BILL BECOMES LAW', it is 1964 and President Lyndon Johnson signs the civil rights law that was meant to outlaw discrimination based on race or color, to end racial segregation in schools and prohibit employment discrimination. Did it work? Did it end all racial inequality? And what about Women's Civil Rights, LGBTQ Civil Rights or Immigrant and Refugee Civil Rights? What is tomorrow's headline? Do we care?







Hallenstadion Zürich

# Porgy and Bess

George Gershwin

ab 3. Juni 1955

in der amerikanischen Originalbesetzung

Produktion Blech Davis und R...

76 farbige Künstler

Voltastrasse



The composer George Gershwin stipulated that his opera *Porgy & Bess* be performed by an all-black cast, and although the premiere in 1935 was not a big success (and was criticised by some as perpetuating racial stereotypes), it launched the careers of several prominent African-American opera singers. The European premiere was in 1943 in Nazi-occupied Denmark with an all-white cast in blackface. Unable to find enough black opera singers, most European performances after WWII were done with a white cast, but this 1955 Swiss production was different, it proudly advertised 'the original American cast - 76 artists of color'.



113A

Die Gewalt hat ein System!

Einzel

Systeme!



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Raubzug

RASSIST\*INNEN  
SOLLTEN SICH  
IN DEINER  
GEGENWART  
UNWOHL FÜHLEN

FREE ANGELA DAVIS  
AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS



Die patriarchale Gewalt  
unserer Gesellschaft  
Gewalt gegen Frauen  
Normalität in unserer

Gewalt in Beziehungen und Familie sowie im öffentlichen Raum sind keine individuellen Probleme. Dahinter stehen Strukturen und Normen. Diese sind tief in unserer Gesellschaft verankert.

Sie sind fester Teil im Bildungssystem, Strafsystem und in der Erziehung. Machtverhältnisse werden ständig aufs Neue produziert, verfestigt und in

25.11.19 Fast je  
Person

Geschlechtsidentität oder  
Opfer von verbaler, psy

Gewalt

Was Angela Davis a political prisoner? She did supply the guns that were used in an armed takeover of a courtroom, in which four people, including the judge, were killed. It was 1970, and according to the black defendants who were accused of killing a white prison guard, the trial was about 'escalating racial tensions in the state's criminal justice system'. Angela Davis, an active member of the Black Panther Party and the Communist Party, had not been present, but the guns were registered in her name and therefore she was charged with criminal conspiracy and murder. Davis's charges drew national and international attention. By February 1971 more than 200 local committees in the United States, and 67 in foreign countries, worked to free Davis from prison. In 1972, after sixteen months in prison, she was acquitted of all charges by an all-white jury.





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Are consumer boycotts effective? Did the Outspan boycott bring apartheid to its knees? Probably not, but it did induce a feeling of guilt and complicity in European consumers, resulting in a near complete withdrawal of Outspan oranges from the European market. For consumers it was a moral gesture, a way to protest against apartheid, and this poster was arguably the most effective food boycotting image of recent European history, but who suffered most from the economic boycott, the South African government or the black workers?









NICHT WAHRE  
SCHNEDE DEMOKRATIE

These protest banners (Frauenstimmrecht: wir kämpfen weiter! Die wahre Demokratie schliesst die Frauen nicht aus!) were used by Swiss women until the last canton gave women the right to vote. That was in 1991. They did gain the right to vote in federal elections in 1971, a little bit later than women in other countries (Germany 1918, United Kingdom 1918/1928, United States 1920/1965).







When is a demonstration successful? Is the main goal to make our demands heard, to convince others, for example our government? Or is it enough for us to feel part of a collective, to show that our opinion is shared by all those who participate in the protest march? If the governments of faraway countries, like Poland or Honduras, make new laws that impose a near complete ban on abortions, who do we address when we demonstrate against it? We all believe in freedom of speech, but who listens?





St. Gallen







Barely three years after independence from British colonial rule, Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa, collapsed into a civil war. It was the first African disaster to receive widespread media coverage. Both sides hired public relations firms to win international sympathy. The breakaway state of Biafra chose the Swiss public relations firm Markpress. They flooded the mass media of Western countries with images of malnourished and starving Biafran children, and although most Nigerians regard the war as an unfortunate episode best forgotten, for the rest of the world these images defined what Africa was all about for decades to come.





HIT DÜRF  
NI DENS



MIT  
DIE  
DÜRF

**BIER**



DB

100

MEINE  
EHRE  
HEISST  
TREUE





A sticker in Basel's Old Town reads 'My honour is called loyalty' in German. Well, nothing wrong with loyalty, is there? But ten kilometers to the north, in Germany, section §86a of the German criminal code forbids the use or distribution of this phrase. The reason: the Waffen-SS used it as their motto. Section §86a also outlaws Nazi symbols like the swastika, and ironically, that included the use of the crossed-out swastika used by anti-fascists. But on the Swiss side of the border, expressing your opinion about honour and loyalty, or using the crossed-out swastika, is not punishable by law. Just frowned upon by the opposing side.







Was Stalin a great leader or a mass murderer? Opinions differ. Some say that the ultimate goal of calling him a monster is to discredit communism, that what is written in history books is mainly Cold War propaganda. Others claim that he murdered his rivals and terrorized his own people, sending millions to labour camps, and that his failed agricultural policies caused mass starvation. At the same time he is admired for winning World War II, industrializing a backward country and improving the living conditions of millions. But is there ever a good reason to hang a portrait of a head of state in your living room?



All works were made in Basel (CH).