

### Uncovering the *Staats-Lexikon*

When I began my research, my initial interest was on the economic components of Germany during this era. As a result, I decided to choose to research an article on trade, and I chose the excerpt ‘Freedom of Occupation’ (*Gewerbefreiheit* in German).<sup>1</sup> This is a subsection of a lengthier article titled “Gewerbe un Fabrikwesen” from an encyclopedia referred to as the *Staats-Lexikon*. The *Staats-Lexikon* was a German political encyclopedia published in three editions from 1834 to 1866.<sup>2</sup> The encyclopedia was highly politicized, and its authors promoted the Baden style of liberalism and hoped for its spread throughout Germany.<sup>3</sup> This encyclopedia proved to be an exceedingly important work in the development of liberalism in Germany in the pre-1848 years.<sup>4</sup> The *Staats-Lexikon* as a whole, and the people surrounding it, proved to be a much more interesting and promising direction to take my research.

I began by looking at the encyclopedia and researching its three editions as well as some of the terminology used, particularly the word “Gewerbefreiheit.” I then moved on to look at some of the important figures that contributed to the work. Finally, I concluded my research by exploring ways in which other authors have since used the *Staats-Lexikon* in their own work.

I first began by looking at the *Staats-Lexikon* as a whole. The work was published by the publisher Johann Friedrich Hammerich (1763-1827). Even though he was already dead by the publication of the first edition, his niece continued publication in his name.<sup>5</sup> The first edition of the *Staats-Lexikon* was published in a total of fifteen volumes between the years 1834-1843.<sup>6</sup> A second edition, the edition from which the previous excerpt was taken, was published from 1845 to 1848, and it consisted of twelve volumes.<sup>7</sup> Finally, the third and final edition of the encyclopedia, made up of fourteen volumes, was published between the years 1856 and 1866.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Karl von Rotteck and Carl Theodor Welcker, *Staats-Lexikon*. Second Edition. (Altona, DE: J.F. Hammerich, 1847) Vol.5, pp. 747-750.

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Rotteck-Welckersches Staatslexikon," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rotteck-Welckersches\\_Staatslexikon&oldid=177601474](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Rotteck-Welckersches_Staatslexikon&oldid=177601474) (accessed November 14, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Badischer Liberalismus," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Badischer\\_Liberalismus&oldid=129335058](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Badischer_Liberalismus&oldid=129335058) (accessed November 14, 2018).

<sup>5</sup> W. Kayser, "Hammerich, Johann Friedrich," *Lexikon des gesamten Buchwesens Online*. [https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/lexikon-des-gesamten-buchwesens-online/hammerich-johann-friedrich-COM\\_080146?s.num=133&s.rows=50&s.start=100](https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/entries/lexikon-des-gesamten-buchwesens-online/hammerich-johann-friedrich-COM_080146?s.num=133&s.rows=50&s.start=100) (accessed November 14, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Rotteck-Welckersches Staatslexikon," (2018).

<sup>7</sup> Karl von Rotteck and Carl Theodor Welcker, *Staats-Lexikon*. Second Edition. (1845-1848).

<sup>8</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Rotteck-Welckersches Staatslexikon," (2018).

The encyclopedia was influential both before and after the 1848 revolution. They were early examples of a push toward promoting liberal ideology in Germany in this period, and, as such, are highly important.

Because of this importance, I wanted to explore the terminology used in the work to see if it was groundbreaking in any way. I chose the word “Gewerbefreiheit” as it seemed to be a rather unique concept, and I felt as though it was specific enough to represent the work. I was hopeful that it could reveal something about how revolutionary the encyclopedia was in developing new terminology. I proceeded to do an NGRAM search of the term. The results were not as promising as I had hoped. The term had been in use prior to the publication of the *Staats-Lexikon*, and its use peaked sometime after. These findings reveal that the *Staats-Lexikon* did not originally develop nor create the term, but it may have influenced its popularity to some degree.<sup>9</sup> There are spikes in the term’s use that coincide with the publication of the three editions, which makes this idea highly likely. That said the encyclopedia was influential, and it is still very possible that it did develop or promote the use of other terms.

