

Chapter 1 : History of the German Empire () | About History

The German Empire (German: Deutsches Kaiserreich, officially Deutsches Reich), also known as Imperial Germany, was the German nation state that existed from the Unification of Germany in until the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II in

Unification of Germany Otto von Bismarck , the visionary statesman who unified Germany with the help of his skillful political moves and the exploitation of encountered opportunities The German Confederation had been created by an act of the Congress of Vienna on 8 June as a result of the Napoleonic Wars , after being alluded to in Article 6 of the Treaty of Paris. He envisioned a conservative, Prussian-dominated Germany. Three wars led to military successes and helped to persuade German people to do this: The German Confederation ended as a result of the Austro-Prussian War of between the constituent Confederation entities of the Austrian Empire and its allies on one side and the Kingdom of Prussia and its allies on the other. The war resulted in the partial replacement of the Confederation in by a North German Confederation , comprising the 22 states north of the Main. The patriotic fervour generated by the Franco-Prussian War overwhelmed the remaining opposition to a unified Germany aside from Austria in the four states south of the Main and during November they joined the North German Confederation by treaty. The political system remained the same. The empire had a parliament called the Reichstag , which was elected by universal male suffrage. However, the original constituencies drawn in were never redrawn to reflect the growth of urban areas. As a result, by the time of the great expansion of German cities in the s and first decade of the 20th century, rural areas were grossly over-represented. From left, on the podium in black: At centre in white: Legislation also required the consent of the Bundesrat , the federal council of deputies from the 27 states. Executive power was vested in the emperor, or Kaiser, who was assisted by a chancellor responsible only to him. The emperor was given extensive powers by the constitution. He alone appointed and dismissed the chancellor so in practice the emperor ruled the empire through the chancellor , was supreme commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and final arbiter of all foreign affairs, and could also disband the Reichstag to call for new elections. Officially, the chancellor was a one-man cabinet and was responsible for the conduct of all state affairs; in practice, the State Secretaries bureaucratic top officials in charge of such fields as finance, war, foreign affairs, etc. The Reichstag had the power to pass, amend, or reject bills and to initiate legislation. However, as mentioned above, in practice the real power was vested in the emperor, who exercised it through his chancellor. Although nominally a federal empire and league of equals, in practice, the empire was dominated by the largest and most powerful state, Prussia. Prussia stretched across the northern two-thirds of the new Reich and contained three-fifths of its population. The imperial crown was hereditary in the ruling house of Prussia, the House of Hohenzollern. With the exception of " and ", the chancellor was always simultaneously the prime minister of Prussia. With 17 out of 58 votes in the Bundesrat, Berlin needed only a few votes from the smaller states to exercise effective control. The other states retained their own governments, but had only limited aspects of sovereignty. For example, both postage stamps and currency were issued for the empire as a whole. Coins through one mark were also minted in the name of the empire, while higher-valued pieces were issued by the states. However, these larger gold and silver issues were virtually commemorative coins and had limited circulation. While the states issued their own decorations and some had their own armies, the military forces of the smaller ones were put under Prussian control. Those of the larger states, such as the Kingdoms of Bavaria and Saxony, were coordinated along Prussian principles and would in wartime be controlled by the federal government. The evolution of the German Empire is somewhat in line with parallel developments in Italy, which became a united nation-state a decade earlier. One factor in the social anatomy of these governments was the retention of a very substantial share in political power by the landed elite , the Junkers , resulting from the absence of a revolutionary breakthrough by the peasants in combination with urban areas. Although authoritarian in many respects, the empire had some democratic features. Besides universal suffrage, it permitted the development of political parties. In the process, he created a system with a serious flaw. There was a significant disparity between the Prussian and German electoral systems. As mentioned above, the king and with two exceptions the prime minister of Prussia were also the emperor and chancellor of the empire " "

meaning that the same rulers had to seek majorities from legislatures elected from completely different franchises. Universal suffrage was significantly diluted by gross over-representation of rural areas from the s onward.

Chapter 2 : The German Empire, by Hans-Ulrich Wehler

Germany from to The German Empire, The German Empire was founded on January 18, , in the aftermath of three successful wars by the North German state of Prussia.

