

1968: A Global Perspective

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All Grown Up: The Triumph of Non-Violence over Leftist Terrorism in *The Edukators*

The *Rote Armee Fraktion* or RAF and German Autumn of 1977 left an indelible mark on West German history, having radically departed from many of the methods and aims of the APO (Extra-Parliamentary Opposition) and 1968 *Studentenbewegung* (Student Movement), and having resorted to urban guerilla tactics and warfare. The release of former members of the RAF from prison – as well as several films and books – in the past several years has reawakened discussion concerning the RAF, terrorism and the '68 generation in Germany. Comparing the 1977/78 film "Deutschland im Herbst" ("Germany in Autumn") with that of "Die Fetten Jahre sind vorbei" ("The Edukators," 2004), a radical departure from the use of violence as a viable option can be traced in the current generation, with a specific hearkening back to the original spirit of the 1968 student revolution in Germany. Further, with the collapse of the USSR and communist East Germany, the potential for a large-scale communist/marxist revolution appears obsolete, though combating capitalism is still plausible. Furthermore, the upcoming release (September 2008) of the film based on Stefan Aust's 1985 book of the same name, "Der Baader-Meinhof-Komplex," may be a means to reassess the impact and import of the infamous German terrorists on reunified Germany.

This paper will explore the influence and portrayal of the 1968 Student Movement in the film "Die Fetten Jahre sind vorbei" and how the current generation's relationship to the formerly leftist/revolutionary-now-turned-capitalist/neo-conservative generation echoes the revolutionary spirit of 1968, while simultaneously eschewing violence – such as that leading to the terrorism of the RAF – in favor of non-violent protest and consciousness-raising.