

Cambridge University Press

0521027284 - German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914-1918

Matthew Stibbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914–1918

This is the first major study of German attitudes towards England during the Great War, 1914–18, continuing the story of Anglo-German antagonism where previous studies have ended. In particular it focuses on the extremity of anti-English feeling in Germany in the early years of the war, and on the attempt by writers, propagandists and cartoonists to redefine Britain as the chief enemy of the German people and their cultural heritage.

New material is also offered concerning the development of an extreme rightist network in Munich and Berlin during the war years, which used anti-English feeling as a focus for attacking the supposedly defeatist government of Chancellor Bethmann Hollweg. Such views formed the background to the disastrous decision to begin unrestricted submarine warfare against England in January 1917; and they also contributed to the ideological polarisation of German politics at a crucial juncture in European and world history.

MATTHEW STIBBE is Senior Lecturer in History, Sheffield Hallam University.

Cambridge University Press

0521027284 - German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914-1918

Matthew Stibbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Studies in the Social and Cultural History of Modern Warfare

General Editor

Jay Winter *Pembroke College, Cambridge*

Advisory Editors

Paul Kennedy *Yale University*

Antoine Prost *Université de Paris-Sorbonne*

Emmanuel Sivan *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

In recent years the field of modern history has been enriched by the exploration of two parallel histories. These are the social and cultural history of armed conflict, and the impact of military events on social and cultural history.

Studies in the Social and Cultural History of Modern Warfare presents the fruits of this growing area of research, reflecting both the colonisation of military history by cultural historians and the reciprocal interest of military historians in social and cultural history, to the benefit of both. The series offers the latest scholarship in European and non-European events from the 1850s to the present day.

For a list of titles in the series, please see end of book

Cambridge University Press

0521027284 - German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914-1918

Matthew Stibbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914–1918

MATTHEW STIBBE

Sheffield Hallam University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
0521027284 - German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914-1918
Matthew Stibbe
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521782968

© Matthew Stibbe 2001

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2001
This digitally printed first paperback version (with corrections) 2006

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN-13 978-0-521-78296-8 hardback
ISBN-10 0-521-78296-1 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-02728-1 paperback
ISBN-10 0-521-02728-4 paperback

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xii
Introduction	1
1 <i>Unser gehasstester Feind. German anglophobia and the 'spirit of 1914'</i>	10
From russophobia to anglophobia	12
<i>Gott strafe England!</i>	16
The militarisation of public opinion	22
Propaganda initiatives	27
'Perfidious Albion': anglophobia in poetry and prose	33
England and France as 'betrayers' of the white race	38
The cartoonists and England	45
2 <i>The cultural war. German intellectuals and England</i>	49
The racist denunciation of England	52
England and the Great Powers	59
Economic rivalries and Germany's claim to world power status	66
The cultural war and the English national character	72
3 <i>German war aims and propaganda against England</i>	80
Admiral von Tirpitz and the German navy	81
Annexationist propaganda: the case of Count Ernst zu Reventlow	87
Annexationist propaganda: the Pan-German League and its industrial allies	96
Right-wing political parties and pressure groups	100
The annexationist agitation continues	107

Cambridge University Press

0521027284 - German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914-1918

Matthew Stibbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

4 'U-boat demagogy' and the crisis of Bethmann Hollweg's chancellorship	110
The campaign against Bethmann Hollweg	113
The weakness of the moderate opposition to submarine warfare	119
The government and the annexationists	131
5 The submarine crisis deepens	135
Munich in the summer of 1916: anglophobia and particularism	137
The agitation spreads to other parts of the Reich	143
The Volksausschuß für die rasche Niederkämpfung Englands: membership, aims and tactics	148
The final moves towards unrestricted submarine warfare	158
6 The Anglo-American powers and the collapse of the German empire	165
German freedom versus Anglo-Saxon tyranny	169
England, Satan, the Antichrist and anti-Semitism	172
The German army and total war	177
The rise and fall of the German Fatherland Party	184
The final offensive	188
Epilogue	194
Nazi ideology	197
Hitler and German anglophobia	201
Conclusion	205
<i>Notes</i>	210
<i>Bibliography</i>	248
<i>Index</i>	263

