

Pearson Edexcel
International Advanced Level

History

International Advanced

Paper 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation

Option 1C: Germany: United, Divided and Reunited, 1870–1990

Wednesday 25 January 2017 – Morning

Sources Booklet

Paper Reference

WHI03/1C

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Sources for use with Section A.

Source 1: From a speech by Bismarck to the Reichstag in 1881. He is reflecting on the decade since the proclamation of the new German Reich.

It may be thought that I have often acted hastily and without reflection. However, when I myself have had time to think, I have always asked what is useful, effective and right for my Prussian fatherland, for my Emperor and now for the German Nation.

I have never been politically unbending and inflexible. I confess that liberal, reactionary, conservative viewpoints all seem to me to be luxuries. Give me a strong German State, and then ask me whether it should have more or less liberal features, and you will find that I answer: I have no fixed opinions. Make proposals and you will not meet any objections of principle from me. 5

Sometimes one must rule liberally, and sometimes dictatorially; there are no eternal rules. My aim from the first moment of my public activity has been the creation and consolidation of Germany. If you can show a single moment when I deviated, you may prove that I went wrong, but never that I lost sight of the national aim for a moment. 10

Source 2: From a speech by Eugen Richter to the Reichstag in 1890. He was one of the leaders of the Progress Party and had been a critic of many of Bismarck's policies towards Socialists, Catholics and Jews. Here he is commenting on Bismarck's government.

The Reich would have been better without the system of government which Prince Bismarck believed in. We are not saying this on account of his person. But it is our deepest conviction that an extension of the domestic policy pursued from the beginning of the Reich, especially of the kind initiated in 1877, would actually have brought Germany to ruin, had it been continued. 15

Not only this, but existing religious differences were heightened, through the battle over church policy. This was carried out by way of the police and criminal regulations. Additionally, there has been a rampant growth of interest parties. They have been striving ruthlessly to exploit state authority at the expense of the general good of the people. Their growth can be attributed to the policy of protective tariffs and to the kind of agitation for protective tariffs that Prince Bismarck, as Chancellor, personally called for and fuelled. The incitement of the parties against each other, the suspicions cast upon people's patriotism, and the denial of patriotism to any political dissident, all result from the tone that the Chancellor adopted against all those who just once expressed views differing from his. He built up a blind cult of authority around himself. This kind of politics has brought much damage. 20 25 30

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