

The German Empire's Hour of Destiny

It cannot be maintained that the unification of the German races and the reconstitution of the German Empire in 1870-1871 awakened much pleasure in any European State. To the Powers the balance of Europe seemed upset, as a Power worthy of respect arose in the central territory which had furnished them with a welcome battle-ground, and the small states had great fear of "rapacious and land greedy Germany" which the experience of forty-three years of peace has not yet mitigated. And yet this new strong military Empire has proved itself by its restraint, even to the sacrifice of its just claims, the mighty shield to which we are principally indebted for this long period of peace.