

Abstract and translated table of contents of:

Bert Becker, *Michael Jebsen: Reeder und Politiker, 1835-1899: Eine Biographie* [Michael Jebsen: Shipowner and Politician, 1835-1899: A Biography], Kiel: Ludwig, 2012, 851 pages.

This book is the biography of Michael Jebsen, shipowner and politician in Imperial Germany. From his company headquarters in Apenrade, northern Schleswig-Holstein, he operated a fleet of merchant steamships sailing in European and East Asian waters. In the Far East, his ships with German masters and Chinese crews on board transported goods and passengers along the coasts. In this way, his company had a share in the massive globalization of the nineteenth century creating interconnected networks in maritime regions from Siberia to Southeast Asia.

Politically active on local level in Apenrade but also an elected member of the Prussian Diet and of the German Reichstag, Jebsen proved to be an expert for all matters relating to merchant shipping. His political work in Berlin brought him in touch with Great Politics of the 1890s, and he accompanied important historical turning points such as the commercial treaty policy of Chancellor von Caprivi, the navy construction program of Admiral Tirpitz, and the transition to 'World Politics' of Foreign Minister von Bülow.

The biography of Michael Jebsen makes extensive use of hitherto unpublished private documents which were consulted for the first time for this book. The aim was to write a historical biography of an entrepreneur with a strong embedment into global contexts.

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