Y ou HAD TO BE THERE

G EORGE MOSSE FINDS HIMSELF IN HISTORY

George Mosse’s lectures were wildly popular when I was a student at the University of Wisconsin in the early 1960s.

All these people want to learn about European cultural history?

It’s a “hippie” course.

First time I heard the term.
In 1963, when I first took a class with Mosse, he liked to tease his students from the left. The Marxists say that only war can solve capitalism’s problems. Well, what brought about the end of the great depression? World War 2!

* 1963: Post-IKE, Pre-BEATLES
By 1966, when I took my second Mosse course, the anti-war movement had taken off, and Mosse was teasing us from the right.

I know all you students are longing for a mass movement.

Let me tell you about the mass movement.

When I was a callow youth in Berlin, I went to a Nazi rally to jeer at the stupid Nazis.

Hitler was speaking! The thrill of this man's charisma, the thrill of the mass energy was so great-

By the end I am screaming kill the Jews!

And I am Jewish!
The historian Joan Wallach Scott, who worked for Mosse as a teaching assistant, recalls that the teasing could be relentless.

Miss Wallach! What are you doing in graduate school?

Didn't you read Martin Luther's admonition to women?

Kinder!

Kirche!

Küche!

"I would get furious, but quickly I learned to tease back, and that has served me well."
George Lachmann Mosse was born in 1918 into one of Germany's most prominent Jewish families. His grandfather Rudolf Mosse had created Europe's first modern ad agencies & one of Germany's leading newspapers, the Berliner Tageblatt.

Soon— a cleansing! Liberal, powerful, rich, & Jewish, the Mosses were everything the Nazis despised.
But at the beginning of George's life, opposition to the Tageblatt came not from the right but from the left.
WHILE HANS & ROSA DEBATED THROUGH THE NIGHT, THE PAPER WAS PRINTED & DELIVERED.

OOH HANS, YOU'RE A SNEAKY ONE.

MAY A REVOLUTIONARY BUY A TAGEBLATT?

I SUPPOSE. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HERBERT MARCUSE.
HERBERT MARCUSE WAS BORN INTO A PROSPEROUS GERMAN JEWISH MERCHANT FAMILY IN 1898.

HE SERVED IN THE GERMAN ARMY DURING WORLD WAR I, NOT SEEING COMBAT BUT "WIPING HORSES' ASSES" FOR THE INFANTRY.

HE PARTICIPATED IN THE REVOLUTION AT THE END OF THE WAR, WHERE ONE OF HIS ASSIGNMENTS WAS TO RETURN THE GUNFIRE OF RIGHT-WING MILITIAS IN BERLIN.

THE HASTILY ORGANIZED SPARTACIST REBELLION WAS CRUSHED BY THE OVERWHELMING FORCES OF THE RIGHT, ITS LEADERS MURDERED SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

http://jewishcurrents.org
search for thorkelson or marcuse
STOP THAT AT ONCE, YOU WICKED GIRL!

THE MOSES’ “COUNTRY HOUSE” AT SCHENKENDORF
Miss Squire was an Irish Quaker from Belfast. When George visited her lively family in 1928, he experienced the "Annie Hall" split screen, but with Jews & Christians reversed.
“BILDUNG”
I.E., SELF-CULTIVATION, COSMOPOLITANISM, RATIONALITY.
I’M BILDUNG A HUMANE REPUBLIC. WHAT ARE YOU BILDUNG?
YOU’LL SEE.

SECULARISM
AT AGE 14 GEORGE DECIDED HE WANTED TO BE A RABBI. HIS FATHER TOOK HIM TO A NEIGHBORHOOD OF POOR PIUS JEWISH IMMIGRANTS.
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?
GOOD NO

INNOVATION
HANS ADMired THE AUDACITY OF THE USSR, & INVITED SOVIET DIPLOMATS TO HIS DINNER PARTIES.

PROPRIETY
WELL, WELL, A BOLSHEVIK IN A TUXEDO!
YOU’RE VOTING SOCIALIST?
DO YOU WANT TO GIVE ALL THIS AWAY?
GOD YES

GEORGE
GEORGE’S SISTER HILDE
AND ALSO A CERTAIN NAIVE & DOGMATIC SNOBBERY
THAT IDIOT HITLER DOESN’T BELONG ON THE FRONT PAGE.
HE BELONGS IN THE “VULK.”*
Propriety

You're voting socialist?

Do you want to give all this away?

God yes.

George's sister Hilde.
SELECTION
OF THE
INNOCENT

Fredric Wertham, M.D.

the influence of comic books on today's youth

What PARENTS don't know about COMIC BOOKS

The parent who teaches and sets his children must also learn that parents sometimes have the wrong idea of what to read, and how to read, comics. Here are some facts about comic books and their influence on American children's reading habits.

BY FREDERIC WERTHAM, M.D.
EDITOR'S NOTE...

THIS IS A MUST!

NOW AND ME!

