

Alexander Friedrich Werner, *Bismarck Leaving the Reichstag on February 6, 1888* (1892)

Abstract

This painting by “another” Werner—Alexander Friedrich Werner (1827–1908)—was completed in 1892. Known as “Fritz” Werner, the painter and engraver was a friend of Adolph Menzel; he was also a member of the Berlin Academy of Art after 1880. The date is February 6, 1888. Upon leaving the Reichstag, Bismarck meets with spontaneous applause from Berlin passers-by. The Reichstag, still in its provisional quarters at Leipziger Straße 4, can be seen behind the horse-drawn trolley, squeezed in between the Prussian House of Lords and the Ministry of War building. In his Reichstag speech of a few minutes earlier, shown in a painting by Ernst Henseler (1901), the chancellor had argued for more army recruits, in the process delivering a résumé of Germany’s peaceful foreign policy since 1871. Near the end of his long speech Bismarck uttered the words: “We Germans fear God but nothing else in the world; and it is this fear of God which makes us love and cherish peace.”

Source



Source: Deutsches Historisches Museum, *Bismarck – Preussen, Deutschland und Europa*, 3rd ed. Berlin: Nicolai, 1990, p. 376.

Recommended Citation: Alexander Friedrich Werner, *Bismarck Leaving the Reichstag on February 6, 1888* (1892), published in: German History in Documents and Images,

<<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/forging-an-empire-bismarckian-germany-1866-1890/ghdi:imagine-1427>> [May 03, 2024].