The encyclopedia was very much a team effort. It involved many well-respected German authors and political figures from this era. Authors like Robert Mohl and Karl Mathy, who co-wrote the article “Gewerbe un Fabrikwesen” in the second edition, as well as many others, were important contributors to the articles themselves. In addition, there were two principal authors and editors: Karl von Rotteck and Carl Welcker.<sup>10</sup>

Karl von Rotteck (1775-1840) was one of the primary drivers behind German liberalism both in Baden and beyond.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, he was involved in the construction of the Baden Constitution of 1818.<sup>12</sup> The constitution was an early success for liberalism in Germany, but it was short-lived, as the Carlsbad Decrees of the following year firmly put an end to the constitution’s effects.<sup>13</sup> It does serve as an example, however, of Rotteck’s dedication to his liberal ideals. These ideals would be further expressed through the *Staats-Lexikon*.

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<sup>9</sup> NGRAM search results are attached at the end of the paper.

<sup>10</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Rotteck-Welckersches Staatslexikon." (2018).

<sup>11</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Karl von Rotteck," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Karl\\_von\\_Rotteck&oldid=177912658](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Karl_von_Rotteck&oldid=177912658) (accessed November 14, 2018).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Badische Verfassung," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Badische\\_Verfassung\\_\(1818\)&oldid=182716737](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Badische_Verfassung_(1818)&oldid=182716737) (accessed November 14, 2018).

Rotteck may have been an early champion of liberal philosophy; however, present day readers may find some of his views objectionable. Particularly of note is his opinion on Jews. He was against the emancipation of Jews, and he explicitly, disagreed with a fellow author and voiced his opinion on the issue within the first edition of the *Staats-Lexikon* itself.<sup>14</sup> This fact is intriguing because it is somewhat out of character when considering Rotteck's deep devotion to liberalism. Rotteck's antisemitism becomes even more interesting when combined with the fact that his partner behind the *Staats-Lexikon*, Carl Welcker (1790-1869), was a strong advocate in favor of Jewish rights, and he fought for the equal treatment of Jews in Germany.<sup>15</sup> Carl Welcker and Rotteck were still very similar, however, in their dedication to liberal philosophy. Welcker was a strong supporter of liberalism and significantly important for the success of the *Staats-Lexikon*.<sup>16</sup> Welcker would go on to publish the second and third editions of the encyclopedia without the help of Rotteck, as Rotteck died in 1840.<sup>17</sup> Based on their dedication to liberalism it is clear why they would form the *Staats-Lexikon*.

I also did some research on two of the other individual authors that contributed to the work. The two main authors of the second edition version of the "Gewerbe und Fabrikwesen" article, which contains "Gewerbefreiheit," were Robert Mohl and Karl Mathy, and they are just as interesting as Rotteck and Welcker. Upon digging deeper into the life of Karl Mathy (1807-1868), it is easy to see why he would have been chosen to write a piece on trade.<sup>18</sup> He was trained in public finance, which would have made him an excellent choice to write about this topic.<sup>19</sup> Additionally, he was very much firmly rooted in the liberal camp. He was a member of the Heidelberger Burschenschaft when he was at university. This was a highly politically motivated fraternity that made a significant impact during this period of German history.<sup>20</sup> After being turned away from the civil service due to his views, he went on to make his living writing

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<sup>14</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Karl von Rotteck," citing: Karl von Rotteck and Carl Theodor Welcker, *Staats-Lexikon*. First Edition. Vol.5, pp. 52.

<sup>15</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Karl von Rotteck," citing Heiko H.

<sup>16</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Carl Theodor Welcker," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Carl\\_Theodor\\_Welcker&oldid=181886187](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Carl_Theodor_Welcker&oldid=181886187) (accessed November 14, 2018).

<sup>17</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Rotteck-Welckersches Staatslexikon

<sup>18</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Karl Mathy," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Karl\\_Mathy&oldid=176393483](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Karl_Mathy&oldid=176393483) (accessed November 14, 2018).

<sup>19</sup> Loyd E. Lee, "Karl Mathy," *Encyclopedia of Revolutions 1848* <https://www.ohio.edu/chastain/ip/mathykar.htm> (accessed November 14, 2018).