The German Empire - Historical Maps and Plans Warning: It was called so for the Empire consisted of 27 constituent territories most of which was governed by the respective royal families. This unique subdivision, totally differing from the present days, can be seen on the old maps of Germany, available at this site. Even though Prussia contained most of the German territories yet its political and cultural influence had diminished and the leaders of Prussia were replaced by leaders from different parts of Germany. The three large neighboring countries of the Empire were all its greatest rivals: Russia to the east, Austria- Hungary to the south east and France to the west. The empire had no less than 26 territories. The empire had a total area of , square kilometers. Its highest point was the Zugspitze Mountains reaching an elevation of 2, m. The empire started with a population of 41 million people and by it had increased to 68 million, consequently the expansion of German cities led to rural areas. The German Empire had dreamed of colonial expansion and imperialism since and Bismarck started the process acquiring German New Guinea by Railways developed and by Germany had 9, locomotives carrying 43, passengers. Industries flourished and competed with the so called invincible industries of Britain. Germany was blamed for starting the war or at least provoking it. The war began and Germany first attacked its arch enemy and neighbor, France. Unlike Russia and Britain, France had joined the war solely for revenge especially for the loss of Alsace-Lorraine to Germany in On the western front the German armies fought against France and Britain but it was a futile struggle as Austria and Turkey constantly demanded troops to be sent. Towards the eastern front the Germans became victorious with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The declaration for unrestricted submarine warfare in was made to strangle the British, the operation was a failure but it brought the United States into the war along with its large supply of men, armaments, foods and money. By the time the Americans entered in full vigor, Germans had started retreating in August. Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire had completely collapsed. The imperial German Empire met its end with the November Revolution, the emperor as well as the ruling kings and dukes abdicated their throne, establishing the rule of the republic government.

Chapter 3 : ratisbon's | German Empire (-)

German Empire The German Empire (German: Deutsches Kaiserreich) is the common name given to the state officially named Deutsches Reich (literally: "German Realm"), designating Germany from the unification of Germany and proclamation of Wilhelm I as German Emperor on 18 January, to , when it became a federal republic after.

He envisioned a conservative, Prussian-dominated Germany. Three wars led to military successes and helped to persuade German people to do this: During November the four southern states joined the North German Confederation by treaty. Left, on the podium in black: However, the original constituencies drawn in were never redrawn to reflect the growth of urban areas. The emperor was given extensive powers by the constitution. He alone appointed and dismissed the chancellor which in practice was used by the emperor to rule the empire through him , was supreme commander-in-chief of the armed forces, final arbiter of all foreign affairs, and could also disband the Reichstag to call for new elections. However, as mentioned above, in practice the real power was vested in the emperor, who exercised it through his chancellor. Although nominally a league of equals, in practice the empire was dominated by the largest and most powerful state, Prussia. With the exception of the years " and ", the chancellor was always simultaneously the prime minister of Prussia. The other states retained their own governments, but had only limited aspects of sovereignty. For example, both postage stamps and currency were issued for the empire as a whole. Coins through one mark was also minted in the name of the empire, while higher valued pieces were issued by the states. Those of the larger states, such as the Kingdoms of Bavaria and Saxony, were coordinated along Prussian principles and would in wartime be controlled by the federal government. The evolution of the German Empire is somewhat in line with parallel developments in Italy which became a united nation state shortly before the German Empire. Although authoritarian in many respects, the empire had some democratic features. Besides universal suffrage, it permitted the development of political parties. In the process, he created a system with a serious flaw. There was a significant disparity between the Prussian and German electoral systems. As mentioned above, the king and with two exceptions the prime minister of Prussia were also the emperor and chancellor of the empire " meaning that the same rulers had to seek majorities from legislatures elected from completely different franchises. As mentioned above, rural areas were grossly overrepresented from the s onward. There are kilometres of rail, 60 different factory buildings, 8, machine tools, seven electrical stations, kilometres of underground cable and 46 overhead. German workers enjoyed health, accident and maternity benefits, canteens, changing rooms and a national pension scheme.

