

Ivan Illich, Renowned Sociologist, Onetime NYC Clergyman

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Berlin - Ivan Illich, a renowned sociologist who protested against the institutionalization of learning and religion, has died, a former university colleague said yesterday. He was 76.

Illich - best known for his 1971 publication "De-Schooling Society" - died Monday in the German city of Bremen, where he had lectured in sociology for the past decade, said a professor at the university.

Illich was born in Vienna, Austria in 1926. He entered the Roman Catholic priesthood and, from 1951 to 1956, served in New York City as an assistant pastor, championing the cause of Puerto Rican immigrants. From 1956 until 1960, he was the deputy rector of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico.

Still, Illich increasingly rebelled against the church, which he viewed as too bureaucratic. He left the priesthood in 1969.

Details of funeral arrangements and survivors were not immediately available.

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