

Parliament and Parliamentarism in Germany during the First World War

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Abstract: *The paper considers the progressive transformation of the role of the German Parliament (Reichstag) during the First World War. At the beginning, the Parliament occupied a subordinate position and was not directly involved in the decision concerning the declaration of war. This depended on the rapid development of the events, but also on the fact that the German Constitution did not prescribe the previous information of the Parliament and in general did not entail a parliamentary system. In this respect, it is possible to ascertain a development of the functions of the Parliament during the war and also an increasing debate on the extension of its powers. In the course of time, the Parliament intensified the contact with the people and was increasingly concerned with the defence of their rights. Additionally, it began to propose some significant constitutional reforms which aimed at introducing a parliamentary system with a government based on the majority determined by the elections and being directly responsible to the Parliament.*

Keywords: *parliament, parliamentary system, parliamentarism, Reichstag, First World War*

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