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Peter-Alexis Albrecht
Securitized Societies

**The Rule of Law:
History of a Free Fall**

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Foreword

During my career as a criminologist and penologist, I have always regretted not having used the scientific methods at my disposal to adequately describe and teach the social realities with which I have been confronted. I am making a new attempt. A scientific-biographic account is what I would like to provide – my own. I hope to thus capture the erosions of rule-of-law penal law both concretely and analytically. Collecting is part of the scientific arsenal of methods for the criminologist: collecting data, conflicts, experiences, and impressions. Computers have replaced the index card system, but the analytical methods remain the same. Building blocks of insight grow out of layered experiences and from experienced disappointments. At the same time, that sharpens one's eye for contexts and temporal processes. I would like to take the readers down this path. They might be motivated to use associative conflict situations of the described manner to take a closer look at some of the papers and share my conclusions or weight them differently, or to reject them. The developments which led to the securitized society, however, cannot be ignored. These are determining the future of the global societies. Germany can serve as a negative example, as a paradigmatic case study: A mixture of opportunistic submission to the unfolding of unilateral power and the failure to learn from its own destructive history.

My thanks go to my colleague *Wolfgang Naucke*, who gave me friendly encouragement to travel down the novel path described here and who helpfully stood by my side. I would also like to thank *Michael Voß*, with whom I traveled down part of the academic path. He helped me to cover empathy with a scientific façade. I thank *Ruth Tessmar*, Professor for Artistic Praxis in Menzeldach at Humboldt University, who brought dry texts to life using associative leaps. She understands how to set the scene for scientific methodology and thereby awaken curiosity. Without the tireless help of my academic assistants *Mareike Jeschke*, *Katharina Schermuly*, *Charlotte Schultz*, and *Marc Fornauf* – and finally also *Kristina Voßberg* – the work would have probably come to a halt at some point. Young academics' elan is contagious and motivates one to continue. For that I thank all of them. Finally, I would like to thank the stimulating and helpful publisher *Volker Schwarz* and his assistants *Brigitta Weiss* and *Claudia Delfs*, who, with their constructive help and perseverance, gave me the courage necessary to make it through my everyday tasks in addition to the effort required to produce this book.

Without the willing cooperation of *Kelly Neudorfer*, I would not have ventured the translation into English. She demonstrated an interest in the language and content that gave this edition the linguistic sensitivity of a native speaker.

“Human dignity also applies to discussions and encounters with one’s closest family members!” I must thank *Julia Albrecht-Henschel* for this exhortation, as she handed me a piece of paper with this truth one beautiful, busy, and irritating day. How right she was! I’m sorry that I can only excuse myself in retrospect to many people. I should have taken different things more seriously. If I could start over, however, I am afraid that I would make the same mistakes again.

Frankfurt, July 2011

Peter-Alexis Albrecht

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