Chapter 4 : German Empire - Simple English Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This new empire was led by the Prussian state, due to it having the most population and land within the empire, and so the Prussian Kings became the German Emperors, the new Empire's capital was moved to Berlin and Otto von Bismarck became the chancellor of this new Empire.

Within a seven-year period Denmark, the Habsburg monarchy, and France were vanquished in short, decisive conflicts. The German Empire, at its birth Germany occupied an area of 540,000 square miles, 1,400,000 square km and had a population of more than 41 million, which was to grow to 67 million by 1914. The religious makeup was 63 percent Protestant, 36 percent Roman Catholic, and 1 percent Jewish. The nation was ethnically homogeneous apart from a modest-sized Polish minority and smaller Danish, French, and Sorbian populations. Approximately 67 percent lived in villages and the remainder in towns and cities. Domestic concerns From its origins in 1871, the empire was governed under the constitution designed four years earlier by Otto von Bismarck, the Prussian prime minister, for the North German Confederation. This constitution reflected the predominantly rural nature of Germany in 1871 and the authoritarian proclivities of Bismarck, who was a member of the Junker landowning elite. There were two houses: The former comprised members elected by universal manhood suffrage and a secret ballot. The constituencies established in 1871 and were never altered to reflect population shifts, and rural areas thus retained a vastly disproportionate share of power as urbanization progressed. Most legislative proposals were submitted to the Bundesrat first and to the Reichstag only if they were approved by the upper house. Although members of the Reichstag could question the chancellor about his policies, the legislative bodies were rarely consulted about the conduct of foreign affairs. Imperial ministers were chosen by and were responsible to the emperor rather than to the legislature. A problem that was to plague the empire throughout its existence was the disparity between the Prussian and imperial political systems. In Prussia the lower house was elected under a restricted three-class suffrage system, an electoral law that allowed the richest 15 percent of the male population to choose approximately 85 percent of the delegates. A conservative majority was always assured in Prussia, whereas the universal manhood suffrage resulted in increasing majorities for the political centre and left-wing parties in the imperial parliament. William I was both German emperor in 1871 and king of Prussia in 1871. Apart from two brief instances the imperial chancellor was simultaneously prime minister of Prussia. Thus, the executives had to seek majorities from two separate legislatures elected by radically different franchises. A further problem was that government ministers were generally selected from the civil service or the military. They often had little experience with parliamentary government or foreign affairs. The constitution had been designed by Bismarck to give the chancellor and monarch primary decision-making power. Female suffrage had not been proposed because politics was considered a male preserve at the time. The Progressives, a left-wing liberal party, were expected to do poorly in the two-thirds of Germany that was rural in 1871. Bismarck had not counted on new parties such as the Centre Party, a Roman Catholic confessional party, or the Social Democratic Party Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands; SPD, both of which began participating in imperial and Prussian elections in the early 1870s. The Centre generally received 20–25 percent of the total vote in all elections. The SPD grew from 2 seats in the first imperial election to 35 by 1890, when the SPD actually gained a plurality of votes. Liberals saw the Roman Catholic church as politically reactionary and feared the appeal of a clerical party to the more than one-third of Germans who professed Roman Catholicism. Both Bismarck and the liberals doubted the loyalty of the Catholic population to the Prussian-centred and, therefore, primarily Protestant nation. In Prussia the minister of ecclesiastical affairs and education, Adalbert Falk, introduced a series of bills establishing civil marriage, limiting the movement of the clergy, and dissolving religious orders. All church appointments were to be approved by the state. As a result hundreds of parishes and several bishoprics were left without incumbents. Clerical civil servants were purged from the Prussian administration. The Kulturkampf failed to achieve its goals and, if anything, convinced the Roman Catholic minority that their fear of persecution was real and that a confessional party to represent their interests was essential. By the late 1870s Bismarck abandoned the battle as a failure. He now launched a campaign against the SPD in concert with the two conservative parties and many

