Albert Einstein Speaks at the Opening of the Seventh German Radio Exhibition (August 22, 1930)

Abstract

This clip features the Nobel-prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein delivering the opening address at the 7th annual "Great German Radio Exhibition" [Große Deutsche Funkausstellung] in Berlin in August 1930. In keeping with the occasion, radio stations also broadcast Einstein's words around the country. In his speech, Einstein praised the achievements not only of the prominent researchers whose scientific discoveries had enabled radio, but also the far more numerous and uncelebrated technicians who had contributed to its production and popularization. He underscored, too, the role that science and technology played in promoting political participation and bringing people together, singling out radio's "unique function" in fostering international reconciliation. Einstein's optimistic assessment of radio's peaceful and democratizing potential echoed that of Hans Bredow, who had just introduced him to the audience, and it likely reflected the sentiments of many people in attendance. Only three years later, however, Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels would reveal another side of radio's potential, one that stifled independent thought, stoked exclusionary impulses, and framed the world as an arena of competition rather than cooperation.

Source

Source: Einstein speech on the occasion of the opening of the German radio exhibition, August 22, 1930. RG-60.4632. Accessed at United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Bundesarchiv Filmarchiv

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