

HOUSE OF THE WANNSEE CONFERENCE

MEMORIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SITE

Friedrich Minoux (1877 - 1945)

The Norddeutsche Grundstücks Aktiengesellschaft, bought the land in 1921 for 2.3 million Reichsmarks from the manufacturer Ernst Marlier. As early as 21 December 1937, the property was inherited by way of universal succession by the businessman Friedrich Minoux (1877-1945), a member of the company board.



[Translate to English:] Friedrich Minoux (1877-1945)



Minoux with family



Minoux in the garden

Now, as early as 21 December 1937, the property was inherited by way of universal succession by the businessman Friedrich Minoux (1877-1945). Minoux, managing director of the industrialist Hugo Stinnes' company, had made his fortune through speculative trading during the period of inflation. In the years of crisis after the founding of the Weimar Republic, Minoux, who also engaged in political

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House of the Wannsee Conference Educational and Memorial Site

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activities, belonged to the anti-republican circles of the extreme right, who demanded the abolition of democracy. On 21 February 1923, Minoux mediated a debate held in his villa on Lake Wannsee between the Quartermaster General Erich Ludendorff, one of the most prominent leaders of the extreme right, and the General Chief of Staff, Major General Hans von Seeckt. It is possible that Reich Chancellor Wilhelm Cuno also took part in the discussion. In 1923, high-ranking military officers, industrialists, senior bankers and top-ranking ministry officials were planning to suspend parliamentary governance and replace it with a "directorship", having dictatorial powers and led by Seeckt; Friedrich Minoux, a financial expert, was to run the economics portfolio. Minoux was also named as a potential candidate for the chancellorship. On 25 October 1923, Minoux spoke to Ludendorff and Hitler in Munich. No agreement with these radical antisemites was reached, however. Minoux did not want to dispense with the involvement of individual Jewish bankers when attempting to stabilise the German economy by means of an authoritarian regime, and he also rejected any attempted coup on tactical grounds, such as the one Hitler and Ludendorff would shortly launch in Munich. In October 1923, Stinnes parted company with Minoux in the course of unsuccessful efforts by the national government to stabilise the Reichsmark against the dollar. In April 1923, Stinnes' firms bought large amounts of foreign currency on the stock market, which led to a sudden crash in the value of the mark. Stinnes himself was against any stabilisation of the mark from the monetary side. Minoux, on the other hand, demanded the reintroduction of the Goldmark, pegged to the value of gold, and the imposition of a special tax of five per cent on all agricultural, industrial and private property or assets. This special tax, which Minoux called the "acquisition of material assets", was intended to bring the state 200 billion marks to use for stabilisation purposes.

4.00 pm and 5.00 pm

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After leaving Stinnes, Minoux established the Friedrich Minoux AG für Handel und Industrie (Friedrich Minoux PLC for Trade and Industry) and various other firms in the wholesale coal industry. In 1938 he was involved in the “aryanisation” of the Phil. Offenheimer/Okriftel cellulose factory.

As a member of the supervisory board of the Berliner Gaswerke AG (Gasag) he and other business associates embezzled approximately 8.8 million Reichsmark from the Berlin gasworks, the Potsdam municipal utilities and the gas company AG Berlin between 1927 and 1938. Arrested in 1940, Minoux was sentenced to five years’ imprisonment in August 1941, fined 600,000 Reichsmarks and disenfranchised for five years. Two other defendants were also sentenced to long prison sentences. Minoux was only released from the Brandenburg-Görden prison in April 1945. He died on 16 October 1945 in the Lichterfelde district of Berlin and was buried at the Neue Friedhof cemetery in Berlin-Wannsee.

While in prison in 1940, he sold the land for 1.95 million Reichsmark to the [Nordhav Foundation](#) (Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse 8, Berlin).