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The Politics of Sociability: Freemasonry and German Civil Society, 1840-1918 (Hardback)

By Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann

The University of Michigan Press, United States, 2007.

Hardback. Book Condition: New. 232 x 158 mm. Language:

German,English . Brand New Book. This is the first cultural and

political history of German Freemasonry in the 19th and early

20th centuries. The practice of Masonic sociability, Stefan-

Ludwig Hoffmann shows in this ambitious and original work,

reflected an enlightened belief in the political significance of

moral virtue for civil society, indeed, for humanity. Freemasons

self-image as civilizing agents, acting in good faith and with

the unimpeachable idea of universal brotherhood, was

contradicted not only by their heightened sense of exclusivity;

Freemasons unintentionally exacerbated nineteenth century

political conflicts by employing a universalist language. Using

a wealth of archival sources previously unavailable, Stefan-

Ludwig Hoffmann shows how Freemasonry became a social

refuge for elevated and liberal-minded bourgeois men who felt

attracted to its secret rituals and moral teachings. German

Freemasons sought to reform self and society, but, Hoffmann

argues, ultimately failed to balance modern politics with a

cosmopolitan ethos.



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Reviews

Extensive guide! Its such a excellent read. This can be for anyone who statte that there was not a worth looking at. I am just effortlessly will get a satisfaction of looking at a written publication.

-- **Melvin Hettinger**

This book will not be effortless to start on reading through but very exciting to learn. It is amongst the most remarkable book i have got go through. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.

-- **Dr. Easton Collier DVM**