National Liberals. Fearing the potential of the Social Democrats in a rapidly industrializing Germany, Bismarck found a majority to outlaw the party from 1878 to 1890, although constitutionally it could not be forbidden to participate in elections. Party offices and newspapers were closed down and meetings prohibited. Many socialists fled to Switzerland and sought to keep the party alive in exile. During the 1890s Bismarck also sought to win the workers away from socialism by introducing legislation granting them modest pensions, accident insurance, and a national system of medical coverage. Like the Kulturkampf, the campaign against the SPD was a failure, and, when the elections showed enormous gains for the Reichsfeinde, Bismarck began to consider having the German princes reconvene, as in 1871, to draw up a new constitution. Thus, Bismarck, the architect of German unity, left the scene in a humiliating fashion, believing that his creation was fatally flawed. Indeed, his policy of supporting rapid social and economic modernization while avoiding any reform of the authoritarian political system did lead to an atmosphere of persistent crisis.

Chapter 5 : Constitution of the German Empire - Wikipedia

They were Germans with fresh slavic roots, germanized in times of Austrian, Prussian or German empires, an effect of germanizing policies that Prussia, German Empire, on smaller extent Austria took since late XVIII century.

Posted by Alcibiades Nov 22, Modern History 0 Germany, since the fall of the Frankish Empire had not been under a unified leadership, unlike the French, or the English, or the Spanish, up until the formation of the German Empire under a single government in January of 1871. Up until its formation Germany had always found itself loosely combined in confederations at best. From there Napoleon set up smaller German states, the Confederation of the Rhineland being an example of one of these such states. In 1815, after the defeat of Napoleon, there was convened the Congress of Vienna, and the German Confederation was formed, with Austria at its head. This German Confederation, was a sort of updated Holy Roman Empire, but it ignored the power of the Prussian State in the north and because of that, tensions were at a constant rise between the Hohenzollern and Habsburg Monarchs. Even though this confederation of German states was the result of backlash against French Revolutionary Ideals, there was still a growth of the ideals throughout the Confederation. On top of Revolutionary ideals, there too was the economic call for German unity, which was led by certain high level German credit unions. With Bismarck at its helm, the Prussian state would win three decisive wars, and become the leader of a new confederation. Within seven years Prussia won a war against Denmark, Austria and France. With a victory in Denmark, German interest were protected in the Jutland peninsula, with victory over Austria in the Austro-Prussian War the North German Confederation was formed with Prussia as its nominal leader and excluded Austria from its affairs, and finally victory in the Franco-Prussian War which ended in Alsace-Lorraine being ceded to the confederation. With all of these victories, the German Princes proclaimed a German Empire. Unlike most empires this was not done out of nationality but rather formed diplomatically. In one instance he attempted to convince the nations of Europe to gain some control over who would be elected Pope, though this failed, he eventually started to arrest Priests and Bishops. Kulturkampf would become not only domestic policy and a way to deal with the Catholics in Germany but also a foreign policy and way of dealing with enemy Catholic nations; France and Belgium, in attempts to destabilize them. Alsace-Lorraine in the west was French and he took sometime to integrate that population into the newly formed Empire. In the east there was the strongly Polish population, in which he had hoped would eventually integrate into more German like people culturally. While culture was a powerful unifier another problem had arisen, socialism. Bismarck especially hated socialism, so he implemented an Anti-Socialist law in 1878, which banned Socialists from organizing and meeting. He did this with little success though. After the three major wars that he had led Prussia through before the Imperial Unification he sought to lead the empire into years of peace. He would spend his entire time as Chancellor of the German Empire diplomatically enforcing peace on the European Continent. First the Balkans were a powder keg. With the recent disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, Russian and Austrian Interests could lead to a massive war. Second is France, who sought to regain the land lost in the Franco-Prussian War. Though this league was short lived. Eventually this league failed, due to Russian warmongering in the Balkans and with Turkey, so Germany and Austria formed the Dual alliance that would last until they lost World War 1. The Reassurance Treaty of 1879 was signed so that Russia would not go to war in the Balkans. Italy fearing French aggression decided to join Austria and Germany and they formed the Triple Alliance. The Reassurance Treaty of 1879 was dropped, freeing up Russian influence in the Balkans, and forcing the Empire to cling more tightly to its alliance with Austria-Hungary. Germany was extremely late to the game with most of its advances, nation state building, and Colonizing. The Empire sought to put itself at equal standing with all the other nations in the world, and so naval spending increased. While the growth of the navy was almost meaningless, due to the small bits of territory that Germany had gained, it caused a problem, that would later come back to bite Germany in the butt. Germany by the time of 1871 already had the best standing army in the world but they also had one of the most fastest growing navies in the world. So they sought an alliance with France and Russia, forming the Triple Entente. Germany was now surrounded by three major powers and allied against it. The deathblow to the German Empire did not come

