

Presstitutes
Embedded in the Pay of the CIA
A Confession from The Profession

Udo Ulfkotte

San Diego, California: progressivepress.com, 2019, p/b, £19.63¹

Robin Ramsay

The first words in this book are from the publisher:

'About the title: "*In the Pay of the CIA*" is a figure of speech, a bit of poetic license.'

But there is almost nothing about the CIA in the book. So it's being marketed under false pretences. The book's original German title translates as *Bought Journalists: How Politicians, Intelligence Agencies and High Finance Control Germany's Mass Media*.

The author – who died of a heart attack in 2017 – has a Wikipedia entry in English.² He was on the right, a nationalist, anti-Islam and occasionally prone to conspiracy theorising. This makes him sound like a nutter, but he wasn't that. For a while he was deputy editor of a major German daily newspaper, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, worked for the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and had written a number of books.

The problem for me when reading this book was that I know almost nothing about Germany and the German media and thus did not know the people he names. I don't even recognise the names of most of the German media organisations and newspapers. Nonetheless he shows what the book's original German title suggested. In Germany there is a large, wealthy Atlanticist network keeping Germany alongside the Americans. Journalists are courted and sponsored by this network. He names lots of names. German business runs its own networks and journalists are courted and frequently bribed by them. He names them, too. The line between journalism and PR has been blurred in many areas. All of this is also true in the UK, is it not? Of the intelligence agencies, he writes mostly about the impact of the German BND –

¹ From the Book Depository <<https://tinyurl.com/y8mjg7f9>> or <<https://www.bookdepository.com/Presstitutes-Embedded-Pay-CIA-Dr-Udo-Ulfkotte/9781615770175>>.

² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Udo_Ulfkotte>

the equivalent of the UK's SIS – which does what our spooks do: uses the mass media to run stories and journalists to act as agents for it.

As the book's original title had it: politicians, intelligence agencies and high finance control Germany's mass media. Who else is going to control it? Germany is a successful capitalist state. Its two big political parties, the rough equivalents of Britain's Conservative and Labour Parties, are largely integrated into the German state through the foundations (*stiftungen*) linked to them. The trade unions are integrated into capitalism through the German industrial relations system that was created just after WW2 by a delegation from the British TUC. To get along most people go along: with NATO, with the EU and with multiculturalism. All of which means, thought the author, that a kind of German-ness, if that isn't too clunky, is being lost. (There are a few people on the right in the UK who say similar things about this country.) Ulfkotte is unusual in identifying the core of the problem as being the German alliance with America. There have been few English patriots who wanted to sever the American link. The last group I can think of on the British right who even considered this was the League of Empire Loyalists in the 1950s. Today's Brexit-voting 'patriots' seem set on embracing the failing American empire ever more closely (the most obvious example of this being Nigel Farage and his close ties to President Trump).

Unless you know Germany pretty well – and the German language; all of the sources are in that language – don't buy the book. If you want a sense of Ulfkotte's position and views, there is an article about him in English which explains them pretty well.³ His central point was conveyed in an interview he did with *Russia Today* which I quoted in my View from the Bridge in *Lobster* 68.

'Udo Ulfkotte, a former editor of the German conservative newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, did an interview with *Russia Today* in which, among other things, he said this.

"Germany is still a kind of a colony of the United States, you'll see that in many points; like for example, the majority of Germany do not want to have nukes in our country, but we still have American nukes; so, we are still a kind of an American colony, and, being a colony, it is very easy to approach young journalists through (and what is very important here is) transatlantic organizations. All journalists from respected and big German newspapers, magazines, radio stations, TV stations, they are all members or guests of those big transatlantic organizations, and

³ <<https://www.fort-russ.com/2020/03/who-was-udo-ulfkotte-meet-the-fake-journalist-cia/>> *Inter alia* he calls Germany a banana republic.

in these transatlantic organizations you are approached to be pro-American, and . . . they invite you for seeing the United States, they pay for that, they pay all your expenses and everything. So, you are bribed, you get more and more corrupt, because they make you good contacts So, you make friends, you think they are your friends and cooperate with them. They ask you, "Will you do me this favor?" "Will you do me that favor?" So your brain is more and more brainwashed, through these guys'4

⁴ This paragraph comes from the longer transcript of the interview at <<https://tinyurl.com/yc5sdrv>> or <https://www.opednews.com/populum/page.php?f=Leading-German-Journalist-by-Eric-Zuesse-Billionaires_Central-Intelligence-Agency_Energy_Oil-141007-640.html>.