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### Viennese Memories of History and Horrors.

Most world cities are famous not only for their architecture and culture, they are also notorious for the crimes and atrocities committed there. This is as true for Chicago, New Orleans, New York, Berlin and Paris as it is for Vienna. Several 20th century novels by authors such as Musil, Canetti, Doderer, Jelinek, and Rabinovici, and of course the film "The Third Man" have contributed to the notion of Vienna as a city of crime.

The "conventional" crimes thematized in these works, serial killings, crimes of passion and revenge, and the underworld and gangster scene evoked by of these authors pales compared to the socially sanctioned crimes committed during the Nazi era and covered up thereafter. Ilse Aichinger in "Strassen und Plätze" called to mind some of the atrocities with which certain Viennese sites are associated, and in recent years a culture of memory arose that counteracts the collective repression or amnesia of the postwar era.

I propose to explore the dynamic caused by the rivaling memories of the city of dreams and waltzes and the city where the deportations of Jews was implemented faster and more thoroughly than even in Berlin. The sites of the Nazi crimes have now been properly marked, ironically, with the same red-white banner that adorns other 'famous' Viennese places, including the houses where Grillparzer lived and the empty space left by the Hotel Metropol, which served as the Gestapo Headquarter.

Focusing on selected poetic and autobiographical texts by Vienna-born authors of different generations such as Spiel, Aichinger, Beckermann, and Schindel, I shall discuss the ambivalence, nostalgia, and disappointment associated with Vienna as a site of cultural and individual memory.