

## **Germany in the Long Nineteenth Century**

### Background

Nineteenth century Germany experienced social upheaval, cultural transformations, and nation building. The beginning of the period found independent German states loosely organized in the Holy Roman Empire and at the mercy of invading French armies, while the end of it found a unified Germany fighting the combined armies of Britain, France, and Russia. This course will examine this dynamic period by examining the political, cultural, social, economic, and diplomatic history of German speaking Europe.

### Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all discussions and lectures. Students should have the reading assignments done the Monday of the week for which they were assigned. I will pass out discussion questions each Friday to consider, and additionally there will be an optional discussion section for students wanting extra time to think about the sources. Written assignments include: one midterm exam, a final exam, one short paper (3-4 pages; a historical analysis utilizing several primary sources used in the class. A prompt will be handed out, and you must answer the question using these sources), and a longer paper (7-8 pages; written on a topic of the students choice in conjunction with the instructor requiring synthesis of several works read in class).

There will also be an field trip to Old World Wisconsin held during the course of the class showing the experiences of Germans who immigrated during the nineteenth century. Affiliated with the Wisconsin State Historical Society, it is a living museum displaying many houses of first generation German immigrants. By going, students will have the chance to receive extra credit to their final grade. Details will be discussed in class.

Grading will be as follows: Active participation in discussion sections – 15%; Short Paper – 15%; Midterm – 20%; Longer Paper – 30%; Final Exam 35%

### Online Resources

In addition to holding office hours, I will create a classroom message board in which I discuss in greater detail some of the texts, post handouts, and make announcements. The message board will also allow a forum for more casual discussion of readings and lectures. Students are encouraged to post and respond to their classmates. I will also have a weekly online chat where students can ask questions about lectures and readings.

### Texts

The texts below are required and are on reserve at the college library. Generally the readings for each week will consist of one secondary source, several primary sources, and

a reading from the textbook. The primary sources are often excerpts and can be found in the copy packet or are available online. In addition, all secondary sources can be found there as well. Questions for consideration will be handed out in class. Students are also encouraged to see me during my office hours if they have any further questions about the readings.

**Required:**

Blackbourne, *The Long Nineteenth Century*

Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

Copy Packet available at Humanities Copy Center.

[the copy packet includes all primary sources and most secondary articles. If students wish, they can find the primary sources contained in the following anthologies: *The Modern Internet History Sourcebook*; *The Jew in the Modern World*; *Sources of the Western Tradition: From the Scientific Revolution to the Present*; *Exploring History 1400-1900: An anthology of Primary Sources*. In addition, I will include several excerpts and give their biographical references in class from other works in the copy packet]

**What is Germany? Introduction and Background**

W – Course Goals and Main Questions

F – What is Germany? Geography, Economy, and People

Secondary Source: David Blackbourne, “Conquests from Barbarism,” in *The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape, and the Making of Modern Germany*, 21-76

**The German Nation on the Eve of Napoleon**

M – The Holy Roman Empire: Is this a German Nation?

W – Christian Wilhelm von Dohm, Pietism, and Bildung: the Enlightenment Ideal of Nationhood

F – The Enlightenment’s Darker Side: The Magic Flute, Linnaeus, and J.G. Herder

Text: Blackbourne 1-35

Primary Sources: Ernst Arndt, *The German Fatherland* (1813); Immanuel Kant, *What is Enlightenment?* (1784); C.W. Dohm, *Concerning the Amelioration of the Civic Status of Jews* (1781); Johann Michaelis *Arguments against Dohm* (1782); J.G. Herder *Materials for The Philosophy of the History of Mankind* (1784)

Secondary Source: Stefan Berger, *Germany: Inventing the Nation*, 13-46.

**Napoleonic Occupation**

M – The Napoleonic System Comes to Germany

W – Three Stories from Occupied Germany: Hegel, Oppenheim and Beethoven

F – Leipzig and the Cult of the Fallen Soldier

Text: Blackbourne 35-44

Primary Sources: J.G. Fichte, *To The German Nation* (1806); The Napoleonic Code

(1807); Freidrich Wilhelm III, *Call to Arms* (1813)

### **German Politics 1815-1848**

M – The Congress of Vienna and the Metternich System of Ideological Balance

W – Hardenberg and Stein: A Revolution from the Nobility (?)

F – Liberalism in the *Vormärz* Period.

Text: Blackbourne 44-104

Primary Sources: Klemens von Metternich, *Political Confession of Faith* (1820); Metternich, *Secret Memorandum to Czar Alexander I* (1820); Metternich, *Of the Necessity of a Censorship of the Press* (1809); Karl August von Hardenberg, *The Riga Memorandum* (1807)

Secondary Source: Henry Kissinger, *Diplomacy*, 78-103.

### **The German University**

M – G.W.F. Hegel: Germany's Last Christian Philosopher

W – More than Drinking: The Culture of Fraternities

F – Jews in the University: Testing the Limits of Liberalism and Bildung

Primary Sources: Richard Wagner *Jewry in Music* (1850); G.W.F. Hegel, *Lectures on the Philosophy of History* (1837); Alfred Sidgwick *Student Life at the German Universities* (1900)

Secondary Source: George Mosse, *The Image of Man*, 17-39.

