

Pinson, Koppel S., Modern Germany Its History and Civilization. Second edition  
(The Macmillan Company) 1966

p. 256 Critical historical research, however, branched out into all areas and periods to make German historical scholarship the paragon for historians all over the world. Theodor Mommsen(1817-1903), in his work in ancient history and philology, sought "to bring down the ancients from the fantastic pedestal on which they appear into the real world." His narrative accounts of the Roman world, the host of his contributions to all phases of constitutional, political, and economic aspects of Roman history, and his initiation of the huge project of a critical edition of the texts of ~~the~~ the entire corpus of Latin writers won him universal renown and immortal fame. His work in ancient history was carried on by Eduard Meyer (1855-1930) and Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff(1848-1931). German scholars also came to occupy a leading place in the development of biblical higher criticism and Semitic studies. Julius Wellhausen (1844-1918) in his Prolegomena zur Geschichte Israels (1878) and his Israelitisch und judische Geschichte (1894) laid bare the fragmentary development of the Bible and prophetic Judaism from primitive forms and earned for himself the title of "Darwin of biblical criticism." Wellhausen stands with William Robertson Smith, Kuenen, Vatke, and /<sup>p. 257</sup> de Wette as the giants of biblical studies. . . . German higher criticism also supplied fuel to popular antisemitism. Orientalists like Paul de Lagarde and Delitzsch argued that the creative ideas found in ancient Judaism were nothing but borrowings from Babylonian and Sumerian cultures and thus supported the antisemitic theory of the "parasitic" character of the Jews.