

# **POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY POLICIES IN GERMANY**

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Political parties and party policies in Germany by James Howard Gore

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**JAMES HOWARD GORE**

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BY

JAMES HOWARD GORE

The Columbia University

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## PREFACE.

During the past decade, and more especially in its latter half, there has been apparent a determination on the part of many persons in this country to see in every legislative enactment of Germany evidences of hostility to the United States. This inclination has been stimulated by citizens of other countries who would be glad to see these two great nations on unfriendly terms.

Believing that this opinion had no foundation in fact, and thinking that the energies of the German legislator were directed solely towards the upbuilding of the Empire, while even the most rabid partisan cared more for the defeat of opposing factions than for the embarrassment of foreign nations, a careful study was made of the programs of all the parties of Germany as well as of their attitude on all questions that might have a bearing upon international relations. This examination was made in the midst of the last campaign, when each faction, in its desire to bring confusion to its opponents, zealously sought for words and acts that showed a hostile spirit towards friendly nations.

The results here briefly given include the development of the platforms upon which the parties have reached their present status, the attitude they have assumed upon the great domestic questions that are

foremost, and the position they are likely to hold on the international problems of the immediate future.

This work was undertaken in the desire to contribute somewhat towards a clearer understanding on our part of the difficulties that confront a sister nation, and with the hope that out of such knowledge a broader sympathy may come and in its train an earnest striving for the maintenance of our present friendly relations.

J. H. G.



POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY  
POLICIES IN GERMANY

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# Political Parties and Party Policies in Germany.

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## LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The German Reichstag, the successor of the parliamentary organizations of the North German Alliance, is a representative body in the strict sense of the term. According to the statute of April 16, 1871, the members represent the interests of the Empire, and in no sense are representatives of a single district or State. Naturally they endeavor to safeguard their electors, and strive to promote legislation that promises their weal and oppose acts which might work their injury.

The law-making power of the German Empire rests in the Reichstag and the Bundesrat.

According to the law of 1871, there shall be one representative in the Reichstag for each 100,000 inhabitants, and 50,000 or more is regarded as 100,000 in securing a representative for the States having a population below the requisite number. There has been no redistricting, so that now there is one representative for about 130,000 persons in the