Cambridge University Press

0521027284 - German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914-1918

Matthew Stibbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For Judith

Cambridge University Press

0521027284 - German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914-1918

Matthew Stibbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Illustrations

1. O. Gulbransson, 'Der Hüter des Völkerrechts [The guardian of international law]', from *Simplicissimus*, vol. 19, no. 20, 17 August 1914. Reproduced by permission of the British Library. 19
2. Anon., 'Verdienen wird groß geschrieben [Profits are what is important]', from *Der Wahre Jacob*, vol. 31, no. 734, 4 September 1914. Reproduced by permission of the Württembergische Landesbibliothek, Stuttgart. 20
3. A. Mrawek, 'Das Spinnennetz [The spider's web]', from *Ulk*, vol. 37, no. 26, 26 June 1908. Reproduced by permission of the Universitätsbibliothek Erlangen-Nürnberg. 29
4. A. Fips, 'Die Weltkreuzspinne [The world cross (or garden spider)]', from *Der Wahre Jacob*, vol. 31, no. 777, 28 April 1916. Reproduced by permission of the Württembergische Landesbibliothek, Stuttgart. 30
5. A. Johnson, 'John Bull von heute [John Bull as he is today]', from *Kladderadatsch*, vol. 68, no. 25, 20 June 1915. Reproduced by permission of the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Münster. 41
6. T. T. Heine, 'Weihnachten in England [Christmas in England]', from *Simplicissimus*, vol. 19, no. 38, 22 December 1914. Reproduced by permission of the British Library. 43
7. T. T. Heine, 'Der Engländer und sein Japaner [The Englishman and his Japanese friend]', from *Simplicissimus*, vol. 19, no. 22, 1 September 1914. Reproduced by permission of the British Library. 44
8. A. Johnson, 'Das Schwert des Damokles [The sword of Damocles]', from *Kladderadatsch*, vol. 67, no. 46, 15 November 1914. Reproduced by permission of the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Münster. 46
9. T. T. Heine, 'Ein Bild aus dem englischen Familienleben [A picture of English family life]', from *Simplicissimus*, vol. 19, no. 35, 1 December 1914. Reproduced by permission of the British Library. 48

Cambridge University Press

0521027284 - German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914-1918

Matthew Stibbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of illustrations

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| 10. | T. T. Heine, 'Deutschlands Parlamentarisierung [Germany's parliamentarisation]', from <i>Simplicissimus</i> , vol. 22, no. 18, 31 July 1917. Reproduced by permission of the British Library. | 173 |
| 11. | 'Deutsche Treue – Hindenburg-Frieden [German loyalty – Hindenburg peace]', from the <i>Görlitzer Nachrichten und Anzeiger</i> [1917]. Reproduced by permission of the Bundesarchiv, Koblenz. | 181 |
| 12. | 'So ist es jetzt! So kann es kommen! [The situation now – and as it could be]', anonymous leaflet [1917/18]. Reproduced by permission of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften. | 183 |

Cartoons 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 are also reproduced in William A. Coupe, *German Political Satires from the Reformation to the Second World War*, Part II, 1849–1918 (New York, 1987).

Cambridge University Press

0521027284 - German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914-1918

Matthew Stibbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

This book is based on my original D.Phil. thesis, 'Vampire of the Continent. German Anglophobia during the First World War, 1914–1918', which I submitted to the University of Sussex in the autumn of 1997. It is now a great pleasure and a privilege to be able to acknowledge the many sources of assistance I have received while researching it and rewriting it for publication.

