



## **Wilhelm Reich's self-censorship after his arrest as an enemy alien: The chilling effect of an illegal imprisonment**

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**Abstract:** *After discussing Wilhelm Reich's place in psychoanalysis, the article explores his arrest as an 'enemy alien' in December 1941. Reich's emotional responses to his imprisonment (which was illegal and which lasted nearly a month) are explored. A number of scholars have suggested that many European radical psychoanalysts refrained from sharing their former political ideas once they emigrated to the United States. Following a brief discussion of this pattern of 'silencing,' it is argued that Reich's withholding certain documents from publication was due to a self-imposed censorship, motivated in part by the fear of further governmental interference with his life and work. This fear, however, did not extend to his discussion of his newly developed theory of orgone energy.*

**Keywords:** Wilhelm Reich, psychoanalysis, self-censorship, Immigration and Naturalization Services, enemy alien, orgone energy