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Professor Marcuse

History 133A Fall 2015

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Source Exploration Assignment

**Link to Source:** <http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=778>

**Title of Source**: Terminating the Reinsurance Treaty with Russia (1890)

**Source Description**: Memorandum by Count von Berchem, undersecretary at the Foreign Office.
Clean copy given to Chancellor von Caprivi on March 25, filed by him on March 28

**Source:** *Die große Politik der europäischen Kabinette 1871-1914* [*The Great Power Politics of the European Governments, 1871-1914.*] From the diplomatic files of the German Foreign Ministry, edited by Johannes Lepsius, Albrecht Mendelssohn Bartholdy, and Friedrich Thimme, vol. 7. Berlin, 1923, pp. 4-6.

**Source Contents and information about the source:**

* The source claims that the treaty does no protect Germany from an attack from France but it prevents Germany from defending Austria or launching an attack on France.
* Germany argues that the treaty does not benefit them and allows Russia to determine a future European

**Writer of the Memorandum:** Count Von Berchem

* A German Wikipedia biography states that he was a German diplomat and ministry official
	+ Studied law at Heidelberg University and joined the diplomatic service of the Kingdom of Bavaria.
	+ During the Franco-German War he was a representative of Bavaria in GHQ.
	+ He was the first secretary in St. Petersburg.
	+ Source: <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximilian_von_Berchem>
* Von Berchem is mention in the Book German Diplomatic Relation 1871-1945 on page 61. The author of the book is William Young this books is found in google books.
	+ He served as Under State Secretary (1886-90) was put in charge of division II
	+ Source: https://books.google.com/books?id=UftWq64mmyoC&pg=PA61&lpg=PA61&dq=count+von+berchem&source=bl&ots=PZAnOdHP1T&sig=98lxzUH6OCROuls2y571S52N77k&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi377\_546nJAhVBSWMKHWNgBLoQ6AEIJTAB#v=onepage&q=count%20von%20berchem&f=false

**Translation:** Adam Blauhut

* In searching the translator he came up in a website on Psycho Analyse found at the Jewish Museum of Berlin.
* On the GHDI website he has a description, B.A. Boston University, 1983 and M.A. in Free University, Berlin, 2004

**Reinsurance Treaty**

* Online Britannica describes it as a secret treaty on June 18, 1887 between Germany and Russia arranged by the German chancellor Otto Von Bismarck. When this treaty was no renewed it gave rise to the Franco-Russian alliance.
* GHDI has the secret treaty with the articles of the treaty on its website.
* Bismarck arranged the treaty and also appointed Von Berchem creating a link between the two.
* Google scholar turned up a few books on the German treaties
	+ Decline of Bismarck’s European Order
		- <http://ahr.oxfordjournals.org/content/85/1/local/back-matter.pdf>
	+ Key Treaties of the Great Poers 1814-1914
		- Hurst, Michael, ed. Key Treaties for the Great Powers, 1814-1914. Vol. 2. David and Charles, 1972.
* Google Books Ngram Viewer demonstrate a peak in 1918 on the reinsurance treaty that stay consistent until 1958 and peaks again in the 1980s the books associated with the peak in the 1980’s are books about Bismarck and the German Empire.

**Book in which source is found Edited By:** Johannes Lepsius

* On a Wikipedia biography his work in Die große Politik der europäischen is refrenced.
* He has an extensive biography in a German Wikipedia page.
* The translation of the Wikipedia biography says that he was a German Theologian and orientalist.
* He focused more on the Armenian genocide than the German documents he edited.

**Google Books Ngram Viewer:**

* The book Die große Politik der europäischen Kabinette 1871-1914 which translates to The Major policy of European Cabinets was used highly between 1920 and 1930
	+ The reference to this book had a continues decline until the years between 1947 and 1955 which was the end of World War II and the reconstruction of Germany began.
	+ After 1957 the reference begins to continuously decline once more.
	+ I looked up various excerpts of the text in Ngram viewer in the original German language and did not find any mention to the document.
	+ I also looked up mentions in English and no data was available.

**Melvyl/World Cat:**

* I was able to find the main book in which the source is found at the UCSB library however there is multiple volumes.
* Volume 7 was available on the 4th floor of the Davidson Library the text that contains the Memorandum was completely in German and had no barcode due to not having been checked out in years.

**Google Scholar:**

* Below are the Books or citations that refer back to the book which is volume 7 that contains the memorandum, google scholar produced relevant data.
	+ Lewy, Guenter. The Armenian massacres in Ottoman Turkey: a disputed genocide. University of Utah Press, 2005.
	+ White, John Albert. The Diplomacy of the Russo-Japanese War. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1964.
	+ Wilson, Keith M. The Policy of the Entente: Essays on the Determinants of British Foreign Policy 1904-1914. Cambridge University Press, 1985.
* Looking up a paragraph of the memorandum in google scholar resulted in 2 results however they text was in German.
	+ The same text in English did not yield any relevant results.
* Julius Von Eckard quoted a piece from the Memorandum before it had been published.
	+ Julius von Eckard quote is found in Aus den tagen von Bismarcks kampf gegen Caprivi which is found in google books the link to that document is <https://www.google.com/search?num=30&newwindow=1&safe=off&biw=1224&bih=922&tbm=bks&q=%22verweigern+wir+den+%C3%96sterreichern+die+Bundeshilfe%22&oq=%22verweigern+wir+den+%C3%96sterreichern+die+Bundeshilfe%22&gs_l=serp.3...6135.6135.0.6485.1.1.0.0.0.0.100.100.0j1.1.0.ckpsrh...0...1.1.64.serp..1.0.0.jkslBN33AyE>
	+ A historian and Ambassador Julius Von Eckard used the memoir of Count Von Berchem and said it was an important piece, because it predicts a war.
	+ Julius Von Eckard quoted a piece from the Memorandum before it had been published.