First and foremost I would like to thank Professor John Röhl, my supervisor at Sussex, for his constructive criticism, moral support and enthusiasm for my project. The following people at different times and in different places have also helped with their friendly advice and encouragement: Karl-Ludwig Ay, Stefan Berger, Christopher Clark, William Coupe, William Davies, Elizabeth Harvey, Janet Hollinshead, Paul Hoser, Rod Kedward, Mark Mazower, Manfred Messerschmidt, Ingo Materna, Annika Mombauer, Raffael Scheck, Matthew Seligmann, Jim Simpson, Duncan Tanner, Jeffrey Verhey, Jay Winter and Hartmut Zelinsky.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the staff and directors of the many libraries and archives which I have worked in over the past few years. These include the university libraries at Sussex, Bangor and Liverpool Hope, the British Library and the Newspaper Library (Colindale), the German Historical Institute, London, the Institute of Historical Research, London, and the Wiener Library, London. During a twelve-month stay in Germany in 1995/6 I was able to make extensive use of the Staatsbibliothek I in Berlin (Unter den Linden) and in particular its extremely useful Weltkriegssammlung or collection of pamphlets written during the First World War. In addition I was granted permission to use the following archives: the Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv in Freiburg, the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz, the Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes in Bonn, the Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv in Munich, the Bundesarchiv, Abteilung Potsdam (now in Berlin-Lichterfelde), the Geheimes Staatsarchiv in Berlin-Dahlem and the Archiv der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin-Mitte.

Cambridge University Press

0521027284 - German Anglophobia and the Great War, 1914-1918

Matthew Stibbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

Financial sponsorship and assistance with travel expenses came from a wide variety of sources: the British Academy, the Graduate Research Centre in the Humanities at the University of Sussex, the Erasmus-Socrates scheme and (since 1997) the research committees of the University of Wales, Bangor, and of Liverpool Hope University College. In this respect I would also like to thank the Göttingen-based British Centre for Historical Research in Germany and its director, Joe Canning, for their hospitality during a six-week stay in the summer of 1998.

Finally, I would like to thank all those people who have assisted me in more indirect ways. I include in this respect my father Paul and step-mother Hazel, my six sisters and brothers, my two nieces Elin-Judith and Eva, and the many friends who have helped towards the successful completion of this book. Simon, Katherine, Noah and Harriet deserve special mention for their endless hospitality and Simon in particular for his ability to lose gracefully at backgammon. Last, but by no means least, I am deeply grateful for the love, support and patience of my partner, Samantha, who has contributed so much to the happiness in my life over the past five years.

I dedicate this book to the memory of my mother, Dr Judith Dimock.

MATTHEW STIBBE
Manchester, March 2000

Abbreviations

- AA Auswärtiges Amt (German Foreign Office)
- ABBAW Archiv der Berlin-Brandenburgischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (Archive of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, formerly the Prussian Academy of Sciences)
- BA Koblenz Bundesarchiv, Koblenz (German Federal Archives)
- BA Potsdam Bundesarchiv, Abteilung Potsdam (German Federal Archives, now in Berlin-Lichterfelde)
- BA-MA Freiburg Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv, Freiburg im Breisgau (German Federal Military Archives)
- BHStA Munich Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Munich (Bavarian State Archives)
- GStA Berlin-Dahlem Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Secret State Archives)
- OHL Oberste Heeresleitung (German Army Supreme Command)
- PA-AA Bonn Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes, Bonn (Political Archive of the German Foreign Office)
- SPD Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (German Social Democratic Party)
- Sten. Ber./Pr. Abg. Haus Stenographische Berichte der Verhandlungen des Preußischen Hauses der Abgeordneten (Proceedings of the Prussian House of Deputies)
- Sten. Ber./Reichstag Stenographische Berichte der Verhandlungen des deutschen Reichstages (Proceedings of the German Reichstag)
- USPD Unabhängige Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands (Independent Social Democratic Party, founded in April 1917)