The topic of my Honours Project lies at the intersection of the interests I have explored during my time at Bowdoin. As a German and Economics double major with a Chinese minor, I am in a good position to critically examine questions regarding the interactions of those two great nations, and their most intimate relations came during the era of German colonialism in East Asia. I began research for my Project during the Spring of my Junior year, when I was studying abroad in Hong Kong. My presence in Asia allowed me to gain access to documents that helped me hone my research questions early on, and I made the most of the geography of the situation by visiting the city of Qingdao, site of the only German colony in Mainland China, and the central topic of my Project.

I collected a number of very significant materials while in Qingdao, but upon my return to Bowdoin it became clear that the Chinese perspective was not sufficient to inform a meaningful thesis statement for my Project. Unfortunately, German colonialism in East Asia is a topic that has been neglected in the scholarly literature, and there exists a dearth of published material on the subject. Hence, in order to press on with my Project I needed to get access to unpublished materials regarding the German perspective on their colonial endeavor in China. As most of these materials are located in German government archives in Berlin, I needed funding for travel, and the Grua/O'Connell Fellowship provided me with the opportunity to conduct primary research in Germany.

Over Thanksgiving break of my senior year I flew to Berlin to spend the entire week in the German Federal Archives in Lichterfelde, Berlin, and the Political Archives of the German Foreign Ministry. The goal of my research was twofold: to find government documents and briefings that would shed light on the German imperial government's plans relating to their presence and goals in East Asia, and to find news articles and other manifestations of public opinion that would allow me to better understand Sino-German relations in the context of the pre-WWI-era Great Power political consensus. On both fronts I was extremely successful; just like modern foreign service organizations, the Imperial German Foreign Ministry relied heavily on newsprint to inform their official briefings and cables, which meant that I often found briefing documents attached to supplemental news articles. This highly convenient state of affairs allowed me to examine almost all political despatches from the German Embassy in Beijing during the last decade of the 19th-century.

My research was particularly fruitful because it did not just supply the German perspective on the colonial city of Qingdao, but also supplemented the documents relating to the Chinese perspective that I had previously uncovered. In the Political Archives there was a large folio of Chinese news articles from the era, complete with translations into German. This was such a windfall of significant material that I elected to order copies of the entire folio on microfiche, and it will undoubtedly aid me in my research as I finish my Honours Project next semester. All in all, the Grua/O'Connell Fellowship allowed me to access resources that have greatly increased the quality and depth of the analysis that is possible in my Project, and for that I am truly grateful.

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