

The Weimar Republic and the
Birth of the German
Democratic Party: The Hajo
Holborn Papers
1849-1956



Guide to the Scholarly Resources
Microfilm Edition

From the holdings of Manuscripts and
Archives, the Yale University Library

SR *Scholarly Resources Inc.*
Wilmington, Delaware

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Introduction

Hajo Holborn was born in Germany and emigrated to the United States in 1934. Shortly after coming to America, he became a professor of German history at Yale. Holborn continued to teach there until his death in 1969. Before he left Germany, he was commissioned by the government to write a history of the constitution of the Weimar Republic. The microfilm edition of his papers represents the subject files that he gathered.

The subject files, organized by topic, include the printed pamphlets, books, and documents that Holborn assembled. Most of the material is comprised of books and pamphlets dating from 1919 to 1929. The subject files contain a large number of working papers issued by the Constitutional Assembly; a letter that accompanied the first official draft of the constitution and a memorandum of explanation with extensive comments on the draft; many other stages of the constitution; counterdrafts by interest groups; and petitions from industry, labor organizations, local communities, and others seeking to influence the decisions of the Assembly. Also included are rare records of the Deutsch Democratic Party; handbills and election pamphlets dealing with the role of women within the party; pamphlets issued by the party discussing the issues of the day; and proceedings of some of its meetings. Pamphlets on the Workers' and Soldiers' Councils of 1918-1919 and contemporary reports by and about councils in Bavaria, Berlin, and Hamburg are also contained in the subject files.

The Hajo Holborn Papers is a rich resource for the study of German history, interwar European history, the beginnings of the German Democratic Party, the Revolution of 1918-1919, the Workers' and Soldiers' Councils, and the constitutional foundation of the Weimar Republic.

Scope and Content Notes

Subject files, which consist almost entirely of pamphlets and printed documents, are arranged alphabetically by subject. Certain important figures for whom there is material (either by or about) also have been listed directly under their names; for example, Friedrich Meinecke, Friedrich Naumann, and Hugo Preuss. The large number of documents issued by the National Assembly in 1919 is grouped together under the official name of the assembly: Die verfassunggebende deutsche Nationalversammlung. Nongovernmental pamphlets on the constitution—its history, legal aspects, controversy over it, etc.—are grouped under the heading “Weimar constitution.”

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