

# Is the German 'Civil Clause' a model to prevent the involvement of psychologists in military atrocities?

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## What is a Civil Clause?

The Civil Clause is an—initially voluntary—commitment by academic institutions, to engage exclusively in civil (non-military) research.

Idea originally comes from Japan.

In Germany civil clauses were re-introduced (after WWII Germany had—until the mid-1950s—a pacifist constitution that forbade all military activities) at the height of the Cold War.

University of Bremen first German University to adopt it in 1986.

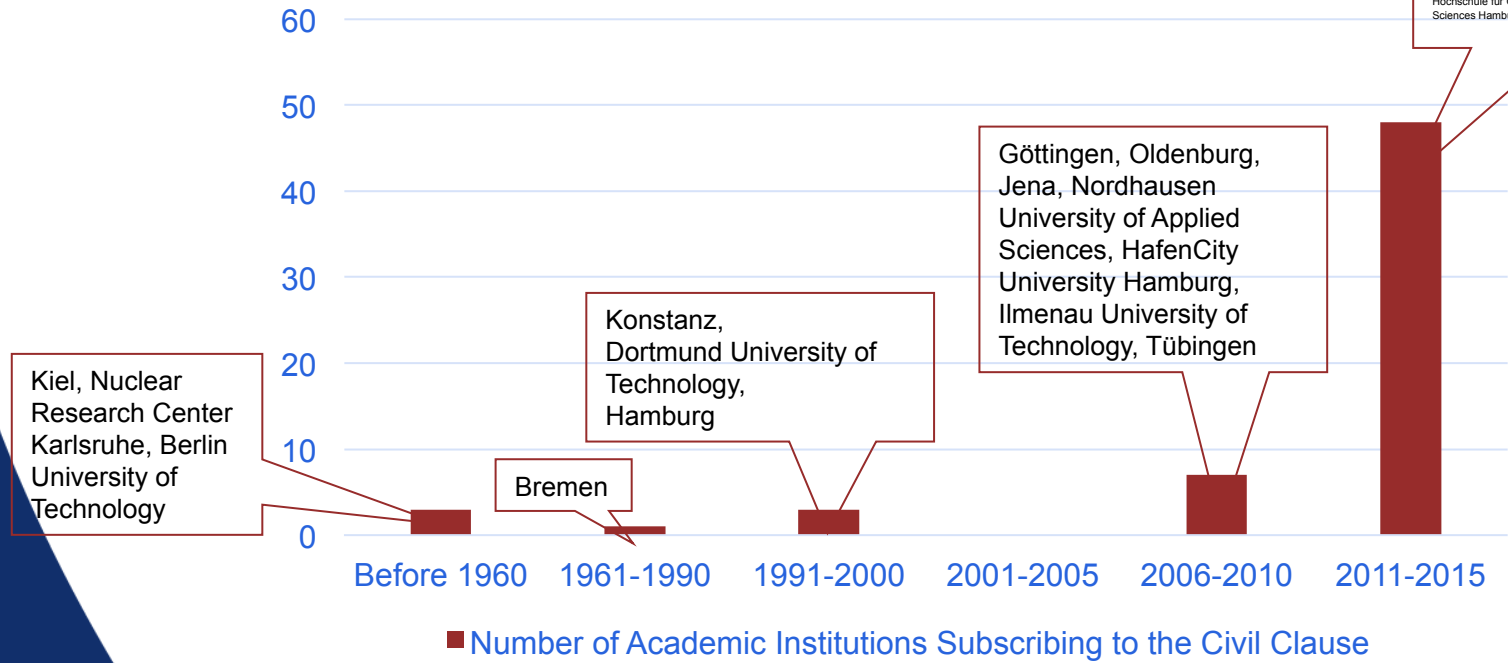
Closely connected to the drive for disarmament in the 1980s.



# 'Epidemiology' of the Civil Clause among German Academic Institutions

## Number of Academic Institutions Subscribing to the Civil Clause

Rostock, Halle-Wittenberg, University of Applied Sciences Bremen, University of Applied Sciences Bremerhaven, Darmstadt University of Technology, Frankfurt (Main), Münster, Humboldt University of Berlin, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Freiburg, University of Applied Sciences Emden-Leer, Chemnitz University of Technology, Marburg, University of Applied Sciences Bochum, Academy of Arts Münster, European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), University of Education Weingarten, Lübeck, Düsseldorf, Cologne, University of Applied Sciences Ruhr West, Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf, South Westphalia University of Applied Sciences, Siegen, Hagen, Paderborn, Ostwestfalen-Lippe University of Applied Sciences, University of Applied Sciences Münster, University of Applied Sciences Dortmund, Folkwang University of Arts, University of Applied Sciences Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, University of Music Detmold, Academy of Arts Düsseldorf, Hamm-Lippstadt University of Applied Sciences, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, Duisburg-Essen, Wuppertal, Bielefeld, German Sport University Cologne, Aachen, University of Applied Sciences Aachen, Bonn, Westphalian University of Applied Sciences, University of Applied Sciences Düsseldorf, University of Applied Sciences Rhein-Waal, Hochschule für Gesundheit Bochum, University of Applied Sciences Hamburg, Bochum





## **The Civil Clause as Part of State Laws**

Civil Clauses are part of tertiary education laws of 5 of 16 German federal states.

Thuringia (since 2006)

Hesse (since 2010)

Brandenburg (since 2014)

North-Rhine Westphalia (since 2014)

Bremen (since 2015)

The tertiary education law of Lower Saxony contained a civil clause only from 1993 to 2002.



## The Civil Clause as Part of State Laws

In states that have the civil clause as part of their tertiary education law, it then applies to all tertiary-level academic institutions that receive any funds from the state. Tertiary education is under the jurisdiction of the single federal states in Germany.

For Jacobs University, for example, this means that although as an institution it did not yet subscribe to the civil clause, it has to act in accordance with it, because of state regulations, even though it is a private enterprise: It does receive some state funding, so that it has to comply with state laws.



## Disputed Issues

What is military research?

Only research related to weaponry

vs.

all research funded by the 'military-industrial complex?'

What about 'dual-use' products?

Isn't there also 'good' military research (as in more effective minesweeping that saves civilian lives)?

What if the military-industrial complex funds emancipatory research, e.g., on intercultural understanding or on women's rights or on industrial relations within the military-industrial complex?



## Disputed Issues

Who decides what is military research and what is not such research?

When does research *about* the military become military research?

Isn't it a danger that research funds from the military-industrial complex that does not flow to public or publically controlled institutions will grow out of reach of democratic control?

If, via the civil clause, the military-industrial complex is forced to do all research within its own confines, isn't this generating a 'state within the state?'



## Crucial Points of Discussion

How does the Civil Clause for (predominantly public) tertiary academic institutions affect psychologists?

Don't we need psychologists' involvement in military research to protect us from the evil forces in the world?

Wouldn't involvement of psychologists in military research make something unavoidable—warfare—less traumatic?

How can declaratory statements really become sustainably effective?