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**HORST HEROLD, THE FATHER OF MODERN
CRIMINAL GEOGRAPHY**



(Source: Internet ³)

Horst Herold (1 October 1923 – 14 December 2018, Nuremberg)

There are a handful of researchers in the world who have for years – and some of them for decades – been engaged in a field of study, which is cultivated by considerably few people. That field is criminal geography, which is only cultivated by a few police scientists and geographers. For the majority, it is fairly difficult to find any common ground among them; however, they all share one thing, which is a reference to the common source, Horst Herold. Horst Herold died at the age of 95 in Nuremberg. His scientific and professional career prompted the authors to make his career known to the public. With the present paper, the authors

³ https://www.t-online.de/nachrichten/deutschland/gesellschaft/id_84948304/ex-bka-chef-horst-herold-ist-tot-er-revolutionierte-die-polizeiarbeit.html (Accessed: 08 01 2019.)

wish to commemorate Horst Herold and make the broader professional audience familiar with his lifetime achievement.

1. The most important stages of Horst Herold's life (1923-1952)

Horst Herold was born on 21 October 1923 in Sonneberg, Thuringia. He worked in his father's and father-in-law's toy factory, but at the time of the Great Depression (1929) the family were compelled to sell the factory. In 1941, the wind of the war reached Horst Herold as well, and he spent several adventurous years during the war and the post-war period. In 1941, Herold volunteered for military service, therefore he passed his school-leaving examination ahead of time. However, in June 1942 he got severely injured on the Eastern front of the war.

Later, in 1944, his unit was transferred to France and he was promoted to first lieutenant. In 1945, he was again deployed to the Eastern front, where he was captured. While being transported to the Soviet Union, he escaped and returned to Nuremberg, where he could meet his parents and also met his future wife for the first time. After the Second World War, between 1945 and 1951, he studied law in the university town of Erlangen, where he acquired a degree in international law. During his university studies, in 1951 his only daughter was born.⁴

2. Horst Herold's career and work (1953-1981)

While working as a public prosecutor, he enrolled in the economics and humanities course of the College of Nuremberg in 1953. In 1954 he left the prosecutor's office and became a judge at the Court of Nuremberg. In 1966 he wrote his pioneering article entitled *Fahnden und Forschen* (Search and Research), in which, in the interest of prevention, he calls for the systematic and scientific evaluation of police data and the examination of the offenders from sociological, biological and psychopathological aspects.⁵ He was only 43 in 1967 when he was appointed president of the Nuremberg Police. He introduced several changes, making him much liked by his colleagues. His motto was *Mut zum Widerspruch* (Have the courage to contradict), thanks to which he was very popular among his subordinates, especially those who also supported changes and progress.⁶

As president of the Nuremberg Police he developed the 'Nuremberg model' together with his colleagues, based on criminal geography and the theory of prevention and deployment.

⁴ http://www.rijo.homepage.t-online.de/pdf/DE_DE_45_herold.pdf (Accessed: 01 03 2019)

⁵ http://www.rijo.homepage.t-online.de/pdf/DE_DE_45_herold.pdf (Accessed: 01 03 2019)

⁶ Ibid.

We could say that he reached the peak of his career in 1971, when he was appointed president of the Federal Criminal Police Office of Germany (BKA), where one of the major scopes of his activities was combatting terrorism.⁷ He headed the BKA between 1971 and 1981, before his retirement. In 1984 the City of Nuremberg awarded the former police leader with the Citizens' Medal in recognition of his career.

3. Horst Herold the criminal geographer

Horst Harold is regarded by several disciplines (police science, criminology and criminal geography) as one of their luminaries. He beat new paths for criminal geographers and was able to substantiate his achievements in practice, too. Horst Harold was the one whose theoretical research proved that the location of the police stations around Nuremberg was not optimal, therefore he suggested that some of them should be moved to another place. The relocation of the police stations, indeed, resulted in lower crime rates.

His work is a milestone for criminal geographers, as his comprehensive research has shown the direction for others for several decades. In all probability, many people are going to follow in his footsteps for a many years to come. The dissemination of his achievements laid the foundations of research in criminal geography in several countries. It was Horst Harold who defined the most important concepts in this field of science and the concept of criminal geography itself, as well as the task of criminal geography and the questions to which criminal geography seeks answers.

Horst Herold was held in high esteem in professional circles, which is very well illustrated by the fact that Horst Seehofer, Prime Minister of Bavaria and Minister of the Interior of Germany remembered the learned police officer upon his death. He said that the BKA still followed in the path trodden by him. Sebastian Fiedler, the president of the Association of German Detectives (BDK) commented on the news of his death saying "the German criminal police bow down to one of the most innovative and influential criminologists of the post-war era."⁸

His scientific conclusions and timeless ideas will live forever.

May he rest in peace.

⁷ Der Chef. Horst Herold und das BKA Gebundenes Buch – 1998.

⁸ Ibid.

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