

Cham, “To Use a Needle...” (September 1866)

Abstract

This caricature by Cham appeared in the French journal *Le Charivari* in September 1866. Like Daumier’s cartoon “The New Gulliver,” it expresses both French opinion and anti-Prussian sentiment in southern Germany. A soldier wearing the universal symbol of Prussian militarism, the spiked helmet [*Pickelhaube*], tries to stitch together the defeated German states of 1866 (Saxony, Hanover, Nassau, and the Free City of Frankfurt am Main) into a new nation dominated by Prussia. The caption reads: “It is one thing to know how to use a needle.... But it’s a skill that should not be abused” [“Ce que c’est pourtant que de savoir se servir d’une aiguille.... mais, c’est un talent d’ont il ne faudrait pas abuser.”] Here, the cartoonist also makes an oblique reference to the Prussian “needle gun,” the breech-loading rifle that gave Prussian infantrymen greater firepower than their Austrian opponents at the Battle of Königgrätz on July 3, 1866.

Source



Source: Cham (Amédée C.H. de Noe), French caricature of Prussia’s efforts to annex hitherto independent German territories, from “Le Charivari” of September 1866.

bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30013066. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at requests@artres.com (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de (for all other countries).

Recommended Citation: Cham, "To Use a Needle..." (September 1866), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/forging-an-empire-bismarckian-germany-1866-1890/ghdi:image-1389>> [April 29, 2024].