from some major war they started. It had been from two things. Japan had issue with German intervention in China, England saw potential war for her colonies. Three powerful Empires were dismembered and forced to accept Democracies. By making these vacuums we gave the opening for the Hitlerite monster to crawl out of its sewer onto the vacant thrones.

Chapter 6 : German Empire - Wikipedia

Introduction. The Second Reich Germany () was a strange federal calendrierdelascience.com the course of the 19th century, the Kingdom of Prussia grew to become the most powerful of the various German states.

Flown by naval vessels not entitled to fly the war ensign. Adopted and abandoned by Illustrated in Crampton p. Norman Martin, The state ensign was adopted by the Bekanntmachung decree of 20 January , which read "ratio 2: It was possibly abolished in the Constitution of 11 August , which only mentions Reichsfarben national colours and Handelsflagge civil ensign. A new state ensign was introduced by the Verordnung decree of 11th April , but as this decree also says that former flags could be used until 1 January , it might be possible that the state ensign was in use until this date. Flown by government vessels not qualified to fly the [war] ensign or any of the Foreign Office ensigns. Norman Martin, An improved image of the State flag of Germany from - The image is dramatically improved by the finer details. He succeeded Fredrich I and this Coronation was in June of All streets of Berlin were decked out in such trapping. Wilhelm II was crowned 15 June The quartered small inescutcheon is from the Zollern Arms of The chain is from the Order of the Black Eagle. The floating crown is the Imperial Crown. Only the Emperor was allowed to use the eagle-escutcheon. Jarig Bakker, 11 Sep The described flag is the so-called "Reichsadlerflagge" Imperial eagle flag. Not an official flag, anyone was allowed to use it. An early variant of the Imperial colonial flag? In the British Volume, these flags appear below the sub-title "Public departments" with a note mentioning that "The following Badges are placed upon the Ensign as shewn below. Hired Transports, Vessels for Cargo Works etc. Other Royal Vessels belonging to Department of Trade. A further inscription informs the reader that the badges should be placed "in the lower left hand canton. Presumably all these flags fell into dis-use in as no mention of them exists in the Admiralty flag book of Martin Grieve, 26 Sep Just to clarify my presumption on the abolition date of There are 3 "landmark dates" that apply to flags of Imperial Germany and these are: Martin Grieve, 28 Sep [Editorial Comment: Jacks are normally flown from the bow of a docked vessel while in port, and Ensigns are normally flown from the stern rear of a vessel while at sea. Flags are usually flown on land. Image by Martin Grieve, 26 Sep I found a similar flag in [sig12] flagchart 22 row 4 column 2, showing a Prussian eagle in the centre, an iron cross in the upper hoist and the four red crossed anchors in the lower hoist. It is underlined as Arbeiter Fahrzeuge p. Whatever that means, I believe it is a flag of non-combat vessels according to English terms probably denoted as "auxiliary vessels. The album proceeds to enlighten its audience that there were jacks for these departments, presumably flown from the front, but this raises a question: Where the ensigns are flown from the stern or would the flag that occupied that position have been the merchant vessels red-white-black, and if so, where would the defaced German ensign be situated? The images below are jacks of: These are the Black-White-Red horizontal tricolours of Imperial Germany with the various devices on the middle of the white stripe. Martin Grieve, 27 Sep [Editorial Comment:

The German Empire ("Deutsches Reich" or "Deutsches Kaiserreich" in the German language) is the name for a group of German countries from January 18, to November 9,

