

Bismarck's Anti-Socialist Laws as Seen by U.S. Newspapers

- Bismarck, "Anti-Socialist Law" (October 21, 1878), at: *German History in Documents and Images*, "From Forging an Empire: Bismarckian Germany (1866-1890)," http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/pdf/eng/713_Anti%20Socialist%20Law_218.pdf, Accessed October 28, 2015. (or: http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1843)
This law, passed on October 19, 1878, was one of Bismarck's most oppressive and was the main part in his fight against the Social Democratic Party, which was gaining ground at the time. While his goal was to get rid of the party, Social Democrats still met in secret and became even more organized and solid which allowed them to gain even more followers after the laws were lifted.

In the source proposal I looked at how U.S. newspapers reacted to the news of Bismarck's Anti-Socialist Laws.

- Source of original German text: *Das Staatsarchiv* [The State Archive], vol. 34, no. 6797 (1878): pp. 45ff., also *Reichsgesetzblatt* [Reich Law Gazette] (1878): pp. 351ff; reprinted in Ernst Rudolf Huber, ed., *Dokumente zur Deutschen Verfassungsgeschichte* [Documents on German Constitutional History], 3rd rev. ed., vol. 2, 1851-1900. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1986, pp. 464-69
- "The German Anti-Socialist Bill: Amendments Proposed by the Liberals Distasteful to the Government—the Second Reading in the Parliament Committee Begun"
***New York Times*, October 2, 1878**
This article was originally published in the *New York Times* and was written based off of information obtained from a *Times* correspondent in Berlin. This article is written prior to the enactment of the laws and is about the debates before their approval. There is one section obtained from London and one from Berlin. The one from London says that the German liberals are proposing that the bill be enacted for 2.5 years, and Bismarck is threatening dissolution of the Reichstag if the bill doesn't get passed. The Berlin segment says that in the Second reading of the bill, Count von Eulenburg (minister of the Interior) said that the first reading seemed acceptable but the government wants to make minor changes including giving no definite end date to the law. This article sheds light on the interest Americans had in international politics and because Germany was taking over the world stage they were interested in the type of leadership running the government.
- "Bismarck Abroad and at Home"
***San Francisco Chronicle*, October 7, 1878** ([proquest link](#))
There is no author for this article, published by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, a division of Hearst Communications. This article supports the view of Bismarck's known enemy, Dr. Rudolph Virchow, which states that Bismarck is a great diplomat but horrible statesman. Dr. Virchow and Bismarck were on opposing sides in the debate for navy funding in 1865. During the debates, Dr. Virchow verbally attacked Bismarck and in response Bismarck challenged him to a duel. Virchow responded by sending Bismarck two sausages and said one was poison and whichever one Bismarck

didn't eat, Virchow himself would eat. Bismarck refused and no duel was fought. The author gives examples of this behavior and then states that under Bismarck Germany has risen to the top of Europe yet is failing internally. The German people are miserable and by taking away Socialism, Bismarck is taking away their voice and well-being.

- “The Anti-Socialist Law: Essential Provisions of the New German Measure”

***New York Times*, November 10, 1878**

The author of this *New York Times* article was a Berlin Correspondent of the *London Standard*. This source is a compilation of the main points of the Anti-Socialist Laws (articles 1, 11, 12, 13, 22, 26, and 27). The article is strictly fact, gives no opinion on the laws, and is the second article in the General Interest column. The fact that this falls under the general interest column leads me to believe that readers were more interested in an article that would give an opinion or an explanation rather than a law that they would have to interpret themselves.