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Title: The Political Essence of Jungian Psychology: Thoughts on the Death of Marie-Louise Von Franz

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Abstract. This article posits that a democratic, nonracist politics permeates Jungian psychology.

Much has been made of what has been termed the racist, fascist, totalitarian overtones of Carl Jung's psychological writings. He has been termed a sympathizer and even a supporter of Nazi ideology. His concepts of archetypes and interpretations of myths and symbols have been, in turn, interpreted as foundations for a master race, for subjugation of others, for inevitable political exploitation. (The same conceptual case has been made for the writings of Nietzsche--a case rightfully critiqued by Nietzsche interpreters such as Walter Kaufmann.)

However, a reassessment may be in order with the recent death of Marie-Louise Von Franz, a Jungian expert and Jung's successor at Zurich's C.G. Jung Institute. Her own prodigious analyses of fairy tales, work that was encouraged by Jung, underline the most essential aspect of Jungian theories: that there are universal unconscious psychological substrates that are shared by humankind and have been shared throughout history. The assumption of universality transcends race, ethnicity, religion, epoch, and locale. The universal substrates impel a conclusion that we all share the basic elements of humanity: the same hopes, dreams, desires, and fears, the same propensities for the greatest acts of good and of evil.