

## “Der – Die – Das” (1897)

### Abstract

---

In this political grammar lesson artist Bruno Paul characterizes different segments of German society according to the gender of various collective nouns used to describe them. The first (top panel) is masculine: the mob [*Der Pöbel*]; the second is feminine: the crowd [*Die Menge*]; the third is neuter: the people [*Das Volk*]. The caricature’s punchline is that only decorated military officers and the very wealthy – a tiny minority in German society – constituted “the people.” This cartoon first appeared in the satirical magazine *Simplicissimus* in 1897.

### Source

---



Source: Caricature by Bruno Paul, 1897. *Simplicissimus*, no. 6, 1897, p. 45.

[http://www.simplicissimus.info/uploads/tx\\_lombkswjournaldb/pdf/1/02/02\\_06.pdf](http://www.simplicissimus.info/uploads/tx_lombkswjournaldb/pdf/1/02/02_06.pdf)

Recommended Citation: “Der – Die – Das” (1897), published in: German History in Documents and Images,

<<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/wilhelmine-germany-and-the-first-world-war-1890-1918/ghdi:image-1612>> [September 26, 2025].