

**GERMAN  
HISTORICAL PROSE**

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German Historical Prose by Hermann Schoenfeld

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**HERMANN SCHOENFELD**

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*SELECTED AND EDITED WITH NOTES*

BY

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## PREFACE

THESE selections, planned as an introduction to the reading of German historical prose, afford a general view of some of the principal crucial periods of German history, especially the rise of the House of Hohenzollern and of the modern German Empire. The foremost German historians, Giesebrecht, Droysen, Ranke, Janssen, Treitschke, Sybel, etc., are drawn upon, each in the field he has made peculiarly his own. To the historical selections it has seemed desirable to prefix a short sketch of German historiography by Lindner. The purpose has been to make the selections representative without special regard to difficulty of style. With the periods traversed the editor would have been glad to include, had his limits permitted, "The Migration of Peoples," by Felix Dahn, and the "Hohenstaufen," by Frederick Raumer.

The original texts have been scrupulously followed, except in a few instances where it has seemed best to eliminate some minor remark or allusion that, without long explanation, might prove unintelligible in an excerpt. The most glaring divergencies in spelling have been harmonized, though characteristic peculiarities of both orthography and punctuation have in general

been left undisturbed. In one case alone, that of Droysen, has the editor ventured to bring together scattered sections in order to give a connected view of the Great Elector and the Great King. The intervals between the periods treated in the selections have been bridged, when necessary, by short quotations from English historians. It is hoped that in both German and English the student will be beguiled into a frequent resort to the complete works represented.

For reasons inherent in a compilation of this character, the historical notes have swelled to a considerable bulk, and occasionally include quotations from other portions of the works cited, but the editor has tried to rigidly exclude the superfluous. He has, however, thought best to give frequent etymological hints regarding the more uncommon words, leaving the student to follow up these hints, if he please, in Kluge's masterly *Ätymologisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache*, which is also available in Davis's excellent English translation. This work and Bryce's *Holy Roman Empire* are frequently indicated by their title initials. Other abbreviations employed in the notes are either self-explanatory or so usual as to require no explanation.

Special thanks are due to Professor L. D. Lodge, of this University, for the careful reading of the English notes.

H. S.

THE COLUMBIAN UNIVERSITY,  
October, 1895.



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I.

Umriss der deutschen Historiographie.

Mittlere und neuere Geschichte.

Von Theodor Lindner.

[From „Die deutschen Universitäten.“ Herausgegeben von W. Reig.  
Berlin, 1893. Geßer Band, p. 549.]

Die historische Wissenschaft hat in Deutschland später als in Frankreich und England die Abhängigkeit von anderen Wissenszweigen, der Theologie und der Jurisprudenz, abgestreift.<sup>1</sup> Erst in unserem Jahrhundert

- 5     <sup>1</sup> During the Middle Ages, Theology is the crown of all intellectual and moral pursuits, the Holy Scriptures (*sacra pagina*) the original source and decisive authority also of all worldly knowledge; hence, all science, including jurisprudence and history, were more or less the handmaids of  
10 theology. Even the more modern German University, developed under the influence of the Renaissance, is up to the end of the XVIIth century theological-confessional (*cuius regio, eius religio*). Only in the XIXth century do independent philosophy and purely scientific investigation in the  
15 domain of nature and history begin to prevail. (Friedrich Paulsen, *Die deutschen Universitäten*, pp. 18, 21, 23.)

ab-streifen from M.H.G. *stribsen* (*stribsen* is a rare form), 'to skin, flay — strip off.'