Lothar Hobelt, Defiant Populist: Jorg Haider and the Politics of Austria

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Main content

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This is a book about the career of the leader of Austria's Freedom Party, Jorg Haider, but someone should write a book about the enigma presented by its author, Lothar Hobelt. He is one of the most accomplished and brightest historians in Austria today; and he is also a self-styled "conservative" ideologue (although others would put him further to the right) who sees little point in leaving his political opinions at the door when writing history, or at least when writing this particular book. The extent to which Hobelt's reputation precedes him is indicated by the perceived necessity of including a warning--disguised as a "foreword"--from Charles Ingrao about the book's contents. That warning, though welcome, could have gone further, for what Hobelt presents to us, while full of fascinating political detail and often insightful analysis of Austrian and European politics, is a piece of expertly crafted right-wing propaganda masquerading as down-to-earth...

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Lothar Höbelt (born 30 June 1956 in Vienna) is an Austrian historian and adjunct professor of Modern History at the University of Vienna. His research areas are political and constitutional history of the 19th and 20th centuries, and the Thirty Years' War. He also lectures at the Theresian Military Academy. He studied history at the University of Vienna from 1974 to 1981, earning his doctorate Sub auspiciis Praesidentis (Promotion under the auspices of the President, the highest level of academic achievement in Austria). Die Geschichte des VdU (Graz 1999). Defiant Populist. Jörg Haider and the Politics of Austria (West Lafayette, Purdue University Press, 2003). Landschaft und Politik im Sudetenland (Vienna 2004). Ferdinand III. Lothar Höbelt (born 30 June 1956 in Vienna) is an Austrian historian and adjunct professor of Modern History at the University of Vienna, known for his right-wing and nationalist viewpoints. His research areas are political and constitutional history of the 19th and 20th centuries, and the Thirty Years' War. He also lectures at the Theresian Military Academy.