"Punching Holes in the International Busa Machine Narrative" by Arun Jacob

Erik Halenkamp

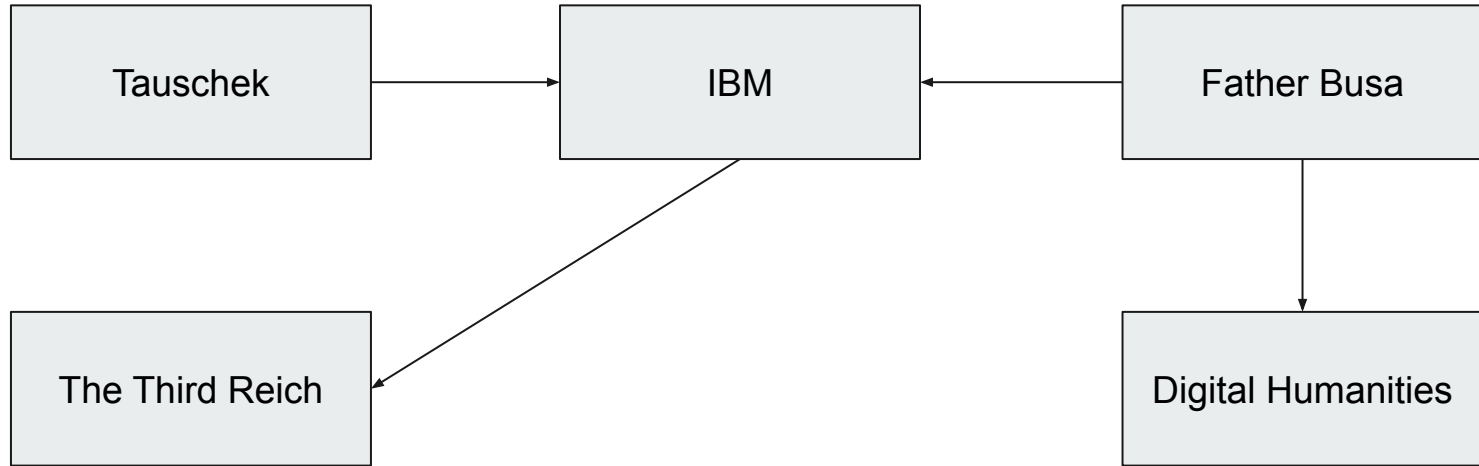**Fr. Roberto Busa (1913-2011)**　　　　**Gustav Tauschek (1899-1945)**

Background

- Punch-card technology and IBM's role
    - Used worldwide as most efficient means of computing
    - Ties to the Nazi party

