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History 133A

Professor Marcuse

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**Friedrich August Ludwig von der Marwitz: Excerpt from the Essay "On the Causes of Crime Getting out of Hand" (1836)**

Friedrich August von der Marwitz published his essay “On the Causes of Crime Getting out of Hand” in 1836. His essay was compiled into *Die Eigentumslosen* by Carl Jantke and Dietrich Hilger and republished in 1965. An excerpt of his essay from *Die Eigentumslosen* was translated into English by Jonathan Skolnik for GHDI. The excerpt was what I initially started this source exploration with and the results of my research are what I will be discussing. (“Friedrich August Ludwig von der Marwitz: Excerpt from the Essay "On the Causes of Crime Getting out of Hand [1836]”) German History in Documents and Images, accessed October 15, 2015. <http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=359>)

The essay was written after Prussia freed its serfs in 1807 as part of the Stein-Hardenberg reforms. The freeing of the serfs was intended to reform the agricultural system as part of the Enlightenment-motivated program of vom Stein and Hardenberg, and had the unintended side effect of the peasantry being able to pursue an education. In his essay, Marwitz attacks the integration of humanist studies into the Prussian educational system: foreign languages, mathematics, writing, and other fields. Von der Marwitz’s opinion on such reforms are very negative: “Otherwise, more emphasis has been placed on religious studies in the last few years. But the consequences of the other varied fields of study (even if they are only superficial) are so corrupting, that they cannot be negated by religious instruction.” These “varied” fields of study were integrated into Prussian education as part of the Stein-Hardenberg reforms. I had to look up the humanistic reforms and the date of emancipation and my search led me to Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussian_reforms>.

**References**

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_August_Ludwig_von_der_Marwitz>.

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*Die Eigentumslosen* cites *Friedrich August Ludwig Von Der Marwitz: Ein Märkischer Edelmann Im Zeitalter Der Befreiungskriege*,

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