### **A Twisted, Distorted, Failed Revolution (?)**

M – 1848 Revolutions

W – The Frankfurt Parliament and Reaction

F – The Advantages and Disadvantages of the *Sonderweg* Thesis

Text: Blackbourne, 104-132

Primary Sources: Wilhelm Wolff, *The Silesian Weaver's Uprising* (1844), Peasant Deputation in the Grand Duchy of Hesse, *Demands* (1848); The Frankfurt Parliament, *Religious Equality* (1848); Carl Schurz, *A Look Back at 1848* (1907)

### **Romanticism and the Volk**

W – The Cult of Nature: The Alps, the Black Forest, and the Medieval City

F – Fairy Tales and the Brothers Grimm

M – **Midterm Examination**

Primary Sources: Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm *A Jew Among Thorns* (1812); J.W. Goethe, *Introduction to the Propylean* (1798); Carl Gustav Carus *Nine Letters on Landscape Painting* (1815-1824); Friedrich Schegel *Descriptions of Paintings* (1802-1804)

### **Social Upheaval**

M – Industrialization

W – Urbanization

F – Immigration

Text: Blackbourne 133-157

Secondary Sources: John C. Fout “The Woman’s Role in the German Working-Class Family in the 1890’s from the Perspective of Women’s Autobiographies”

*Field Trip to Old World Wisconsin*

### **Toward a Respectable Nation**

M – Wilhelm I and the “New Era in Prussia”

W – Bismarck and the Creation of a New Nation: Wars of Unification

F – Bismarck and Creation of A New Nation: Kulturkampf and the Anti-Socialist Laws

Text: Blackbourne 184-204

Primary Sources: Wilhelm I, *The Imperial Proclamation* (1871); Max Schneckenberger *The Watch on the Rhine* (1870)

Secondary Source: David Blackbourn, “Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Bismarckian Germany,” *Society, Culture, and the State in Germany 1870-1930*, 189-221.

### **Political Cultures 1871-1914**

M – Conservatism

W – Socialism and Communism

F – Antisemitic Parties

Text: Blackbourne 204-235

Primary: Adolf Stoecker *What We Demand of Modern Jewry* (1879); Heinrich von Treitschke *A Word About Our Jewry* (1880); Wilhelm Marr *A Victory of Judaism over Germanness* (1879) Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848)

Secondary Source: M.J. Maynes, “Childhood Memories, Political Visions, and Working-Class Formation in Imperial Germany: Some Comparative Observations,” *Society, Culture, and the State in Germany 1870-1930*, 143-62.

### **Germans Look Abroad to Form a National Identity**

M – Imagined Empires (I) – North and South America (Buffalo Bill’s Wild West, Aristocratic Encounters, and Native American Chiefs)

W – Imagined Empires (II) – Asia and Mitteleuropa [Oil, Magicians, and Harems]

F – Imagined Empires (III) -- German Colonies in Africa (Missionaries, Mothers, and Genocide)

Text: Blackbourne 221-234

Primary Sources: Albert Schweitzer, *A Concerned Doctor in Tropical South Africa*; Friedrich Farbi, *Does Germany Need Colonies?*; Else Sonnenberg, *The History of the Herero Uprising* (1905); Ludwig von Estorff, *Adventures and Battles in Southwest, East, and South Africa* (1904-1910); Karl May *Winnetou I* [trans. David Koblick] (1893)

### **Germans Looks to Themselves to Form a National Identity**

M – Gymnastics, Nudism, and the Wandervogel

W – Museum Culture: Between Heimat museums and Volkerschauen

F – Western Jews, Eastern Jews, and the Zionist Movement

Text: Blackbourne: 265-304

Primary Sources: Herzl *On the Jewish State* (1896); Mark Twain *Concerning the Jews* (1898)

Secondary Source: Celia Applegate, *A Nation of Provincials: The German Idea of Heimat*, 59-107.

### **Conflicted Notions of Belonging to a Unified Germany**

M – Gerson von Bleichröder

W – Manliness and Homosexuality

F – Conflicted Femininity and Conflicted Feminisms

Primary Sources: Franz Kafka, *My Father's Bourgeois Judaism* (1919); Maurice Leudet, *A Day With Kaiser Wilhelm* (1898), Wilhelm II, *The 'Hun Speech'* (1904)

Secondary Source: Fritz Stern, *Five Germans I Have Known*, 13-50.

### **German Politics 1893-1914**

M – Dropping the Pilot: Forging a New Direction without Bismarck

W – The Kaiser's Court

F – Caprivi and the Alliance of Rye and Steel

Text: Blackbourne 237-265

Primary Sources: Francis Fox, *How the Swiss Built the Greatest Tunnel in the World* (1905); Bülow, Bebel, and Solf *Speeches at the Reichstag about Colonial Policy* (1906-1913), Karl Liebknecht, *The Methods and Effects of Militarism* (1907)

Secondary Source: John C.G. Röhl, "Kaiser Wilhelm II: a suitable case for treatment?" *The Kaiser and his Court*, 9-27.

### **The Original Sin of the Twentieth Century**

M – How Democratic was Imperial Germany?

W – The Road to War and the Failure of the Schlieffen Plan

F – Germany in 1914: "I See Only Germans"

Text: Blackbourne 334-348.

Primary Sources – Heinrich von Treitschke, *The Greatness of War*; Fritz Kreisler *Four Weeks in the Trenches* (1915)

Secondary Sources: Wolfgang Kruse, “The First World War: The ‘True German Revolution’?” *The Problem of Revolution in Germany*, 67-84.