

The *Reichsbanner Schwarz-Rot-Gold* at a Mass Rally in Potsdam (October 26, 1924)

Abstract

The *Reichsbanner Schwarz-Rot-Gold* was a group of war veterans whose mission was to defend Germany's new parliamentary democracy against its enemies on both the radical right and left. The group was formed on the initiative of the SPD, but its membership included supporters of other parties as well. Founded in Magdeburg in 1924, the *Reichsbanner* eventually grew into one of the largest mass organizations in the Weimar Republic, counting more than three million members by 1932. Its members included prominent politicians such as Hugo Preuß, Otto Wels, and Kurt Schumacher. This photo from October 1924 shows *Reichsbanner* members during a rally in Potsdam. In terms of organization and appearance, the militarist *Reichsbanner* differed little from right-wing extremist organizations like the SA [*Sturmabteilung*], which it was determined to fight. In 1932, the *Reichsbanner*, the Independent Labor Unions, and several other associations combined into the *Eiserne Front* [Iron Front] organization, which was eventually banned by the National Socialist regime.

Source



Source: Potsdam, Brandenburg Gate, field side, March of Republican Associations, October 26, 1924, BA, Aktuelle-Bilder-Centrale, Georg Pahl, Bild 102-00777, available online on Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_102-00777,_Potsdam,_Brandenburger_Tor.jpg

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