The gains in power will be wiped out in the next great upheaval of world history. But the oppression wrought was a disaster which can never be put right. There are a few areas to highlight which get to the core of the book. Chapter 1 gives the background on the agrarian and industrial revolutions as well as the founding of the state pp , Chapter 2 deals with economic development during the second empire pp , Chapter 3 is on the ruling system and politics pp and then there is a short concluding section of twelve pages. So whole swathes of life are outside the scope of the study or touched on incidentally as they interact with the political system for instance education and socialisation. Wehler was born in Sometimes this is explicit, generally implicit. Not inevitable, but the widespread acceptability of the regime is explicable as is its capacity for extreme actions. The problem with this is that the question then is how did the Weimar Republic manage to survive as long as it did. This book was published in which is important for two reasons. Firstly it comes after the Fischer controversy. Here the issue is a major one throughout the text - the lack of international comparison. The other point about the date of publication is that it comes after In at the Christian-Democrat party conference Chancellor Kiesinger was slapped in the face by Beate Klarsfeld as she called him a Nazi. Kiesinger had in fact been a party member. This book is the child not only of an outbreak of liberalism but of a preparedness to be critical of society and its structures. To examine how these work and who benefits from them rather than to accept them as neutral and tending to produce a universally acceptable common good. Finally Wehler also acknowledges that the book is heavily focused on Prussia. The Second Empire was a federal state and the states preserved varying degrees of independence with centralisation strongest in the military. So there is a risk of assuming that what was normal for Prussia and Prussia itself was diverse including both the large estate agriculture of aristocrats east of the Elbe as well as bustling, Catholic, industrial cities in the Rhineland was normal for the whole of Germany. The story of the Second Empire is the story of the struggle with the transition to modernity. The agrarian and industrial revolutions were faster than in Britain and France and as Gerschenkron observed the more complicated the resulting problems. The attempts to deal with these, and here Bismarck is a central figure, led to a society in which power was increasingly the domain of aristocrats and certain industrial elites while others were excluded and politically demonised. This served to create a notion of a peaceful, conflict-free and united society as an ideal, but the other side of the coin was that descent, disagreement or simply non-conformance was portrayed as a threat. Particular victims of this included Catholics, Danes, Poles, Alsatians not the dogs, but the people , pro-Austrians, Jews and Social Democrats and anybody who was further left. The cynicism of this remains remarkable as some of those groups Danes, Alsatians had unwillingly found themselves in the new German Empire only as a result of its violent expansion, others Poles, Jews, Catholics, Social Democrats had long-lived inside the borders of the various German states and in the case of Catholics were in some places the majority population. The alienation of those groups within society was at times presented in medical terms, Bismarck described the Polish nobility as a national Trichinosis. People presented as internal enemies were not simply seen as intrinsically disloyal but not even human. Conscription was disproportionately drawn from rural areas and small towns and the officer corps dominated by the nobility explicitly to limit the influence of subversive or simply untrustworthy recruits who might harbour Liberal or, God forbid, Social Democratic political sentiments. The army may have been the school for the nation but admission was strictly controlled. The non-nobleman could aspire to the glamour of it all by becoming an officer in the reserve, or joining a military association. When it came to war in , with the exception of Karl Liebknecht, even the numerous Social Democrats in the Reichstag voted in favour of war loans to fund the conflict. This was foreshadowed by the actions of the Catholic Centre party in voting for Colonial policies for the expansion of the fleet. On the one hand official hostility led to a desire to demonstrate loyalty, but equally perhaps the internalisation of the values promulgated from above was insidious. In short Wehler describes a revolution from above. While in *Thinking in Systems* one reads that the purpose of

