

*'Reform or Revolution', redux: Eduard Bernstein on the 1918-19  
German Revolution*

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**The author**

Marius S. Ostrowski is a social and political theorist and historian of political thought, who currently holds the position of Examination Fellow in Politics at All Souls College, University of Oxford. His research is interdisciplinary, focusing on public opinion and political ideologies, in both cases through the prism of the history of early-C20th political thought. His most recent work focuses on the 'mature revisionist' writings of the social-democratic theorist Eduard Bernstein, and in June 2018, he published *Eduard Bernstein on Social Democracy and International Politics* with Palgrave Macmillan, a translation and commentary on Bernstein's works on WW1-era international relations and the 'European question'. This research will lead to two further translations, *Eduard Bernstein on the German Revolution* and *Eduard Bernstein on Socialism Past and Present*, forthcoming with Palgrave Macmillan in 2019 and 2020.

**The paper:**

The 1918-19 German Revolution forced an abrupt moment of decision among German socialists in the question of 'social reform or revolution'. This article traces the arguments of Eduard Bernstein, the founder of 'reformism', on the lessons Social Democracy should draw from the events of the Revolution and the transition from *Kaiserreich* to the Weimar Republic. It argues that Bernstein makes significant advances on his early reformism in his post-Revolution writings, and explores his analysis of several themes: his refinement of the concept of 'revolution'; his critique of Bolshevism; and his comments on the importance of strategic unity among progressive movements.