

Introduction

Four sources Berghahn, Blackbourn and Eley, Luebke and Fletcher, have been selected for the analysis of the sources. Undoubtedly, these sources are authentic and vital.

Discussion

V. R. Berghahn, 'The German Empire, 1871–1914: Reflections on the direction of recent research', CEH, 35.1 (2002), pp. 75-81

Berghahn has done a commendable job by writing 'The German Empire' 1871-1914. This source is highly authentic as it provides credible information about the German Empire.

After the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War under the rule of Kaiser Wilhelm I the King of Prussia, Germany was united and unified as an imperial federation of states. During this period, Germany observed a rapid industrialization and population growth. Also, the Germans forcibly annexed the provinces of Lorraine and Alsace from France. The German Empire took great interest in the development of different sciences such as physics and technology and it founded the Imperial Institute of Physics and Technology. In 1871, Otto von Bismarck established the German Empire as a prime minister; however, it collapsed after the defeat in World War I. The era from 1871 to World War I was the most prosperous era of the German history. During 1871 and 1914, the formation of the German Empire was the outcome of Germany success in three wars with France, Habsburg monarchy and Denmark. The leader of states of North German Confederation made an agreement, and traditional cabinet diplomacy played the great role for the formulation of the German Empire, and the outpouring nationalists were not the only reasons for the German Empire. Prussia has been dominating as its population was 3/5th of the community and covered the similar area of Germany; therefore, it had been in power since many decades; however, after the demise of the empire, the situation changed significantly. The area of Germany was 540,854 square miles, and more than 41 million people lived in Germany before 1914, but there was an expectation that German population would increase to 67 million by 1914. 63% Protestants and 36% Roman Catholic were the central part of the German demography, and the remaining 1% were Jewish, Sorbian, French, Danish and Polish. Mostly people about 67% lived in villages and the remaining lived in cities and town. Otto von Bismarck designed the constitution of

Germany and since its inception in 1871 and this law was followed for the governance. However, this structure reflected the authoritarian proclivities of Otto von Bismarck and rural nature of Germany. In the German parliament, there were two houses to represent 25 states Bundesrat and to represent people Reichstag; Bundesrat had 397 members. Nevertheless, the government and the parliament could not feel the shift of population. This change in society created classed among German people.

D. Blackbourn and G. Eley, The peculiarities of German history. Bourgeois society and politics in nineteenth-century Germany (1984)

To understand the role of Bourgeois society of Germany some work are to read essentially and Blackbourn and Eley's work is one of them. Bourgeois means people who live in the city such as craftsmen and merchants; hence, they are opposite to the rural population. At the time of industrial revolution, they became in power and they became the economic ruling class because now they had capital and land (means of production); thus, they supply produced and manufactured goods to every system of the government such as police forces, army and legal systems. In addition, now they could employ rural and urban workers at their factories or places of work. By controlling means of coercion, the bourgeois suppressed the lower classes of the society and two classes emerged employers and workers. In this regard, the work and theory of Karl Marx are very famous. He identified two kind of bourgeois capitalists business administrators related to means of production called 'the functional capitalists' while tenants relying on property rent or interest income generated through financial capital called 'Rentier Capitalists.' The class struggle between bourgeois and working class is a continual process because of economic factors. The German people were in great difficulty because of political censorship and heavy taxation and this created public unrest in 1832. Slowly and gradually this activism for the reforms of liberals spread in all the states of Germany and every state had its own distinct revolution. The street demonstrations of artisans and workers in Paris, France, also stimulated the bourgeois and working class of Germany because King Louis Philippe had to leave France and lived in England. Hence, this revolution started from France. However, some monarchs of Germany accepted revolutionaries some of the demand temporarily because they had observed the fate of King Louis-Philippe of France. Mainly, the German Revolutionists were demanding a parliament, freedom of assembly, free press and arming of people. In this regard, they demonstrated mass

gatherings at many places in the south and west. The German Revolutions of 1848 and 1849 were the results of the class battle. These revolutions also called March Revolutions. The similar revolution occurred in other European countries. In fact, these revolutions were a type of protests against German Confederation and states. The working class wanted to improve their living and working conditions while the elements of middle-class were committed to principles of liberalism. However, their unified approach was essential for the success of the revolution because when their components were split, the aristocrats defeated them. As a result, liberals had to leave the country and they sought political asylum in many countries such as the United States.

