Friedrich Naumann, Liberal Politician (c. 1911)

Abstract

Friedrich Naumann (1860-1919) was a Protestant theologian and politician who sought to reconcile Christian values with an industrial economy and liberal democracy. As a young man he translated his theological studies into applied Christianity, directing his efforts toward improving the plight of the working class in industrial society; to this end, he founded the National Social Association [*National-Sozialer Verein*] in 1896. He aspired to create a *Volksstaat* [people's state] to combat both economic uncertainty and increasing secularization: he envisioned a state based on social justice and service, one in which individuals willingly dedicated themselves to the greater good. He was critical of divisive class-consciousness. Naumann served in the Reichstag from 1908 until 1918 and co-founded the German Democratic Party [*Deutsche Demokratische Partei*, DDP] in 1918.

Source

Source: Portrait of Friedrich Naumann, unknown photographer, c. 1911. Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, Archiv des Liberalismus, Audovisuelle Medien, F3-240

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