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Entertainment - AFP

Philosopher Marcuse to be buried in Berlin 24 years after death

Mon Jul 14, 2:22 PM ET

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BERLIN (AFP) - The late philosopher Herbert Marcuse will be buried in a Berlin cemetery this week, 24 years after his death, next to the grave of his intellectual forefather Hegel, the funeral home said.



[AFP/File Photo](#)

Marcuse, who would have been 105 on July 19, was one of the most influential intellectuals of his generation and a key source of inspiration for the 1960s student movements.

A Berliner by birth who became an American citizen, Marcuse died of a stroke in 1979 during a visit to what was then West Berlin.

His wife Ricky had him cremated in Austria before sending his ashes back to the United States because she "felt that enough Jews had been reduced to ashes in Germany," his grandson Harold explained on Marcuse's official website.

His urn spent the last two decades in New Haven, Connecticut before being "rediscovered" by his descendants in 2001.

Harold Marcuse decided this year that his remains should be returned to his birthplace, where the city government agreed to give him an honorary gravesite between those of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel and fellow philosopher Johann Gottlieb Friedrich Hegel.

"Herbert was born in Berlin, and I think there's something fitting in his remains returning there. He was, after all, quintessentially a German intellectual, even if he decided never to return to Germany permanently while he was alive," Harold Marcuse said.

"Why give the Nazis the satisfaction of having purged the country even of the remains of some of its finest intellectuals? Hasn't Germany finished its 40 years in the desert?" he asked.

Marcuse was one of the founders of the Institute for Social Research in the western city of Frankfurt.

After fleeing the Nazis in the 1930s, Marcuse became a US citizen and later an outspoken opponent of the Vietnam war.

On Thursday, Berlin's Free University is to hold a symposium in his honor with guest speakers including American radical leader Angela Davis. His urn is to be

buried Friday.

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