

## “The Thinkers’ Club”: Restrictions on the Press and Free Expression (1819)

### Abstract

Contemporary lithograph mocking the new restrictions on the press and free expression. The sign on the wall behind the table reads: “Important question to be considered in today's meeting: How long will we be allowed to think?” The sign in the upper-right corner lists the rules of the Thinkers' Club: “I. The president opens the meeting at precisely 8 a.m./ II. The first rule of a learned society is silence./ III. So that no member, having made full use of his tongue, will end up in prison, muzzles will be distributed upon entry./ IV. The object of discussion, which through mature reflection should be thoroughly discussed at each meeting, will be clearly written in capital letters on a board. [ . . . ] ”

The caricature refers to the [Carlsbad Decrees](#), which were implemented at the behest of [Prince Clemens von Metternich](#) (1773–1859). The decrees suppressed national-democratic student fraternities and imposed tight restrictions on freedom of expression.

### Source



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