Jackson Hall

12/6/15

History 133A

“We Germans Fear God and Nothing Else in the World!”

1. Otto von Bismarck. *"We Germans Fear God and Nothing Else in the World!": Bismarck Addresses the Reichstag.* February 6, 1888.

**Description:** The source that I have chosen to explore is Otto von Bismarck’s “Speech to the Reichstag on Diplomacy,” delivered on February 6, 1888. I found the source on German History in Documents and Images website at this URL: [http://germanhistorydocs.ghidc.org/sub\_document.cfm?document\_id=1865](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1865). The source is listed under the title, “’We Germans fear God and Nothing Else in the World!’: Bismarck Addresses the Reichstag” on the GHDI website. The original German source of the text is found in the Stenographic Reports on the Proceedings of the Reichstag. This speech is mainly a warning to the German people to refrain from getting entangled in wars and conflicts with other nations. The speech is famous for its nationalistic and religious vocabulary, however, including the speech’s most famous line, “We Germans fear God and nothing else in the world!”. Bismarck is attempting to portray Germany’s restraint, but also ignite its passion as one of the strongest countries in the world. This speech was delivered shortly before the end of Bismarck’s reign as Chancellor in 1890.

1. Theodore S. Hamerow. *The Age of Bismarck: Documents and Interpretations*. Harper & Row. 1973. 538 pages.

**Description:** Theodore S. Hamerow is an American historian who specializes in nineteenth and twentieth century German history. Hamerow includes this speech in a compilation of documents written by, and about Bismarck. Hamerow uses this speech to demonstrate Bismarck’s use of nationalism, and also his foreign policy towards the end of his run as Chancellor.

1. Edmund Burke. *The Annual Register of World Events: A Review of the Year*. Longmans, Green, 1889. Print.

**Description:** This is the earliest book that I found that referenced this speech. This suggests that the speech was translated into English almost immediately. The famous quotation, “We Germans fear God…” is found on page 269. It is included with a larger portion of the speech. It is used to portray Germany’s attitude towards rival powers during the year 1888. The book states that the speech was received with “endless enthusiasm” from the Reichstag. *The Annual Register of World Events* is a reference work that compiles major world events. Edmund Burke created *The Annual Register*. He was an Irish born member of English Parliament.

1. John Henry Wright. *A History of All Nations from the Earliest Times: Being a Universal Historical Library*. Lea Brothers & company, 1905. Print.

**Description:** This book is a 24-volume history of the world written and compiled by John Henry Wright. John Henry Wright was an American scholar. The speech is used in a wider section of the book about European foreign policy. Wright describes the situation preceding the speech, and then describes Bismarck’s simultaneous restraint and strength. Wright claims the speech was directed to Europe as a whole rather than just the Reichstag, and states that the speech had a quieting effect on the rest of the continent.

1. Munroe Smith. *Military Strategy Versus Diplomacy in Bismarck’s Time and Afterwards*. Ginn, 1915. Print**.**

**Description:** This piece was originally published in Political Science Quarterly. The original can be found at Harvard University. It is a comparison of military strategy in Bismarck’s time and in WWI. Munroe Smith is an American political scientist and professor, and the founder of Political Science Quarterly. The speech is used to outline the advantages of a defensive approach to war rather than an offensive approach. Smith claims that countries that are attacked have more to fight for and uses a portion of Bismarck’s speech to back this up.