

10-27-2016

## Test Schools in Austria

Grey Patterson  
*Linfield College*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl\\_fieldnotes\\_1617](https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_fieldnotes_1617)

---

### Recommended Citation

Patterson, Grey, "Test Schools in Austria" (2016). *2016-17 Field Notes*. Essay. Submission 7.  
[https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl\\_fieldnotes\\_1617/7](https://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/intl_fieldnotes_1617/7)

This Essay is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It is brought to you for free via open access, courtesy of DigitalCommons@Linfield, with permission from the rights-holder(s). Your use of this Essay must comply with the [Terms of Use](#) for material posted in DigitalCommons@Linfield, or with other stated terms (such as a Creative Commons license) indicated in the record and/or on the work itself. For more information, or if you have questions about permitted uses, please contact [digitalcommons@linfield.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@linfield.edu).

Grey Patterson

Vienna, Austria

October 27, 2016

### Test Schools in Austria

It was actually a bit of an accidental interview - I'd been planning to interview someone I met at the University of Vienna after I got out of class on the 27th, but wound up at Alyssa's after I locked myself out of my own apartment. There, I wound up having breakfast with her and her host family, and we talked for quite a while. We had a couple topics of discussion that stuck in my mind. The first was education - Hannes and Lisi's youngest son, Ferdi, is in an age range I'd describe as "elementary-to-middle school." The school he goes to is some sort of 'test' school - the Viennese government uses it for testing out a variety of new ideas in the educational sphere. For a while, it was using "the American System" - an idea that basically boils down to "Jan term for primary education." I'll confess, I have no idea as to why it's called the American System, as it doesn't seem anything like what my primary school experience was.

The other big topic that I found interesting was a discussion of the different perceptions of Europe and Russia by Europe, Russia, and the United States. To Europe, Russia is still a looming enemy with significant influence; Americans generally regard the country as a fallen superpower and haven't treated the Russian Federation as if it's the superpower that it actually is. Part of that is just the history of the continent as a whole - even before the Soviet Union became a global superpower, the Russian Empire was no joke, and there's a lot of history built up over time that influences the feelings of European citizens in ways that American citizens can't really compare to. It's an

interesting concept to think about - going from the United States to Austria, a country with barely three times the population of Oregon and half the land area, is a big change. I hadn't devoted much thought to the impact of American hegemony on the world, or to the actual status I hold as a citizen of a country regarded as the reigning superpower of the world. Now, though, it's something that's on my mind quite a lot of the time.