<sup>20</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Alte Heidelberger Burschenschaft," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alte\\_Heidelberger\\_Burschenschaft&oldid=182745710](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alte_Heidelberger_Burschenschaft&oldid=182745710) (accessed November 14, 2018).

for various journals, including the *Staats-Lexikon*.<sup>21</sup> Robert Mohl (1799-1875) was also a member of a fraternity while attending university, and also held distinctly liberal viewpoints.<sup>22</sup> These choices show that the writers who worked on the *Staats-Lexikon* were specifically chosen due to their qualifications and beliefs. The fact that the most qualified individuals were chosen to contribute to the work speaks to its quality and importance.

I then decided that my next step should be to look at the impact of the *Staats-Lexikon* on works that came after it. Where does the *Staats-Lexikon* appear in other works, and how do those works use it? I predominantly used Google books for this portion of my research, which led to some fruitful results. The first book I found was by an author named David Lindenfeld. Lindenfeld references the encyclopedia in his 1997 book about the German state in the 19th century.<sup>23</sup> Upon further inspection of Lindenfeld's work, I noticed that he was building substantially on a previous work that also referenced the *Staats-Lexikon*. I went on to investigate this work as well. This was a book by Hans Zehntner that was published in 1929. The title of which effectively translates to *A Study of the History of German Liberalism*.<sup>24</sup> I couldn't get much more information on this book or its author as Zehntner seems rather obscure, and the book is in German. However, as the *Staats-Lexikon* and its authors were pioneers of early German liberalism, it does make sense that the work would be included in a book concerned with the topic. Finally, I found a book by Michael Stolleis that cites the *Staats-Lexikon*.<sup>25</sup> Stolleis cites all of the editions, and he uses the encyclopedia to comment on Rotteck as well as the success and failure of the encyclopedia itself.<sup>26</sup> There are some additional offerings on Google Scholar, but these three struck me as being the most interesting and important. After seeing these works cite the *Staats-Lexikon*, it became clear to me that *Staats-Lexikon* did have a far-reaching legacy as a crucial early piece in German history.

Overall, I found my research to be productive and eye opening. The role that the *Staats-Lexikon* played in German society and politics at that time makes it an interesting and rewarding work to research and learn about. It was a highly influence piece that brought the most talented

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<sup>21</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Karl Mathy,"

<sup>22</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Robert von Mohl," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Robert\\_von\\_Mohl&oldid=181795841](https://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Robert_von_Mohl&oldid=181795841) (accessed November 14, 2018).

<sup>23</sup> David F. Lindenfeld, *The Practical Imagination: The German Sciences of State in the Nineteenth Century*. (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1997).

<sup>24</sup> Hans Zehntner, *Das Staatslexikon von Rotteck und Welcker. Eine Studie zur Geschichte des Deutschen Frühliberalismus*. (Jena, DE: Fischer, 1929).

<sup>25</sup> Michael Stolleis, *Public Law in Germany, 1800-1914*. (Oxford, UK: Berghahn Books 2001).

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

thinkers of the time together to promote liberalism across Germany. I see it almost like a German *Federalist Papers* of sorts. I believe I could expand my research much further, as there are still many untapped avenues of exploration regarding the *Staats-Lexikon*.

