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Carl Menger, 1871: German and Austrian Ideologies Compared

Bearing in mind that the Methodenstreit ("Dispute over the Methods") of the 1880s between Carl Menger (1840-1921) and Gustav von Schmoller (1838-1917) remains as one central feature in the evolution of economic methodology, it is good to trace its origins back to Menger's first work, his theoretical masterwork, the Grundsätze der Volkswirtschaftslehre, published in Vienna in 1871. 150 years after the Principles were published – and as the (first!) French edition came out in 2020 – it is possible to examine various related aspects displayed in Menger's private collection (consisting of books in the disciplines at stake and travel literature with quasi-ethnological descriptions). This presentation offers a comparative perspective between German and Austrian "ideologies", as well as some comments on their impact upon the conditions for the development of contemporary civilization in those times of the "Great Crossroads".