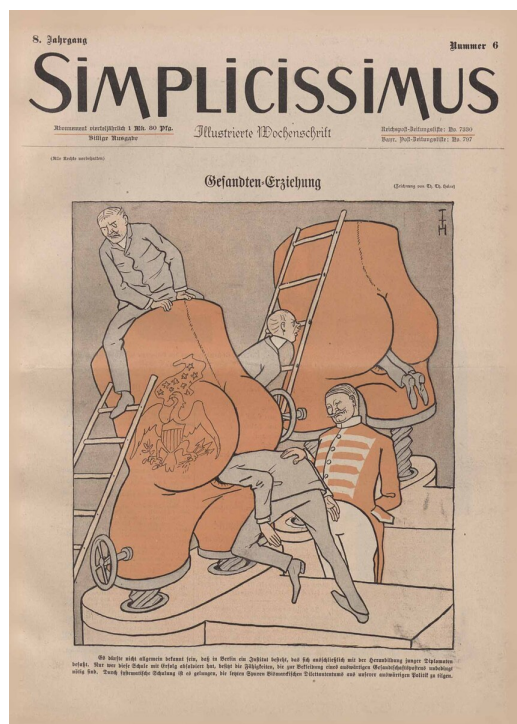


“The Training of Diplomats” (1903)

Abstract

This cartoon by Thomas Theodor Heine from the satirical magazine *Simplicissimus* pokes fun at diplomats’ training. The text below the image reads: “It is probably not generally known that there is an institute in Berlin that devotes itself exclusively to the training of young diplomats. Only those who have successfully completed this school have the abilities that are absolutely necessary to hold an embassy post in a foreign country. Through systematic schooling, the last traces of Bismarck’s dilettantism have been successfully erased from our foreign policy.” Rather than mastering the arts of diplomacy and political maneuvering, as Bismarck had done, German diplomats at the turn of the century sought to achieve their goals through flattery, bullying, and other clumsy means. The illustrations in *Simplicissimus* often affronted the regime and officials in Germany. In 1898, the artist Thomas Theodor Heine had been sentenced to six months in jail for insulting the monarchy (*lèse majesté*). The magazine was banned during the 1890s, but this only increased its popularity.

Source



Source: Thomas Theodor Heine, "Gesandten-Erziehung," *Simplicissimus* no. 6, 1903, p. 41.

http://www.simplicissimus.info/uploads/tx_lombkswjournaldb/pdf/1/08/08_06.pdf

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