- Tauschek's advancements (1928)
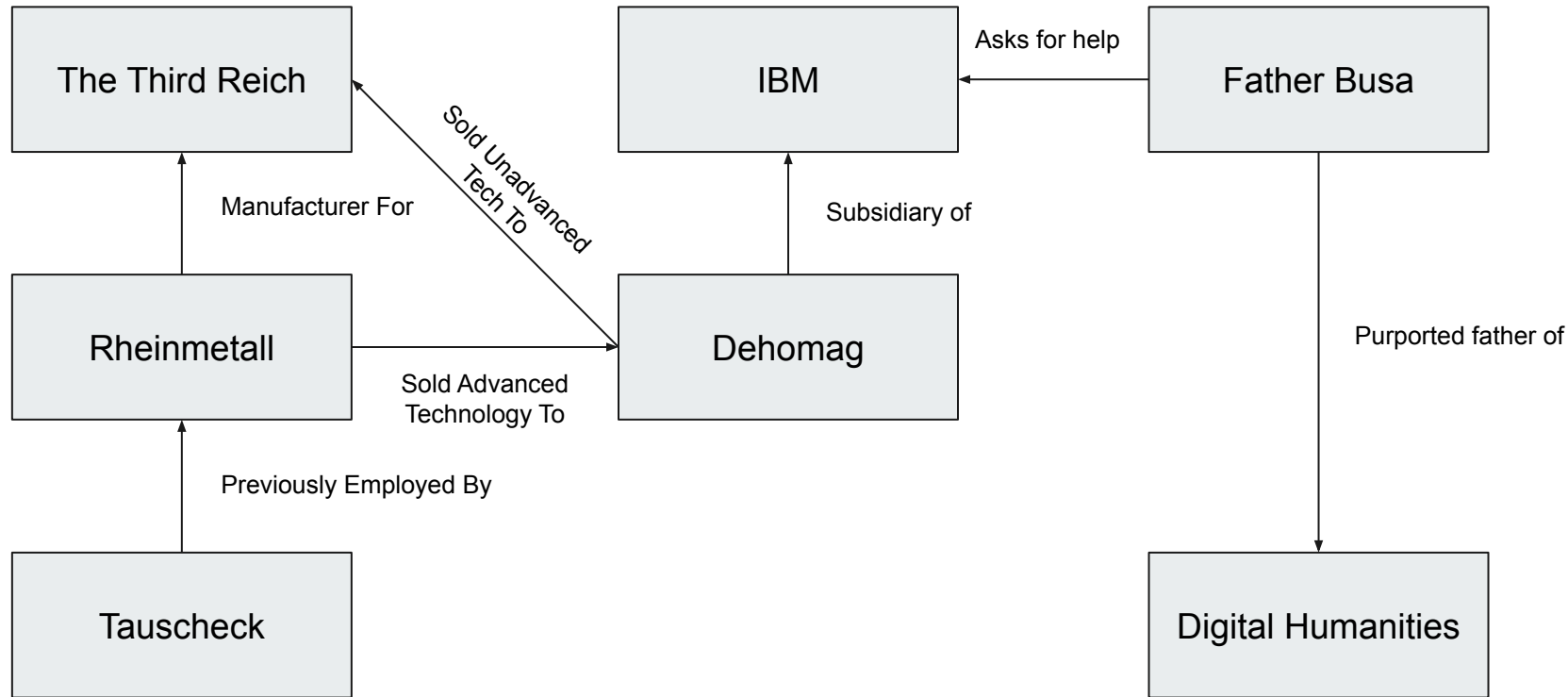
- Busa's concordance (1946)
    - Women employees

The Argument

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Tauschek  ──────►  IBM  ◄──────  Father Busa
                    │                 │
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            The Third Reich    Digital Humanities
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Nazism's Link To Digital Humanities (by Arun Jacob)

The Presupposition

The Third Reich	IBM	Father Busa

The Third Reich

Manufacturer For

Sold Unadvanced Tech To

IBM

Asks for help

Father Busa

Subsidiary of

Rheinmetall

Sold Advanced Technology To

Dehomag

Purported father of

Previously Employed By

Tauscheck

Digital Humanities

Nazism's "Link" To Digital Humanities

How could technology that never entered production have been used by the Third Reich?

Disparagement of Character

Quotes by Jacob

- "Gluttony, greed, sloth, envy, lust, wrath, and pride are the cardinal sins in Christian teaching. The revelation that Busa was envious of Ellison's progress shows how lackluster his commitment to the cardinal and theological values was." (137)

- "Busa was working with technology that was drenched in the blood of the oppressed... he was seduced by the efficiencies afforded by the technological innovations, which established how he had thoroughly been interpellated into IBM's logic of militarized techno-science." (138)

It's Important to Understand...

- Using the most recent (and at times, only) technology available in the pursuit of knowledge does not make an act immoral because of what that technology has been used for in the past.

Citations

- http://www.computer-timeline.com/timeline/gustav-tauschek/
- https://hal.inria.fr/hal-01526801/document
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Hy9eIjkmOM

- Jacob, Arun. "Punching Holes in the International Busa Machine Narrative."

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  Kim and Adeline Koh, Punctum Books, 2021, pp. 121–44,

  http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv1r7878x.7.