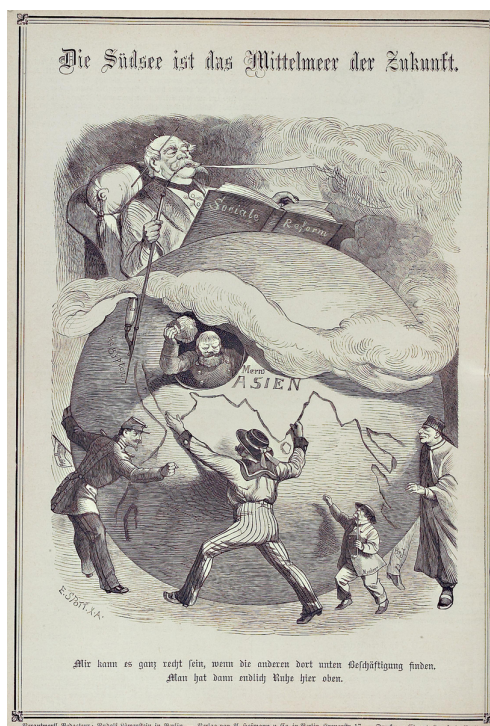


“The South Seas are the Mediterranean of the Future” (July 13, 1884)

Abstract

The reluctance with which Bismarck participated in Germany’s colonial program in 1884 is belied by the self-satisfied pose he adopts in this satirical cartoon from *Kladderadatsch*. South of the equator, hidden beneath the waft of smoke emanating from Bismarck’s long pipe, the other European powers—not Germany—are busily acquiring new colonies. A Frenchman has spread his arms wide, trying to embrace Africa from east to west. A British sailor has found handholds in India and the Middle East, a tiny Dutchman grasps for the East Indies, a Japanese man has his eye on east Asia, a Russian pokes his head out at Merw in Persia, which had been acquired in 1884, and even an American is “shaking a leg” as the race for colonies heats up. A tiny flag planted in Southwest Africa marks Angra Pequena, which had become a German protectorate on April 24, 1884, when the Bremen merchant Adolf Lüderitz established a trading outpost there. *Kladderadatsch*’s implied criticism is that Bismarck was so engrossed in his program of “social reform” in the 1880s that he failed to recognize the importance of colonial possessions.

Source



Source: “Die Südsee ist das Mittelmeer der Zukunft” [“The South Seas are the Mediterranean of the Future”], *Kladderadatsch*, vol. 37, no. 32 (July 13, 1884), p. 128. Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg. Available online at: <https://doi.org/10.11588/diglit.2265#0288>

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