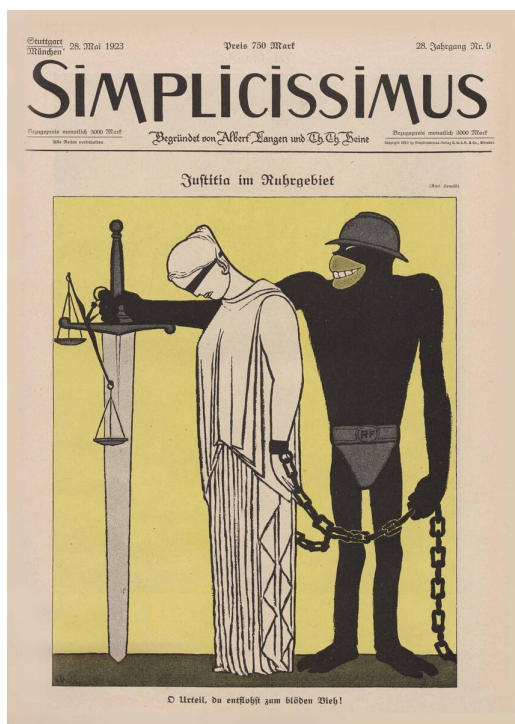


“Justice in the Ruhr Region,” Caricature from *Simplicissimus* (May 1923)

Abstract

Warned to cooperate with French occupying forces or face judicial proceedings, leading mine directors and industry chiefs from the Ruhr region were arrested by French military authorities and sent to Mainz to be tried in military courts. Among those arrested and sent to Mainz was steel and mining magnate Fritz Thyssen (1873-1951), who became a national hero for defying the French Army High Command. Collective outrage against the occupation temporarily kindled a nationalist (albeit largely illusory) spirit of solidarity between government, industry, and mining and steel workers. In this image, France is represented by an African colonial soldier – a reference to the soldiers deployed by France in both the Ruhr occupation and the earlier occupation of the Rhineland during World War I. The overt racism of the caricature is underpinned by the caption, “Oh Judgment, you’ve absconded with the stupid brute.” [O Urteil, du entflohist zum blöden Vieh.]

Source



Source: “Justice in the Ruhr Region,” Caricature from the title page of *Simplicissimus* by Karl Arnold, vol. 28 (May 28, 1923), Cropped from the digitized edition of the *Simplicissimus* project, Klassik Stiftung Weimar a.o.: <http://www.simplicissimus.info/index.php?id=5>

Karl Arnold, *Simplicissimus*

Recommended Citation: "Justice in the Ruhr Region," Caricature from Simplicissimus (May 1923), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/weimar-germany-1918-1933/ghdi:image-4167>> [March 16, 2026].