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who rely on CBER to maintain the standard of safety and efficacy in biologics that is so fundamental to public health.

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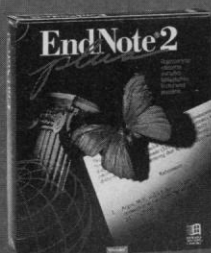
German Academe

Sanford L. Segal (Letters, 8 Nov., p. 905) asserts that the German faculty that remained under and after the Nazis were not lesser talents. Evidence for the decline and slow recovery of German science may be gleaned from many sources besides the impressions of the historically informed. For example, using the number of Nobel prizes awarded in physics, chemistry, and physiology-medicine, and comparing the national distribution during three time periods (before the Nazis came to power: 1901-1932; the Third Reich and reconstruction periods: 1933-1963; and the recent past: 1964-1994), we see that German prizes declined significantly from before to after Hitler and then remained depressed, while U.S. prizes continued to increase, and U.K. prizes remained relatively constant.

Other measures of scientific productivity and efficiency, such as number of papers published per billion dollars of gross national product (A. Anderson, *Science in Japan*, 23 Oct. 1992, p. 564) also point to Germany's relatively depressed contemporary scientific stature compared with the prewar period. However, such measures do not readily allow historical comparisons.

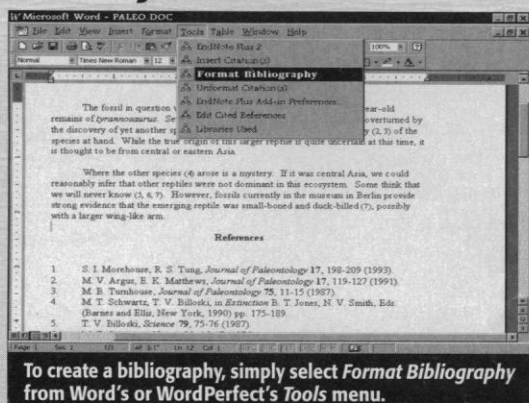
Segal posits the existence of a prejudice that only "under democratic-republican forms of government can good science be done" and gives the example of U.S. politicians believing that they could keep atomic weapons out of the hands of the Soviets. My position is that rigidity on the part of German academics and administrators has blocked scientific development at least as much as did the former totalitarian government. Furthermore, the Soviet acquisition of nuclear technology owes at least as much to espionage (and possibly direct passing of atomic secrets by U.S. scientists) as to Soviet science.

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