

History 342, "Modern Germany" (McCole)
Week 2

Reading and Discussion Questions

Otto von Bismarck, Speech on the "Polish Question"

1. Read the editor's introductory note carefully. What was going on in Prussia's relations with its Polish minority around the time of Bismarck's speech?
2. As Bismarck saw it, what was the basic dynamic of the "Polish question?" What was its underlying cause? How does he describe Germany's position in German relations with Poles and with the ethnic Polish minority in eastern Prussia? As he depicts it, what makes Germany so vulnerable?
3. What is the relationship between "the Polish question" and religious conflicts in Germany during the 1870s and 1880s?
4. How was "The Polish Question" related to democracy in Germany?