## Annotated Bibliography

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The ‘Gewerbefreiheit’ excerpt can be found in volume six of the first edition of the *Staats-Lexikon*. It is also a subsection of “Gewerbe un Fabrikwesen,” as in the second edition. However, it is clear that it is not the same version as the version from the second edition. This version is longer and credited to Mohl alone. There was likely an update to the excerpt for the second edition in which Mathy also contributed.
- Rotteck, Karl von, and Carl Theodor Welcker. *Das Staats-Lexikon: Encyklopädie der sämtlichen Staatswissenschaften für alle Stände*. Second Edition. Vol. 5. Altona: J.F. Hammerich, 1845-1848. pp 747-750. (volume not available online).  
In the second edition, ‘Gewebefreiheit,’ also appears as a subsection of the larger article “Gewerbe und Fabrikwesen.” This is the edition and volume that GHDI uses, and it serves as the original document for the exploration. Both Mohl and Mathy are credited on this edition, and it is shorter than the version from the first edition.
- Rotteck, Karl von, and Carl Theodor Welcker. *Das Staats-Lexikon: Encyklopädie der sämtlichen Staatswissenschaften für alle Stände. In Verbindung mit vielen der angesehensten Publicisten Deutschlands*. Third Edition. Vol. 6. Leipzig: F.A. Brockhaus, 1856-1866. pp 549-568. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b3455258;view=1up;seq=575>  
This edition is missing the “Gewerbe un Fabrikwesen” article. In its place is “Gewerbe,” which does make mention of ‘Gewerbefreiheit.’ However, this article is not credited to Mohl or Mathy, but it is instead credited to W.A. Lette. It is likely that, while they both mention ‘Gewerbefreiheit,’ these articles are very different from one another. The original article from the first two editions was likely completely removed from the third.
- Zehntner, Hans. *Das Staatslexikon von Rotteck und Welcker. Eine Studie zur Geschichte des Deutschen Frühliberalismus*. Jena, DE: Fischer, 1929. <https://books.google.com/books?id=gl6mswEACAAJ&dq=zehntner,+hans&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjh5bm25tbeAhUI2IMKHfDjAMkQ6AEIKDAA>  
This book was published in 1929. The book is rather obscure, and it is in German, so the most I could glean from it was through a translation of its title. Its title translates to *The State Dictionary of Rotteck and Welcker: A Study on the History of Early German Liberalism*, which clearly suggests that the book uses the *Staats-Lexikon* as a principal part of an examination of early German liberalism.
- Lindenfeld, David, F. *The Practical Imagination: The German Sciences of State in the Nineteenth Century*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1997. [https://books.google.com/books?id=AH9Op36QXacC&dq=lindenfeld&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](https://books.google.com/books?id=AH9Op36QXacC&dq=lindenfeld&source=gbs_navlinks_s).  
This book not only references the *Staats-Lexikon* itself, but it also cites the previous book

by Zehntner as one of its sources. This book confirmed for me the idea that Rotteck and Welcker had contrasting viewpoints on various aspects of liberalism and how best to approach this philosophy.

- Stolleis, Michael. *Public Law in Germany, 1800-1914*. Oxford, UK: Berghahn Books, 2001.

[https://books.google.com/books?id=GpvBc61vwqsC&dq=stolleis&source=gbs\\_navlinks\\_s](https://books.google.com/books?id=GpvBc61vwqsC&dq=stolleis&source=gbs_navlinks_s)

I was able to see some of Stolleis' opinions on the *Staats-Lexikon*. He states that after the revolution in 1848, the *Staats-Lexikon* lost its steam as did optimism surrounding German liberalism. He also notes that the encyclopedia was far from perfect and served more as a collection point for liberal ideas as the opinions of the various authors often disagreed. I found this to be the most informative of the three texts, and I thought it was interesting and necessary to see some of the failings of the *Staats-Lexikon*.

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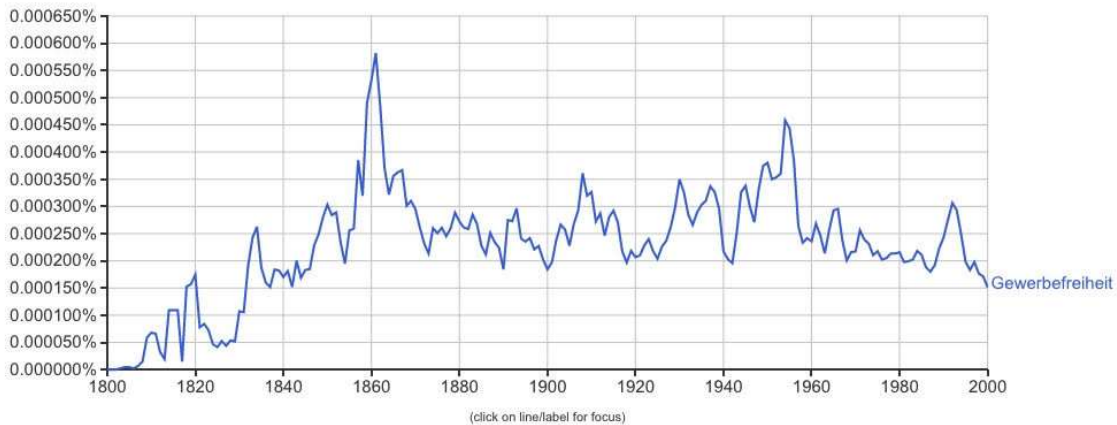
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