

3. Lassalle Hof



place Lassallestrasse 40–44, II Leopoldstadt
time May 13, 1933, 3:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

In the Leopoldstadt, Vienna's second municipal district, the
II.1 Nazi politicians from Germany driving from **Aspern airfield**
II.4 to the **Adolf Hitler House** in a motorcade encounter left-wing
protest. As the cars and motorcycles cross the Reichsbrücke
bridge, whistles and boos sound out. The residents of the **mu-**
nicipal public housing (*Gemeindebau*) at Lassallestrasse 40–44,
red flags flying from its windows and balconies, air their
views openly:

Fig. 21, p. 60

*From the Lassalle Hof, which had been cordoned off by the police, the workers looked down from their windows, but from the back. Body parts were visible that the Nazi ministers were supposed to understand as a call to make the **Götz quote** a reality.⁵³*

III.2.5

To avoid further conflict, the police alter the route. The German visitors are not allowed to drive along Praterstrasse and the Ring as planned, but have to take Franzensbrückenstrasse from the Praterstern and continue along Löwengasse, the so-called Lastenstrasse, and Gumpendorfer Strasse, where neither supporters nor opponents await them.⁵⁴

Fig. 105, p. 245

The **Lassalle Hof** was built from 1924 to 1926 and designed by the architect Hubert Gessner, a student of Otto Wagner. It was one of the first major public housing projects erected in the "**Red Vienna**" of the interwar years. The architecture historian Eve Blau writes about these residential complexes:

III.3.4

- 53 "Pfui-Rufe, rote Fahnen und Pfeifkonzert," in: *Die Rote Fahne* (Vienna), May 14, 1933, p. 2 [our trans., emphasis added]. The Götz quote was coined by Johann Wolfgang Goethe in his drama *Götz von Berlichingen mit der eisernen Hand* (1773, p. 133): "Tell your captain: For His Imperial Majesty I have as ever due respect. But he, tell him, he can lick me in the ass." [Our trans.]
- 54 See "Die nationalsozialistischen Fluggäste aus Deutschland," in: *Reichspost* (Vienna), May 14, 1933, p. 8.



Fig. 21: Hans Frank (in the back of the car) driving by the Lassalle Hof in Vienna at around 3:30 p.m. on May 13, 1933, printed in *Die Stunde* (Vienna), May 16, 1933, p. 3. The text reads: “The ‘Undesirable Visit’ / Minister Frank and his companions return the ‘greetings’ of the red-flagged Lassalle Hof.” Source: Austrian National Library, 606233-D.

For the Social Democrats, who came to power in Vienna in 1919 and governed Austria’s capital until 1934, the construction program with over 400 new municipal constructions, which had to be inserted between Vienna’s existing buildings, formed the core of extensive reform plans for redesigning the city’s social and economic infrastructure according to socialist principles.⁵⁵

Named after Ferdinand Lassalle, a pioneer of the German workers’ movement, the building comprised 290 apartments spread across six stories. On the ground floor facing Lassallestrasse were shops and a public library. The top floor of the tower above the main building was used as a photography studio by the Social Democratic association Friends of Nature (*Naturfreunde*).⁵⁶ Located between the Reichsbrücke and the Praterstern, the monumental Lassalle Hof still dominates one of Vienna’s northeastern arterial roads today.

55 Eve Blau: “Wien 1919–1934. Grossstadt und Proletariat im ‘Roten Wien,’” in: Eve Blau and Monika Platzer (eds.): *Mythos Grossstadt. Architektur und Stadtbaukunst in Zentraleuropa 1890–1937*, Munich: Prestel 1999, pp. 205–214, here p. 205 [our trans.].

56 See *Lassalle-Hof. Die Wohnhausanlage der Gemeinde Wien im II. Bezirk*, ed. Wiener Stadtbauamt, Vienna: Reisser [1926], pp. 5–8.