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0521591384 - The Kaiser's Voters: Electors and Elections in Imperial Germany

Jonathan Sperber

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Although the German Empire of 1871–1918 was basically an authoritarian regime, its national elections were held under a democratic franchise and characterized by vigorous election campaigning and high levels of voter turnout. In *The Kaiser's voters*, Jonathan Sperber analyzes the thirteen general elections held in pre-1914 Germany. Using advanced mathematical methods, but presenting their results in understandable, non-technical language, his work offers estimates of the proportion of eligible voters from different confessional groups and social classes choosing the different political parties, and traces the flow of voters among the parties and between voting and abstention from one election to the next. Refuting a number of long-held propositions about the nature of the electorate in Imperial Germany, he presents a new interpretation of voting behavior in the formative years of the modern German political system, considers its consequences for German electoral politics in the twentieth century, and compares electoral trends in Germany with those in other European and North American countries in the age of universal suffrage.

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# The Kaiser's voters

*Electors and elections in Imperial Germany*

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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](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521591386](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521591386)

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First published 1997

This digitally printed first paperback version 2005

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

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Sperber, Jonathan, 1952–

The Kaiser's voters: electors and elections in Imperial Germany /

Jonathan Sperber.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 59138 4

1. Elections—Germany—History—19th century. 2. Elections—Germany—History—20th century. 3. Germany—Politics and government—1871–1918. I. Title.

JN3838.S67 1997

324.943'083—dc21 96-45553 CIP

ISBN-13 978-0-521-59138-6 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-59138-4 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-02326-9 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-02326-2 paperback

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## Acknowledgements

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Most of the work for this book was done in a period of cutbacks and retrenchment, and it might be seen as an example of scholarship accomplished with modest means. I am all the more grateful to those individuals and institutions who were able to offer assistance in straitened circumstances.

The University of Missouri Research Board provided the funds for the purchase of the hardware and software necessary for the statistical investigations. A one-year research leave, obtained from the University of Missouri Research Council (not the same body as the Research Board), allowed me the time to take the stacks of printouts sitting on my desk and turn them into a book. I need to thank all my colleagues in the history department at the University of Missouri, Columbia, who allowed me a whole academic year in which I was not obligated to attend one single meeting, and, in particular, to thank Steven Watts who offered a number of helpful suggestions on how to express technical matters in non-technical language. I have benefited substantially from my discussions with Thomas Alexander, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Missouri, and one of the pioneers in the use of quantitative methods. For assistance with the difficult problems posed by ridge regression, I am deeply indebted to Professor Paul Speckman, Department of Statistics, and especially to Dr. Linda Okamura, Campus Computing, University of Missouri, Columbia. The standard disclaimer is particularly true in this case: all the help I received did a lot for any positive features of the book, but its errors and problematic assumptions are my sole responsibility.

Ms. Josephine Johnson of Interlibrary Loan, Ellis Library, University of Missouri, processed an appalling number of forms on my behalf, and did not flinch once. Without her efficient and friendly help this book could not have been written. Richard Fisher and Caro Drake of Cambridge University Press have made the transition from diskette and typescript to published book about as easy as it could be. During the year I was writing the book, Adam Philip Sperber would remind me every morning, "Dad, don't forget to type and click!" I haven't; this book is for him.