hierarchies is for the upper levels to benefit the lower strata the opposite principle was applied in this case. This began in agriculture with the emancipation of the Prussian peasantry from Personal freedom was bought either by ceding land or by paying cash. Prussia established a mortgage bank for peasants which provided a source of finance to buy personal freedom from the aristocrats. This enabled the growth of large estate agriculture, particularly east of the Elbe. As a result the aristocracy were in the first half of the nineteenth century cash rich and enthusiastic supporters of free-trade. Unsurprisingly noblemen like Otto von Bismarck turned out also to be enthusiastic supporters of the Prussia that made them wealthy. After political liberals were in favour of a united Germany nation - possibly including Austria, while urban populations and industrial production was growing. Electoral boundaries for the Reichstag for which there was universal manhood suffrage, were set in and never revised which led to rural areas being over represented and urban areas under represented as time went on. However since the Second Empire was a federal state the consistent parts had their electoral laws for their own assemblies. At the same time civil service reforms created a system of vetting applicants on the basis of presumed political sympathies which largely excluded Catholics and led to the upper ranks of the administration and judiciary being disproportionately occupied by aristocrats. The cost of this was born by the growth area of small-scale light manufacturing and the urban population whose rise in wages was largely off set by the increasing costs of food. The campaign to build a fleet brought together social-Darwinism winning that place in the sun , heavy industry and mass mobilisation of popular support possibly because so many were excluded from the army. This kind of linkage though was not unique to Germany. The steel magnate Andrew Carnegie lobbied to have the USA develop a modern fleet of steel warships with extra thick steel armour. Since Ranke said that every age was next to God meaning that every age was unique and had to be understood in its own context - and since the Second Empire was not unique in its attitudes towards Social Democracy and trades unions perhaps we can say that every age is sick in its own way. Sick with the inheritance of preceding times and due to gift distinct troubles on to the next generation. A tradition of legalism sat alongside a certain self-interested freedom in taking arbitrary, contra-constitutional action. Here perhaps we see Bismarckism as Bonapartism - a naked dictatorship with a constitutional fig leaf to create an impression of decency.

Chapter 8 : German Empire - Wikimedia Commons

The German Empire had dreamed of colonial expansion and imperialism since and Bismarck started the process acquiring German New Guinea by However further colonial expansion in Asia and Pacific caused friction with Britain, Japan, Russia and U.S. on a larger scale.

Deutsches Kaiserreich is the common name given to the state officially named Deutsches Reich literally: The German Empire consisted of 27 constituent territories most of them ruled by royal families. While the Kingdom of Prussia contained most of the population and most of the territory of the Reich, the Prussian leadership became supplanted by German leaders and Prussia itself played a lesser role. Its three largest neighbours were rivals Imperial Russia to the east, France to the west and ally Austria-Hungary to the south. Map of the Reich, After , Germany industrialized rapidly, with a foundation in coal, iron and later steel , chemicals and railways. From a population of 41 million people in , it grew to 68 million in From a heavily rural nation in , it was now predominantly urban. During its 47 years of existence, the German Empire operated as an industrial, technological and scientific giant, receiving more Nobel Prizes in science than Britain, France, Russia and the United States combined. After the removal of the powerful Chancellor Otto von Bismarck in following the death of Emperor Wilhelm I, the young Emperor Wilhelm II engaged in increasingly reckless foreign policies that left the Empire isolated. Its network of small colonies in Africa and the Pacific paled in comparison to the British and French empires. When the great crisis of arrived, it had only two weak allies Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Empire left. The Allied naval blockade made for increasing shortages of food. German declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare in early was designed to strangle the British; it failed because of the use of a trans-Atlantic convoy system. But the declaration “ along with the Zimmermann Telegram “ did bring the United States into the war, with its large reserves of money, food, and soldiers. Meanwhile German troops had become radicalised by the Russian Revolution. The high command under Paul von Hindenburg and Erich Ludendorff increasingly controlled the Reich as they gambled on one last offensive in spring before the Americans could arrive in force. It failed and by October the armies were in retreat, the Austro-Hungarian Empire had collapsed, and the German people had lost faith in the political system. The Empire collapsed overnight in the November Revolution as all the royals abdicated and a republic took over. Imperial Germany “ , with the dominant Kingdom of Prussia in blue. Reich versus the Modern European map. Black and White Photos “ Reich war flag.

Chapter 9 : States of the German Empire Map - VGS German SIG

The German Empire (German: Deutsches Reich or Deutsches Kaiserreich) was the historical German nation state that existed from theunification of Germany in to the defeat in World War 1 in , when Germany became a federal republic.