

Friedrich Wilhelm Graf

Der heilige Zeitgeist

Studien zur Ideengeschichte der protestantischen Theologie in der Weimarer Republik



Friedrich Wilhelm Graf's studies of Protestant theology at universities in the interwar years have repeatedly triggered controversies. Critical interpretations of the anti-liberal theologies of Karl Barth, Friedrich Gogarten and Hans-Joachim Iwand met with opposition, as did studies of the anti-democratic cult of authority of conservative Lutherans. For the history of theology in the Weimar Republic, Graf focuses on a consistent historiography and, inspired by the modern history of ideas and discourse, on the political contextualization of the theological production of knowledge. The »anti-historical revolution« in the early 1920s brought forward a radical anti-bourgeois gesture of the absolute. An emphasis on a very strong faith and a hunger for wholeness were united with a decisionist *Zeitgeist* which made it almost impossible to recognize the parliamentary democracy's need to compromise.

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