THE TRUE

CONFESSIONS

OF A DOPE

SMUGGLER

BY ALL MEANS READ IT!

MARY KENNEDY

YOU TRY TO SQUARE THINGS

WITH THE BIG BOSS!

NO!

STOP AND GET HER, SHE'S

GONNA BE HARD!

YES, MARY KENNEDY,

I'M GONNA TELL

YOU THE WHOLE LIES

TRUTH ABOUT THE

ISLE OF THE DEAD—THE

DERELICTS OF DRUGS—THE

MURDERS AT WHOLESALE—

AND ME IN THE MIDDLE!!!

WHO WAS THE

BIG BOSS OF IT ALL?

YOU'LL NEVER

GUESS BROTHER—

NOT IN A MILLION

YEARS!

YOU CAN

CALL ME A

TRAMP—A BUM!

BUT I'M GETTIN' THIS

OFF MY CHEST AND

YOU'RE GONNA

LISTEN, SEE?

REAL POLICE CASES

EVERY STORY TRUE!

CRIME

SuspenStories

JOLTING TALES OF

TENSION IN THE

TRADITION!
AND ALSO A CERTAIN NAIVE & DOGMATIC SNOBBERY

THAT IDIOT HITLER DOESN'T BELONG ON THE FRONT PAGE.

HE BELONGS IN THE "ULK."*

* "HE BELongs IN THE ULK" MEANS HE BELONGS IN THE FUNNY PAGES.
August 7, 1914: Dance of the 1914 season
January 17, 1919: 
“After 4 years of war I thought I had to go on a diet. But not to worry: under Spartacus, death will eat well.”
January 31, 1930:
Alfred Kubin,
“The Dream”
October 10, 1930:
The chief of the tribe of wild headhunters after the Battle of Leipzig—in full war getup
December 31, 1930:
Inner Peace
AS THE NAZIS’ STAR ROSE IN THE EARLY 1930S, THE MOSES FOUND THEMSELVES INCREASINGLY IN A STATE OF SIEGE.

JEW BITCH!
Trevelyan offered helpful advice.

My father thinks I should study in America. Shouldn't I stay in England?

England is finished.

England certainly looked like weak tea at this point.

These Nazis are undoubtedly rough customers.

But maybe that's what it will take to finish off Stalin.

You wish to take up history, Mr. Mosse?

But you people become journalists, not historians!
We German Jews embraced "Bildung" in a futile attempt to fit in with our society.

No Draft

No War

Desegregate!

That's funny--we don't look Jewish.

These children of the Cold War want to use it to change society!

Nice!
STEVE WATTS?

NEIL COUGHLIN?
Peace in Vietnam
End the War in Vietnam
No More War in Vietnam
Use your head—not your draft card
The longing for a happy & healthy world can be turned to an end not contemplated at the beginning.

Writing this book [Toward the Final Solution] has been like walking on a faulty rope bridge over an abyss.

Arbeit macht frei.
MAN MUST STEP OUT OF HIS WORKSHOP!
Israel’s sturdy, self-confident “new Jews,” rejecting the humiliating internalized anti-Semitism of European Jewry, embrace instead the same old tired middle-class ideals & stereotypes.

I like it.

Jerusalem, when Mosse first visited, felt like Weimar with palm trees.
THE SAME OLD TIRED MIDDLE-CLASS IDEALS & STEREOTYPES.
your BRITAIN fight for it now

ISSUED BY A B CA
Provocative invasion by East End Blackshirts in search of an all-British street for an all-British meeting.
Linburg Marbs
Zurgo Zumgraz
Die Fähren sind für Unglück!
HISTORY TOOK GEORGE MOSSE BY SURPRISE IN THE END.

IN HIS LATER BOOKS HE WAS ABLE TO SPELL OUT THEMES OF SEXUAL POLITICS THAT HAD LONG BEEN CODED IN HIS WORK.

EVERYBODY OUT!

BEST OF ALL HE WAS ABLE TO END LIFE IN AN OPENLY SECURE & LOVING RELATIONSHIP.

GOOD JOB!
MONSTERS OF POETRY AND NONSENSE

TROUBLE MY ALLEYWAY PERCH

LIKE A MOVIE STILL BREATHING

SIGNALS AND FUMES
There was gangsters down in HOT TOWN where the blood belongs to the STREET.

On the day I set my gangsters off my FREAKS.
WE'VE DETERMINED THAT YOU'RE AN UNDERPERFORMING URBAN SCHOOL. IN THE INTEREST OF WHIPPING YOU INTO SHAPE, WE'RE HERE FOR A SITE VISIT.

WHO'S THAT? IS HE A VISITOR TOO?

NO, HE LIVES HERE.

POVERTY
NEOLIBERAL INTELLECTUALS SHOOT THE CLOCK OF HISTORY IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT THERE WON'T BE ANY MORNING OTHER THAN THE ONE OF TODAY, OVER WHICH THEY PRESIDE.