

# “Imperial Days” in Dresden: Kaiser Wilhelm I Visits a Provincial Capital (September 14, 1882)

## Abstract

Reinforcing the idea of the new empire as a voluntary union of princes, not something based on the will of the people, required the “performance” of monarchical rule by Kaiser Wilhelm I—above all in Berlin, but also in the capitals of Germany’s individual federal states. This contemporary woodcut from Leipzig’s *Illustrierte Zeitung* (October 7, 1882) is based on a sketch by Hermann Lüders. It depicts the “Imperial Days” [*Kaisertage*] in Dresden, specifically the Kaiser’s entry into the city on September 14, 1882. Wilhelm I (seated at the left) is accompanied in the royal carriage by his former battlefield foe from the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, King Albert, who ruled in Saxony from 1873 to 1902.

## Source



Source: “Die Kaisertage in Dresden: Kaiser Wilhelms Einzug in Dresden am 14. September” [“Imperial Days’ in Dresden: Emperor Wilhelm’s Entry into Dresden on September 14”]. Woodcut (1882) after a drawing by Hermann Lüders, from *Leipziger Illustrierte*, no. 2049 of October 7, 1882.

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