

## Beneficial Results of Protectionism (1848)

### Abstract

The German Customs Union [*Zollverein*] was founded in 1834 under Prussian leadership for the purpose of breaking down tariff barriers and encouraging free trade among the member states. At the same time, it aimed to protect fledgling German industry by establishing common tariffs on foreign imports. The caricature, sarcastically entitled “beneficial results of protectionism,” fits into contemporary discussions about the appropriateness of protective duties, the optimal level of taxation, and the social groups that benefited from the whole system. The unknown artist has a clear view of the winners and losers of protectionism: whereas the factory owner in the top row, now protected from foreign competition, literally “expands” in the period from 1848 to 1851, the once robust worker in the middle wastes away, probably due to resulting increases in food and commodity prices, until the birds pick away at his skeletal remains. According to this critic, the system of protectionism also causes the public purse to dwindle, presumably because higher tariffs cannot compensate for the overall reduction of trade and losses in government revenues. Lithograph, 1848.

### Source



Source: bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30013469. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at [requests@artres.com](mailto:requests@artres.com) (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at [kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de](mailto:kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de) (for all other countries).

---

Recommended Citation: Beneficial Results of Protectionism (1848), published in: German History in Documents and Images,  
<<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/from-vormaerz-to-prussian-dominance-1815-1866/ghdi:image-2241>> [May 17, 2025].