

History 342 (McCole): Germany since 1871

Reading Questions for Peter Fritzsche, *Germans Into Nazis* (continued)

“November 1918”

1. The German November Revolution of 1918 is sometimes portrayed as a weak or incomplete revolution. How does Fritzsche’s account compare to that view?
2. How does the November Revolution compare to the August Days of 1914, in Fritzsche’s view? The answer may not be simple (e.g. see pp. 90, 93, 96-8, 106-7).
3. What were the workers’ and soldiers’ councils? What were the political implications of this part of the councils movement? Were there significant middle-class counterparts, according to Fritzsche? What evidence does he cite?
4. “The conventional picture of Germany in 1918 shows the nation fundamentally divided, a strong-willed proletariat pushing aside a passive, generally reactionary middle class” (94). How does Fritzsche want to revise this conventional view?
5. Fritzsche acknowledges that fear of socialism was among the responses of middle-class Germans to the November Revolution. Why, then, does he insist that this view is too limited? What went beyond fear? (107-110)
6. How was middle-class mobilization transformed in the wake of November 1918? What is the “mobilization of interest” to which Fritzsche refers?
7. How representative of middle-class counterrevolutionary mobilization were the paramilitary bands, the *Freikorps*? What other “counterrevolutionary” organizations were created?
8. What is the meaning of “sad but compelling paradox” the final sentence in the chapter (136)?