

Andrew Hudkins

“The Iron Flower of German Nationalism”

Faculty Sponsor: Karin Breuer

My research for this project focused on the development of German nationalism as an intellectual theory in the timeline of Napoleonic Europe. The objective of my investigation was to establish that nationalism flourished in Prussia as an intellectual idea but was not actualized at the level of the general population. To reach a conclusion, I analyzed the different effects of state sponsored nationalism in Prussia and the south German states, which had been organized into the Confederation of the Rhine under Napoleon. Early nineteenth century Germany was geographically different than it presents today. To the north, the Hohenzollern Monarchy controlled Prussia, while at the same time the southern German states were governed by local kings or princes. My primary sources were the works of Prussian intellectuals Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Ernst Mortiz Arndt, and Friedrich Ludwig Jahn. Additionally I utilized the memoirs of Jakob Walter and Franz Joseph Hausmann, both were soldiers from the Confederation of the Rhine, and fought with Napoleon's *Grande Armee*. I also researched Prussian state reforms that were designed to harness and capitalize on nationalist sentiments put forward by the politicians and intellectuals. Included in these overhauls were Gerhard v. Scharnhorst's military reforms and Friedrich v. Humboldt's education reforms. My research helped substantiate the conclusion that although Prussian intellectuals and statesmen moved to create a mythic and historic German narrative to unify the German people against Napoleon, their endeavors to influence the citizens were not realized and were not particularly acknowledged by the German people.