F. C. Luebke, Bonds of loyalty. German-Americans and World War One (De Kalb, 1974)

The people who fled in exile from Germany and Austria, mostly, settled in the United States, which was a free country and in this country, they did not need to remove their hat to respect their employers. They were happy and prosperous in this country. However, they were not aware about the catastrophe that was approaching to them even in this free country where they had no fear. The World War I brought many challenges for German-Americans and survival was very difficult for them. They had to face many difficulties such as collective mistrust, rejection, abuse, and discrimination and as a group; they were spared from the general population. Different ethnic and racial groups targeted them and harassed them. Definitely, during the past few decades, the Germans became an integrated part of the American society but suddenly World War I changed everything. Therefore, the German had no option except to become completely American by leaving their culture, tradition and language. The World War I hastened their transformation as Americans; thus, it was an end to many cultural institutions of Germany and its language. When in August 1914, the news of World War I reached the United States, the immigrants who belonged to difference European countries reacted sympathetically towards their home countries and Germans immigrants were among them. They rushed to their consulates, they wanted to go home and they wanted to fight for their home country. In addition, the German groups living in Chicago and New York held patriotic meetings and gathered relief funds and items. However, this was not very peculiar because among all immigrants groups 'the war fever' was prevalent but as compared

to other nations, the ratio of German people was higher in the United States' population; therefore, their enthusiasm and loyalty to their country were notified and this increased public scrutiny. Moreover, there were rumours that German soldiers had disgraced the civil population of Belgium, such news from different countries of Europe increased anti-German sentiment within the American society. However, the German-Americans thought that this news was fabricated by the UK. As a result, the German Foreign Office working in the United States planned to launch their own counter-propaganda campaign and they used every mean to counter rumours. Nevertheless, the anti-German sentiments were bringing up since last two decades. In 1898, Germany and America had a confrontation over the Philippines. In addition, both the countries had economic interests in Latin America, Europe and North America. The United States imposed ban on different German activities, for instance, they could not teach in German language in their schools, religious services, libraries and universities. Furthermore, in the United States, the German language press was completely shut down along with their theatrical, musical, and social activities. The most affected German groups were Hutterites, Amish and Mennonites, despite their loyalty and impartial attitude; they were subject to common hostility. They just wanted to live with their religion, culture and language. However, they were treated very badly by the American society their houses and churches were destroyed, they were beaten and their cattle were sold.

R. Fletcher, Bernstein to Brandt: a short history of German social democracy (1987).

Fletcher is a known German writer. Mostly, he has written in German, but this work and a few other works are available in English. This book 'a short history of German social democracy' is a highly informative historical perspective of German social democracy process.

SPD or Social Democratic Party of Germany was formed in the 1860s. At many occasion in the German political history, SPD has been the ruling party of the country. Ferdinand Lassalle founded the party in 1963, May. During 1878 to 90, SPD has been very popular and consequently by 1896, it became a dominant party of Germany, and by 1912, it was the most active party. However, the formation of the cabinet, in Imperial Germany, was not related to the balance of democratic forces,

despite that, SPD was able to do some work to improve the living and working conditions of the working-class. Hence, it advanced through its policies implementations, and it worked hard for its supporters and their material benefits. Also, the SPD, in the Landtag, worked diligently to reform social and educational policy, as both of them were the responsibility of the parliament. Similarly, in Hesse, the SPD was successful in separating the church tax from the assessments and it improved judicial procedure as well. Furthermore, the party worked enthusiastically to improve the working conditions and wages of the municipal labourers. In the early, twentieth century, despite anti-social legislation, the SPD was able to grow in power and strength as its membership increased to 1,085,905 as compared to previous association which was 384,327; thence, by 1913 and 1914, it became the populist party of the country, and it had its representation in the masses of German society who sought advice and help from the side in critical situations. The SPD offered free of charge counseling services, individually, to trade union workers. It initiated the social democratic movement to secure the rights of workers belonged to the lower classes. Besides, SPD took great interest in an educational campaign by starting a large number of courses and lectures, Party School, a central school for workers' education and grooming, libraries, teachers' education programme and theatre performances. Such efforts increased the loyalty of SPD's members. Additionally, SPD started welfare clinics, festivals, rallies and organized holidays. Therefore, historians such as Susanne Miller and Heinrich Potthoff noted down and stated that SPD worked, for the masses, different classes and Free Trade Unions and provided them essential tools for social and political struggle; however, most importantly, it initiated a cultural movement within the country with the help of different classes and workers. In different states such as Baden, Hesse, Wurttemberg and Bavaria, to extract many democratic and socio-political concessions, for instance, the implementation of class-based electoral systems instead of universal suffrage, with the help of bourgeois parties' alliances. Specifically, particular attention was given to carry out reforms at the social level of community politics by the Social Democrats. The introduction of unemployment benefits and local labour exchange has been some of the greatest work of SPD during 1913. Hence, the source of Fletcher's work is significant for every student of German political history as it provides excellent insights and considerable information about SPD and social democracy.

Conclusion

The selected sources present a historical background of the German society including working-class, bourgeois and Germans living in the United States and the formulation of SPD (social democratic party).